

WORLD 5
TRUMP ABUSED PRESIDENCY
FOR OWN GAIN: PANEL REPORT

OPINION 6
POLITICS OF
REINCARNATION

MONEY 10
SAT REFUSES
RELIEF TO BANKS

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MAN CITY BEAT
BURNLEY 4-1 IN
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11 SPORT

Govt OK's CAB, sets stage for face-off

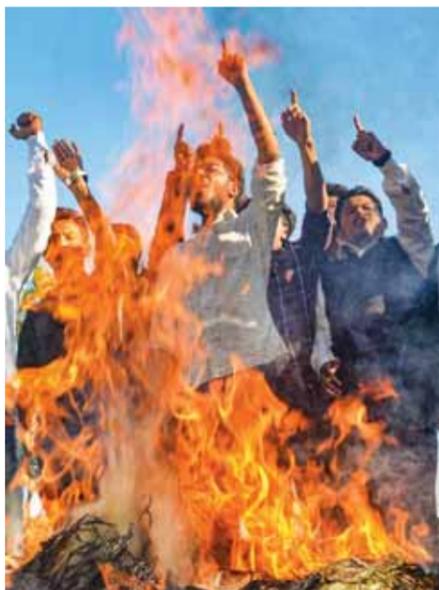
Opp readies to challenge Citizenship Bill in SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The stage is set for a bitter confrontation between the Opposition and the Treasury Benches in Parliament next week when the Government tables the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill which aims to provide citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Bill, which was termed as "communal" and "divisive" by the Opposition parties, who plan to challenge it in the Supreme Court.

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Government has taken care of the interests of everyone. "People will welcome it as it is in the interest of the nation," Javadekar said, when asked about the protests in the North-East.

Talking to the media, many BJP leaders said the Opposition is unnecessarily creating controversies as the Bill intends to provide citizenship to non-



Dibrugarh University students raise slogans as they burn effigies during a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Dibrugarh on Wednesday PTI

Muslim refugees facing religious persecution in the neighbouring Islamic countries.

The Cabinet approval to the Bill came hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah completed his three days of interactions with leaders of

political parties, students bodies and civil society members from the North-East to assuage their concerns. Shah held his last meeting with these groups in the early hours of Wednesday.

Continued on Page 4

Kejriwal walks the talk on free Wi-Fi

15GB/month at 100 hot spots from Dec 16 in Delhi; 500 more points each week, says CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government-led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced the Wi-Fi scheme under which a person will get free 15 GB data per month through a hot spot network across the national Capital from December 16. With this announcement, Kejriwal asserted his party has fulfilled all its poll promises.

He said 100 hot spots will be inaugurated in the first phase at bus stands and parks coming under the Samaypur Badli and Adarsh Nagar Assembly constituency on December 16. The CM said 500 more hot spots will be set up every week till the Capital has 11,000 hot spots, as promised by the AAP Government, by September 2020.

The Government is also planning to integrate the CCTV cameras with the Wi-Fi hot spots.

"Providing free Wi-Fi facility to the people of Delhi was an essential promise of our manifesto. Internet connectivity and data usage have become a requisite for people in this digital age. Considering the importance of internet in our lives, the Delhi Government has decided to provide free internet on the same lines of providing basic lifeline amenities like 200 units of free electricity and 20,000 liters of free water to the residents of Delhi," said Kejriwal.

Out of the total 11,000 hot spots to be installed across the

city, 4,000 hot spots will be installed at bus stands. The remaining 7,000 hot spots will be installed across the market-places and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) in Delhi, with each constituency having 100 hot spots.

As per the officials, the work order for the installation of the 100 free Wi-Fi connections has been awarded and the installation is under process. "The total expenditure of the installation scheme will be around ₹100 crore. The scheme will operate as per a standard rent model — the Delhi Government will pay rent every month to the company for each hot spot," said the CM.

The people of Delhi will be able to locate a Wi-Fi connection at every 500 metres in the city, with the hot spot connections supporting a radius of 100 metres. With 15 GB a month, a maximum limit for a day will be 1.5 GB. On an average, the maximum speed of the connection of the data will be 200 mbps, but the estimated speed will be between 100-150 mbps. Each hot spot will be able to support 150-200 users simultaneously, which amounts to around 22 lakh users simultaneously accessing the internet across the city.

The AAP Government has created a mobile application (App) and the users who want to use the free Wi-Fi have to download and fill their KYC details and use the OTPs received on their phones to access the hot spot connections.



The Wi-Fi connections will not get disconnected if a user moves from one hot spot zone into another as the connection will be automatically retained. Installation of more hot spot connections across the remaining areas of the city will be determined on the basis of the experience and the success of these hot spot connections, said officials.

Kejriwal said, "Free internet connection will help students to a great extent and will be beneficial in the sectors of health and education."

It is also to be noted that the Government first implemented the free Wi-Fi facility on a pilot basis for three months at Sant Nagar market in Burari area of north Delhi, where users were told that they would be able to download 50 MB of data per day free of cost.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the media in New Delhi on Wednesday Ranjan Dimri / I Pioneer

CAPSULE

PRAGATI MAIDAN TO HAVE ₹611 CR 5-STAR HOTEL

New Delhi: The Government on Wednesday approved transfer of 3.7 acre at Pragati Maidan here to ITDC and IPTO on a 99-year lease for ₹611 crore to set up a five-star hotel.

SHAHJAHANPUR 'VICTIM' STUDENT GRANTED BAIL

Allahabad: The Allahabad HC on Wednesday granted bail to the law student charged with trying to extort money from Swami Chinmayanand, the BJP leader whom she has accused of rape.

UK COURT EXTENDS NIRAV MODI'S REMAND

London: Fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi, fighting extradition to India on charges over the nearly \$2 billion PNB fraud, was further remanded in custody at a hearing on Wednesday and asked to appear via videolink on January 2.

GOVT OK'S SANSKRIT UNIVERSITIES BILL

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill and it will be introduced in Parliament, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said. Three Sanskrit deemed to be universities will be converted into central universities, the Minister added.

18 Indians killed in Sudan factory blast

PTI ■ KHARTOUM

At least 18 Indians were among 23 people killed and over 130 injured in a horrific LPG tanker blast that destroyed a ceramic factory in Sudan, the Indian mission said here on Wednesday.

Sixteen Indians were missing after the incident that happened at Seela Ceramic Factory in Bahri area in the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Tuesday.

The blaze sent large plumes of black smoke into the sky of the northern part of the northeastern African country's capital.

"As per latest reports, but so far not confirmed officially, 18 are dead," the Indian Embassy said in a release.

"Some of the missing may be in the list of dead which we are still to receive as identification is not possible because of the bodies being burnt," it added.

Official Sources in New Delhi said 68 Indians were working in the factory.

"Deeply grieved to learn



that some Indian workers have lost their lives while some others have been seriously injured," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

"The Embassy representative has rushed to the site. A 24-hour emergency hotline +249-921917471 has been set up by @EoI_Khartoum. Embassy is also putting out updates on social media.

Our prayers are with the workers and their families," he tweeted.

The Indian Embassy on Wednesday issued a detailed

list of Indians who were hospitalised, went missing or survived the tragedy.

As per its data, seven people have been hospitalised, with four in critical condition.

A total of 34 Indians who survived have been accommodated at the Saloomi Ceramics Factory residence.

According to a statement issued by the Sudanese Government, the blast in a gas tanker triggered the fire in an industrial area because of which 23 people were killed and more than 130 injured.

ITBP constable guns down 5 colleagues, ends his life

STAFF REPORTER ■ NARAYANPUR

In a major tragic incident, six paramilitary troopers of the ITBP posted in insurgency-riddled Narayanpur district in Chhattisgarh's Bastar were killed and two seriously injured when one of them opened indiscriminate firing at colleagues in a fit of anger before shooting himself to death. The two injured cops were airlifted to state capital Raipur for urgent medical attention.

Doctors who are treating them at a private hospital have described their condition 'stable'. The ITBP personnel were stationed in Naxal-affected areas in Kadenar, 60 km from Narayanpur district headquarters.

Chhattisgarh home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu has ordered a probe into the fatal incident. "The reason for the firing will be revealed only after investigation" Sahu said, adding "there is no such thing as tension among the soldiers. They get timely leave and other facilities". Narayanpur district Superintendent of Police Mohit

Garg said that six soldiers died on the spot on Wednesday morning during a shootout in the camp. Constable Masudul Rahman who was furious over some argument started firing in anger, in which all the soldiers were killed. Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Devnath Somkunwar of Anti-Naxal Operation told that the jawan opened fire on fellow soldiers with his AK-47. "What provoked the shootout still remains a mystery", he remarked.



According to Bastar Inspector General P. Sundararaj, this seems to be a mutual dispute. Soldiers killed in firing were: Constable Masudul Rehman, resident of Nadia, West Bengal (accused of opening the shootout), Head Constable Mahendra Singh, resident of Sandiyar, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh; Constable Surjit Sarkar, resident of North Shrirampur, Burdwan, West Bengal; Head Constable Daljit Singh, resident of Jagpur, Ludhiana, Punjab; Constable Bishwarup Mahato, resident of Khukrampur, Purlia, West Bengal, and Constable Bejesh AC, resident of Eravattur, Kozhikode, Kerala.

The wounded soldiers are Constable Ullas SB, resident of P u l i m a t h , Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, a Constable Sitaram Doon, resident of Nayabas, Nagaur, Rajasthan.

RS too clears Bill to legalise Delhi colonies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Wednesday passed the much-awaited Bill to grant ownership rights to residents living in 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi after the Rajya Sabha gave its approval by voice vote. The Lok Sabha had on November 28 passed the Bill, providing ownership rights to more than 40 lakh residents living in these unauthorised colonies.

The Bill, known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019, states that there has been a phenomenal increase in the population of the National Capital Territory of Delhi in the last few decades owing to migration and other factors.

However, it says, the development of planned housing colonies has not kept pace with the requirement of burgeoning population which resulted in increase of unauthorised colonies. The RS witnessed a war of words between the BJP and AAP during the debate on the Bill.

PC walks out of jail after 106 days as SC grants bail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to Congress leader P Chidambaram in the INX Media money laundering case, being probed by the Enforcement Directorate.

Chidambaram was released from Tihar Jail on Wednesday night after 106 days in the prison. Several Congress workers greeted the former Union Minister after he stepped out of the prison.

The SC said ED's contention that Chidambaram can tamper with evidence cannot be accepted on "face value" as he is neither in "political power" nor holds any post in the Government.

While granting bail to 74



P Chidambaram being greeted by the party workers as he comes out of Tihar Jail in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

year-old former Finance Minister, the apex court restrained him from either giving "any press interviews" or "any public comment" in connection with the case regarding him or other co-accused.

Continued on Page 4

Gzb murders-suicides: Cheat bro-in-law held

Suicide abetter's mother on the run

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Police on Wednesday arrested the brother-in-law of businessman Gulshan Vasudeva, who had jumped to death along with his wife and another woman after killing his two children in Indrapuram on the outskirts of Delhi.

After arresting Rakesh Verma, police are looking for Verma's mother, who with his son is accused of duping Vasudeva and selling his property for ₹1.49 crore to a person named Imran Ali.

When Vasudeva pressurised him to return the



money, Verma gave him blank cheques which bounced at the bank, said a police official.

"Rakesh Verma, the brother-in-law of Vasudeva, has been arrested for abetting suicide, while his mother Phoolka Verma, also an accused, is on the run," said Ghaziabad

Senior Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Singh. Vasudeva (45), his wife Parveen and manager Sanjana jumped to their death in the early hours of Tuesday from the eighth floor of their apartment block in Krishna Apra society in Indrapuram.

4 Armymen die in J&K avalanches

PNS ■ JAMMU

Four Army officials who were guarding the frontiers of the nation in adverse weather conditions died in two snow avalanches near the line of control in Tangdhar and Gurez sectors in north Kashmir late on Tuesday.

"A post in Tangdhar Sector and an Army patrol in Gurez Sector were hit on December 3," said Col Rajesh Kalia, Ministry of Defence Spokesman in Srinagar.

Three Army personnel were killed in Tangdhar sector and one in Gurez sector, the Spokesperson added. Due to foul weather, the bodies could be retrieved on Wednesday. This is the third incident of avalanche in the region in the last two weeks.

Doctor shoots nurse, kills self; bodies found in car

Police suspect it's a case of extramarital affair going sour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a sensational incident, bodies of a general physician and his employee with gunshot injuries were found in a car in Delhi's Rohini Sector-13 on Wednesday morning. Police said that preliminary investigation suggests that the doctor (62) shot the woman (50) with his licensed gun and then shot himself. Police were informed about the incident around 7:45 am on Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Dr Omprakash Kukreja, a resident of Rohini Sector-13, while his employee has been identified as Sudipta Mukherjee, a resident of Rohini

Sector 18. Police said that Kukreja shot Mukherjee in the chest and then he turned the gun towards his temple.

According to SD Mishra, DCP, Rohini district, after receiving a PCR call, a police team reached the spot and found that the car, belonging to the doctor, was locked from the inside and duo was lying in the pool of blood.

"During the time they worked together, they became closer. It is suspected that they were in an extramarital relationship.

A personal dispute between them could be the reason behind the killing," said the police official.

"A wedding card was also found in the vehicle. It seems they were returning from a wedding in Paschim Vihar on Tuesday night," said the DCP.

AMIT SHAH ON MOB LYNCHING New panel to suggest changes in IPC, CrPC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With members expressing concern in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday over the phenomenon of mob lynching and demanding a separate law to deal with it, Home Minister Amit Shah said the Government has set up a committee to suggest necessary amendments in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Responding to a series of queries during Question Hour, Shah said he has also written to all State Chief Ministers and Governors to send recommendations on making changes to IPC and CrPC after consulting with experienced investigating officers and public prosecutors.

"Under the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), a committee has been set up to make changes in the IPC and CrPC. We will start working on amendments after receiving recommendations from the committee," Shah informed the Upper House. He said the Government will keep in mind Supreme Court orders while making changes to the IPC and



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

CrPC.

On the issue of lynching, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said there is 'no separate' definition for such incidents under the existing IPC. Lynching incidents can be dealt with under Section 300 and 302 of IPC.

Section 302 provides that whoever commits murder shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine. Offence of murder is a cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence, he said.

The Minister, in his written reply, said a group of Ministers was constituted to deliberate on a law to specifically handle cases of lynching and make recommendations.

Responding to another query on status of laws to curb mob lynching passed by two State Governments, he said Manipur and Rajasthan Governments have passed such laws and they are reserved for central accord. "The consultation process is going on. We will take a call after the consultation is over," he added.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER TALKS

Wang Yi to meet Ajit Doval this month

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to resolve the boundary dispute between the two countries, Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi will hold talks with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval (NSA) here later this month.

The two countries had set up the mechanism some years back with Special Representatives of the two countries to address the long pending issue involving a 4,000 km border and have held at least 20 rounds of discussions so far. Doval and Wang are the designated Special Representatives.

Giving this information here on Wednesday, diplomatic sources said besides holding boundary talks with Doval, the Chinese Minister will have an extensive dialogue with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

It will be the first visit by a senior Chinese leader to India after the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu in October.

During Wang's visit, the two sides are likely to review



National Security Adviser Ajit Doval

implementation of decisions taken at the summit. Wang was to visit India for the SR talks in September but the trip was postponed then.

The two sides have already held over 20 rounds of talks under the framework of Special Representatives dialogue which was set up to find an early solution to the border dispute. The India-China border dispute covers Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

Both sides have been

asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

The focus of the second informal summit between Modi and Xi was to further broaden India-China ties. The two leaders held their first informal summit in April last year in the Chinese city of Wuhan months after bilateral ties came under severe strain following a 73-day standoff between the armies of the two countries in Doklam, near Sikkim.

In 2017-18, India registers 28% dip in malaria cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

2.6 MILLION FEWER CASES IN 2018

India and Uganada were the only two countries among the world's 11 highest malaria endemic nations, to report dip in the vector-borne cases between 2017 and 2018, achieving a 28 per cent reduction in such cases, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) report.

While India had 2.6 million fewer malaria cases in 2018, Uganda had 1.5 million fewer cases last year, compared to the previous year, said the report "World Malaria Report 2019". However, India and Africa has one of the lowest funding per person at risk of being inflicted with malaria at just USD 0.2.

This success builds on India's 24 per cent reduction in malaria cases between 2016 and 2017 reported last year by the WHO.

However, the research also revealed that 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and India carried almost 85 per cent of the global malaria burden.

According to the report, India's progress means the country no longer has the world's fourth highest malaria burden, though it still is the only non-African country among the top 11 countries

with the most malaria globally. "Although cases continue to decrease in the public sector, estimates indicate that there are still gaps in reporting from the private sector and those seeking treatment in India, as in Myanmar and Indonesia. The estimated burden of malaria, the WHO report says is 6.7 million while only 4 million cases were reported in 2018.

"While we have come a long way, sustained focus and increased funding are crucial to boost India's fight against malaria and ensure that India continues to lead the world and becomes malaria-free by 2030," said Sanjeev Gaikwad, India Country Director of non-profit organisation Malaria No More.

In 2016, India introduced its first National Framework for Malaria Elimination (2016-2030) and has sustained progress toward defeating malaria since the plan's launch.

Globally, malaria afflicted 228 million people and killed an estimated 4 lakh people last year.

3.7-acre land at Pragati Maidan OK'd for 5-star hotel



Union I & B Minister Prakash Javadekar addresses a press conference after a cabinet meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday approved transfer of 3.7 acres of land at Pragati Maidan here to ITDC and ITPO on a 99-year lease for ₹611 crore to set up a five-star hotel. The decision for monetisation of land at Pragati

Maidan to build a five-star hotel was taken up at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Giving details, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which manages the

Pragati Maidan, will undertake a mega project to redevelop the land into a world-class International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The approval has been given for "transfer of 3.7 acres of land at Pragati Maidan on a 99-year fixed leasehold basis at a price of ₹611 crore in favour of the special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will be formed by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for development and operation of a five-star hotel".

The implementation of the International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC) project is in full swing and scheduled to be completed in the year 2020-21, said an official release.

In order to ensure completion of the hotel project in a fast track mode, the SPV will take necessary steps including

selecting a suitable developer and operator third party through a transparent competitive bidding process to construct, run and manage (directly or through a professional brand) the hotel on a long-term fixed lease basis.

Throughout the world, a hotel facility is an integral part of any Meetings, Initiatives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) hub/destination, the release said.

"Hotel facility will add value to IECC project and promote India as a global destination for trade and commerce along with employment generation," it said.

The International Trade Fair which has lakhs of visitors and small traders participating every year will also benefit from the transformation of Pragati Maidan, it said.

Increased facilities and modern amenities will greatly benefit the participating traders,

Central Sanskrit Universities Bill approved

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill and it will be introduced in Parliament, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said. Three Sanskrit deemed to be universities will be converted into central universities, he added.

entrepreneurs and visitors.

This will ensure higher turnout at the trade fair, revitalising it and providing a vibrant platform to expand their business horizons and promote Indian goods and services, it added.

346 wildlife cases registered, 21 tigers poached in 2018

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least one wildlife crime was registered everyday in 2018 by the wildlife enforcement authorities from across the country taking the total cases to 346. West Bengal topped the list (55) followed by Maharashtra with 43 cases and Assam with 42 cases.

"Indian authorities detected 346 cases of wildlife crime, including six elephants' death due to poaching and 21 cases of tiger poaching during 2018," as per the Government data.

According to the Union Ministry of Environment, a total of 346 cases of wildlife crime took place in 2018 across the country, against 395 cases in 2017 and 412 cases in 2016.

However, these are just tip of the iceberg as many cases go

undetected, having moved to the cyberspace. With India's internet user population reaching nearly 500 million, cyber-crime is now becoming a mounting concern.

India is only 2.4 per cent of world's land area, but contributes about 8 per cent of known global wildlife, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals.

In 2017 again, West Bengal recorded maximum number of cases (59), followed by Tamil Nadu with 44 and Assam with 41. In 2016, 66 cases each were reported from West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, 45 cases from Maharashtra and 40 cases from Assam.

About elephant deaths due to poaching, the Ministry said that in 2018, a total of six elephants lost their lives to the

hands of poachers, with two incidents reported from Odisha and one each from Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Jharkhand.

In 2017, eight cases of elephant deaths due to poaching were reported. Four incidents were from Assam, two from Odisha, and one each from Jharkhand and Nagaland. In 2016, 13 cases of elephant deaths due to poaching were reported. Four incidents were registered in Karnataka, two each in Assam, Kerala and Odisha and one each in Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

As per National Tiger Conservation of Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under the ministry, there have been 21 cases of poaching of tiger and 10 cases of tiger body part seizures during 2018.

Adhir expresses regret over 'nirbala' remark

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury expressed regret in the House on Wednesday over his 'nirbala' remark on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and described her as his sister.

Just before Sitharaman was to reply on the debate on Demands for Grants, Chowdhury said if his remarks have hurt the finance minister, he expresses regret.

He said the minister is like a sister to him, he considers himself as her brother.

While participating in the discussion on the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill on Monday, Chowdhury took a swipe at Sitharaman and suggested that the finance minis-



Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

ter has become weak and called her 'Nirbala Sitharaman'.

During her reply, Sitharaman did not directly refer to Chowdhury's comment but concluded her speech by saying she is still 'Nirmala' and 'sabla' (empowered).

Health & climate change plan lacks finances: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Although health impacts of climate change are being acknowledged in national planning, it is yet to translate in additional financial or human resources allocated to the health sector, the WHO said in its Health and Climate Change Survey Report released recently.

Half of the 101 countries surveyed have developed a national health and climate change strategy or plan but just about 38 per cent have finances in place to even partially implement their national strategy of plan, and fewer than 10 per cent channelling resources to implement it completely, said the report.

"Climate change is not only racking up a bill for future gen-



erations to pay, it's a price that people are paying for now with their health," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO.

"It is a moral imperative that countries have the resources they need to act against climate change and safeguard health now and in

the future." 48 per cent of countries have conducted an assessment of the climate risks to public health. The most common climate sensitive health risks were identified by countries as heat stress, injury or death from extreme weather events, food, water and vector-borne dis-

eases (such as cholera, dengue or malaria).

However, about 60 per cent of these countries report that the assessment findings have had little or no influence on the allocation of human and financial resources to meet their adaptation priorities for protecting health. Mainstreaming health in national and international climate processes could help access the necessary funds, said the report.

The survey found that countries have difficulties in accessing international climate finance to protect the health of their people. Over 75 per cent reported a lack of information on opportunities to access climate finance, over 60 per cent a lack of connection of health actors to the climate finance processes, and over 50 per

- Half of the 101 countries surveyed have developed a national health and climate change strategy or plan but just about 38 per cent have finances in place to even partially implement their national strategy of plan
- 48 per cent of countries have conducted an assessment of the climate risks to public health
- The survey found that countries have difficulties in accessing international climate finance to protect the health of their people.

cent a lack of capacity to prepare proposals.

While two-thirds of current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement mention health, and the health sector is among the five sectors most often described as vulnerable to climate change, this has not resulted in the necessary level of implementation and support. "For the Paris Agreement to be effective to protect people's health, all levels of Government need to prioritise building health system resilience to climate change," said Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO. The 2015 Paris Agreement aims to restrict global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial times.

SC allows additional terminal at Agra airport

FORBIDS INCREASE IN AIR TRAFFIC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday permitted building of an additional terminal at airport in Agra near Taj Mahal but made it clear that it would not allow increase in air traffic on the airfield as that will be hazardous to environment and asked the Centre to consider luxurious trains like the 'Palace on wheels' to the city.

The apex court also directed the Centre to consid-

er an alternative airport site to meet the increase in the air traffic due to rise in tourist influx to visit the Taj Mahal and other destinations in and around Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

Further, the top court said it has been informed that the Railways can provide more excellent trains like the 'Palace on wheels' and such trains could have employed to transport passengers from the new air field to the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), Agra.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde made it clear that it was willing to allow the construction of additional terminal at the existing airport but was against increasing the air traffic which could "damage" the environment in an "eco-sensitive area" having some



world heritage sites including Taj Mahal.

The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, took on record the submission of senior advocates Ajit Kumar Sinha, appear-

ing for the Airport Authority of India and environmentalist lawyer M C Mehta who opposed the project.

It also took on record the submission of Additional Solicitor General Atmaram

Nadkarni that the Centre wishes to undertake a study to take into account the number of tourists who utilise the airport and the anticipatory increase in the number of such tourists over the years.

The law officer also sought permission to allow such increase in air traffic at the airport after conducting a study.

However, the bench made it clear that "it might be difficult to permit an increase in air traffic."

"We therefore consider it appropriate to direct the Union of India to consider an alternative site in such anticipatory increase in traffic where the aircrafts could operate from."

"We are informed that the Railways can provide more excellent trains like the 'Palace on wheels' and such trains could be employed to transport passengers from the new air field to the TTZ, Agra," the bench said in its order. It said the Centre will also

consider involving the Railways to solve the problems of anticipation of tourists and "bear in mind the fact that it will serve nobody's interest to have the area polluted with a resultant damage to the people and the heritage monuments."

The apex court asked the Centre to submit the report within a period of three months.

"In the meanwhile, the interim prayer for restraining the Union of India from allowing increase in air traffic will be considered after the Union of India files its response by January, 2020," the bench said. In the order, it noted that Sinha appearing on behalf of AAI seeks permission to build an additional terminal at the existing Agra Airport.

"Prima facie, we see no reason why such permission should not be granted," it said and also took note of Mehta's submission that if the authorities propose to allow and increase the number of aircrafts that take off and land from this site, then it will be hazardous to the environment.

"Prima facie, we consider this objection to be a sound objection and we do not propose to allow an increase in air traffic on this air field," the bench said.

The apex court was told that an airport is coming up in Jewar in Greater Noida, adjacent to the national capital which would be one of the few largest airports and will have the potential to cater to the increase in tourist influx.

State downgrades security of ex-CM Raman Singh, family members

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Government of Chhattisgarh in an order has downgraded security of former chief minister Raman Singh and his family members, while it retained status of few others and upgraded security of leaders based in Maoist-affected Bastar.

According to information received from Home department, as per the protection review carried out by the state government and its recommendation, Z+ security of Raman Singh and his son former Rajnandgaon MP Abhishek Singh has been reduced to Z type, while Raman's wife Veena Singh's has been reduced to Y+ from



Z, X-category security to Raman's daughter-in-law Aishwarya and daughter Dr Asmita Gupta has been withdrawn. Similarly, Y+ security category has been given to union minister of state for tribal

affairs Renuka Singh, ex-Kanker MLA Sumitra Markole, Kanker ex-MLA Sewak Ram Netam, Bhanupratappur ex-MLA Brahmanand Netam while Y category has been retained for urban development minister Shivkumar Dahariya and former BJP minister Brijmohan Agrawal.

Z category has been retained for ex-minister Ganeshram Bhagat, Chitrakote ex-MLA Lachchuram Kashyap and Baiduram Kashyap. Additional to it, Security category of Bindranawarh ex-MLA Goverdhan Manjhi has been reduced from Z to Y+, Sihawa ex-MLA Pinki Shivraj Shah from Y+ to Y category and ex-DGP A.N. Upadhyay's

from Y to X category.

State government has provided Z category security cover to newly elected Chitrakote MLA Rajman Venjam. Bindranawarh MLA Damdrudhar Pujari got Y+ security while MLA Mahasamund Chunni Lal Sahu and Dongargaon MLA Daleshwar Sahu have been provided Y category security cover. Bijapur Zila Panchayat chairman Jamuna Sankani got Y+ cover and Maraiguda, Sukma Sarpanch Hapka Mara has been provided X category cover and their threat perception will be reviewed in upcoming PRG meeting.

The request of ex-Marwahi MLA Amit Jogi for security has been rejected.

Cong-BJP face off over security issue

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Congress and BJP crossed swords after the security cover of former chief minister Raman Singh and his family members was degraded on Tuesday.

Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Dharamlal Kaushik said it is a sensitive issue. Based on prevailing conditions, it is the duty of the government to provide security of important persons. The curtailment is an act of hostility he said and sought an explanation as to why it was done in a Naxal-affected state. Former CM visits Naxal affected areas while he has been always a target of Naxalites which even security agencies admit,



the BJP leader said. Kaushik demanded restoration of security cover to previous level.

Meanwhile, Panchayat and rural development minister T. S. Singhdeo said the state government has learnt a lesson from Central government on security of VIPs as how it can be reduced.

If Centre feels there is no need for security cover of a few persons, then state can

also think in similar way. "We are learning a lot from the central government and soon other things will also follow," he said.

JCC (J) president and ex-MLA Amit Jogi, on rejection of his plea for security cover, said, there is no need for security even the three gunmen provided to him should be withdrawn. Chief Minister needs more security in present scenario, he added.

Power Company replaces KRC Murthy, Tripti Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Director and Managing Director of Chhattisgarh State Power General Company Limited K.R. C. Murthy and Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company Limited Tripti Sinha have been replaced by Rajesh Verma and Ashok Kumar respectively as per an order issued on Wednesday.

The order issued by energy department stated that services of K.R.C Murthy, Regional Executive Director (South), NTPC Limited, have been returned to his parent organisation from the post of Director and Managing Director of Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (CSPGCL).



Rajesh Verma, retired Chief Engineer, CSPGCL has been appointed as Director and Managing Director till next order from date of his joining. Similarly, Tripti Sinha, Director and Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission

Company Limited (CSPTCL) has also been relieved from the post but her actual period of functioning was till May 31, 2020. She has been replaced by Ashok Kumar, Executive Director, as director and Managing Director of CSPTCL.

Ensure uninterrupted coal supply: Mandal

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary RP Mandal on Wednesday chaired a meeting at Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhavan) on coal supply to Chhattisgarh State Power Production Company Limited by coal producing companies.

He gave strict instructions to the coal companies and senior railway officials based in the state, that Chhattisgarh's Atal Bihari Vajpayee Thermal Power House Madwa, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Thermal Power House Korba (East) and Hasdeo Thermal Power House Korba (West) should be provided uninterrupted coal supply.



Under any circumstances, coal supply to thermal power generation houses should not be interrupted and regular supply of coal in sufficient quantity should be ensured.

Mandal directed Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Power Production Company Limited

Shailendra Shukla, Secretary Mining Anbalgan P and Joint Secretary Energy Mohammad Kaisar Abdul Haque to ensure monitoring of coal supply to Thermal Power Houses. Principal Secretary Energy Gaurav Dwivedi along with officers of SECL and Railways were also present.

Stakeholders urged to provide feedback on new GST system

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Government of Chhattisgarh in an important step towards simplification of GST has decided to implement a new return system under GST from April 1, 2020.

Trial version of returns to be filed under the new return policy is available on GST website and any registered taxpayer can avail it by logging in to the website.

Commissioner, State Tax, Chhattisgarh has made an appeal to all the stakeholders of GST i.e. businessmen, advocates, tax advisors and chartered accountants to file new returns and provide suggestions in the context, so that any loopholes can be rectified before implementation of the new return system.

State Tax Commissioner has

given instructions to invite all the stakeholders to file a trial return under the new system between December 1 and December 6, 2019.

In the same sequence, Stakeholders Feedback Day will be organized under the joint aegis of Central GST and State GST Departments at new circuit house, Civil Lines, Raipur on December 7, 2019.

Commissioner State Tax Reena Baba Saheb Kangale will preside over the programme, and Commissioner Central GST BB Mahapatra will be the Chief Guest of the programme. Special guests will be Additional Commissioner, Central GST Ajay and other senior officials of the State and Central GST.



Cadets of NCC junior division in Kanker performed street plays to create awareness about garbage segregation and waste management. The effort was well received and lauded by many. Pioneer Photo

Chandrakant Uike no more

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Director state social welfare department Chandrakant Uike died of cancer in Raheja Hospital Mumbai on Wednesday.

The 55-year-old IAS officer was admitted in SL Raheja Mumbai where he breathed his last. An officer of state administrative service, Uike was nominated as IAS in 2015. During the course of his service he held several key posts including that of Director Public Relation and Secretary CGPSC.

As per information, he was suffering from pancreatic cancer which was detected in last stage. He was then admitted in Tata Memorial Hospital and about 15 days back he was shifted to Raheja cancer hospital.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed deep condolence on the untimely demise of Chandrakant Uike.



He held several key posts including that of Director Public Relation and Secretary CGPSC

"Shri Uike had severed on different key posts in the state government and he was a simple, energetic and popular officer. As an administrative officer he very

well served his responsibilities and his death is a painful news for us," Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said in his condolence message.

Observers to monitor model code, paid news of candidates

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh State Election Commissioner Thakur Ram Singh directed the general observers appointed for monitoring the civic bodies' election in the state to keep a tab on violation of election model code of conduct, paid news, publication of advertisements by candidates in media and other aspects to ensure free and fair election in the state.

He directed them to publish their name, mobile number and venue so that it is available for people and candidates.

He said observers should be forward the complaints



received from people and candidates for resolving it to district electoral officer or returning officer. If the complaints

officer and returning officer, it should be brought to the notice of the Commission.

Singh further emphasised that general observers should conduct thorough study of the election related circulars, rules and orders, its amendments for normal functioning. Training was imparted to observers to fill the formats which they have to forward to Commission and exchange information.

The observers were asked to inspect the strong room and counting facilities while after ballot boxes are stored in strong room it should be sealed in presence of candidates or their representative agents.

IIT Bhilai holds exhibition of Madhubani arts, sculpture designing

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHILAI

IIT Bhilai in a bid to explore the country's rich traditional art organised an exhibition at the institute under guidance of Dr. Anindita Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Arts.

Over 160 Mithila-Madhubani paintings were exhibited, prepared by students on variety of themes, such as folklore, mythology and anecdotes on life. It was outcome of Madhubani classes conducted by Shalini Kumari, world renowned Madhubani painter.

The exhibition was coupled with Sculpture



Exhibition. Various clay exhibits were created by IIT Bhilai students, which was conducted under the expert guidance of visiting faculty. Prof. S.P. Choudhury and Chagendra Usendi were

invited from Khairagarh University to facilitate sculpture designing.

More than 180 students participated in these classes. The works on display depicted gods and goddesses, illustrate

aspects of religious rituals, animals, cartoon characters, ultimately showing how ancient cultures used visually and sonically evocative objects to create powerful connections with the Indian Culture.

Sabarimala pilgrimage to be a 'green' affair

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As the annual pilgrimage to Sabarimala, the Kerala Government is making all efforts to make it a "green" affair by avoiding plastic articles and promoting the use of eco-friendly products.

The use of plastic carry bags and other such articles by the pilgrims had raised serious environmental concerns during the previous seasons at the hill shrine, nestled in a reserve forest in the ecologically fragile Western Ghats. Titled "Mission Green Sabarimala," the initiative, which aims at strictly

The use of plastic carry bags and other such articles by the pilgrims had raised serious environmental concerns during the previous seasons at the hill shrine

enforcing the green protocol at the shrine and its premises, is being implemented by the Suchitwa Mission, the state's nodal agency for sanitation and the local civic body.

A 24 x 7 counter has been opened at the Chengannur railway station, the nearest on the way to Sabarimala, for the distribution of 'eco-friendly' cloth bags, authorities said.

They can exchange the plastic articles and accept 'thuni sanchi' (cloth bags), from there,

free of cost, they said.

Besides this, post-cards, with messages urging not to abandon plastic articles or clothes in the holy river Pampa are also distributed among pilgrims.

The cards, brought out in five languages, also have details of the rituals of the shrine, they added.

The temple is witnessing a heavy rush of pilgrims and over seven lakh ayyappa devotees had offered darshan at the shrine since the opening of the temple on November 16 for the two month long Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrim season.

DMK MPs meet PM Modi, demand more powers to States

Chennai: DMK MPs on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and handed over a memorandum seeking constitutional amendment giving more powers to States, exemption to Tamil Nadu from NEET and directing Karnataka to halt irrigation schemes since it would affect the State. Upping the ante on its pet ideological theme of more autonomy, the DMK said states were left with greatly reduced law-making powers.

"The DMK, therefore, demands suitable amendments to the Constitution to accord rights to States in the true spirit of federalism," a memorandum by party chief M K Stalin said. DMK's Parliamentary party leader T R Baalu and Kanimozhi were among the MPs who submitted the memorandum, the party said here. Education should be brought back to the State List in the Constitution to enable states to address education related issues in an efficient and expedient manner, the party said. A bill to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in Assemblies and Parliament should be passed without any more delay. The Centre should take steps to protect the rights of Tamils in Sri Lanka and halt attack on Indian fishermen by the island nation Navy, the DMK said. PTI

Traders import onion from Afghanistan via Attari-Wagah border as local prices surge

Chandigarh: Around 10 to 15 trucks carrying onion from Afghanistan are arriving every day through the Attari-Wagah land route in Amritsar with the price of the key kitchen staple going through the roof.



domestic market, they said.

"Daily 10-15 trucks laden with onions are arriving from Afghanistan," said Anil Mehra, Federation of Karyana and Dry Fruit Commercial Association on Wednesday. Each truck carries 35 metric tonne of onion. Traders from Punjab and Delhi are importing onions from Afghanistan, Mehra said, adding that they were being supplied to various markets in the northern region.

Traders find it economically feasible to import this crop from Afghanistan in the wake of its higher prices in the

have been initiated to increase the supply of the key kitchen staple.

Though the trade between India and Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah land route remained suspended, trucks carrying onions continue to arrive from Afghanistan through this route under a bilateral transit trade agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistan had suspended bilateral trade with India in August in the wake of scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

India had imposed 200 per cent custom duties on all products imported from Pakistan following Pulwama attack in February this year. PTI

PC walks...

From Page 1

On ED's contention that one of the witnesses was not prepared to be confronted with him as they are from the same State, the top court said Chidambaram "cannot be held responsible" for this when there was no material to indicate that he or anyone on his behalf had "restrained or threatened" the witness.

While setting aside the November 15 verdict of the Delhi High Court denying him bail in the case, the SC bench headed by Justice R Banumathi said Chidambaram will have to make him available for interrogation during further probe as and when required by the ED.

The bench, also comprising justices AS Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, said Chidambaram "shall not tamper with evidence or attempt to intimidate or influence the witnesses" and not leave the country without specific orders of trial court.

TN DGP flags Hyd incident, orders swift action to help women in distress

Chennai: Flagging the recent rape and murder of a woman veterinarian in Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu DGP J K Tripathy said on Wednesday swift action must be taken by police personnel on distress calls from women, children, senior citizens and the differently abled. Non-compliance will invite stern action, the top police official said.

The DGP said the Hyderabad incident reminded the police department of the need for a robust infrastructure to quickly respond and take action on distress calls.

In a circular to officers including police commissioners, superintendents, he advised them to take measures to ensure speedy action and rescue women in distress.

Tripathy said the officers should create awareness among personnel working under them to immediately take action on

phone calls, SMS, or information seeking help.

"Police personnel must take action without any delay by going beyond factors like jurisdiction and surmounting practical difficulties," he told senior officers.

In every case of distress to women, police personnel should act swiftly and efficiently, he said, adding those who do not act "with professionalism and responsibility will have to face serious consequences."

The police personnel concerned should immediately rush to the crime scene and not waste time in ascertaining the veracity of the complaint, he noted. The personnel must also inform their higher authorities and take steps for coordination as well to safely rescue those in distress. To check violence against women, the Tamil Nadu police depart-

ment has already created "Kavalan (policeman who protects) mobile phone app," and sustained measures must be taken to popularise it.

Awareness should be created about the mobile application among the general public and especially women, children, differently abled and senior citizens.

Also, all police personnel should be sensitised about the app and this must be publicised in places where people congregate in large numbers. People must be encouraged to download the app and use it during any emergency, he said.

Sensitising people and other stakeholders including women about the app is not a "one time measure, and rather this must be a continuous process. And senior officers may hold review periodically and render advice," he said. PTI

LS OK's Bill to give ownership rights to 40L Delhi residents

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Wednesday passed the much-awaited Bill to grant ownership rights to residents living in 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi after the Rajya Sabha gave its approval by voice vote.

The Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill on November 28 providing ownership rights to more than 40 lakh residents living in these colonies.

The Bill, known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019, States that there has been a phenomenal increase in the population of the National Capital Territory of Delhi in the last few decades owing to migration and other factors.

However, it said, the development of planned housing colonies has not kept pace with the requirements of burgeoning population which resulted in increase of unauthorised colonies.

In view of the socio-economic conditions of the residents of the unauthorised colonies and ground realities, it is desirable to recognise and confer rights of ownership or transfer or mortgage to the residents of such colonies, the Bill said.

It will be done "on the basis of Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sale, Will, possession letter and other documents including documents evidencing payment of consideration and to facilitate development or re-development that may improve existing infrastructure, civic and social amenities which may lead to better quality of life," it added.

It also provides for levy of the stamp duty and registration charges on the amount mentioned in the conveyance deed or authorisation slip issued by the

Delhi Development Authority and non-payment of any stamp duty and registration charges on any previous sale transactions made prior to the last transaction.

Participating in the debate on the Bill in the Upper House, several Opposition members termed the NDA Government to bring the legislation as a "political stunt and drama" and questioned the need for rushing through it in Parliament without subjecting it to the scrutiny of the standing committee. Congress, SP and TMC members also asked the Government to explain the reasons for not bringing the Bill in the last five years and said it was done now with a view to garner political mileage ahead of the forthcoming State elections in Delhi next year.

Replying to the debate, Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Bill would soon get the President's nod and the work of uploading maps of 1,731 colonies would be completed.

"We have already uploaded maps of 1,130 colonies. After uploading all maps, we would give 15 days' time for filing objections (by resident welfare associations and other stakeholders)," he said.

"We would open the filing of application by resident from December 15 and a dedicated portal for that would also be provided," the Minister said.

About empowering women under the Bill, he said the registration of property in these colonies would be done "either in the name of woman head of the family or jointly (with male member)." Puri also told the House that progressive names would be given to these colonies.

About consideration of other colonies falling in forest areas, Archaeological Survey of India protected land, O Zone, Yamuna flood plains and in affluent cate-

gories, he said that these are not included in this bill and would be taken up separately. About the stamp duty and other charges for registration of house in these colonies, the minister said that it would not hurt anybody as this is on nominal basis.

Explaining why the colonies were not authorised on the basis of an executive order, he said that there was a Supreme Court judgement on these type of properties and the bill was required in view of this.

The Supreme Court in its judgement in 2011 had held that sale agreement or General Power of Attorney or Will transactions are not 'transfers' or 'sales' and that such transactions cannot be treated as completed transfers or conveyances and they can continue to be treated as existing agreement of sale.

He also said the DDA at present has set up 25 help desks for the convenience of the residents to register and the number of such desks will be increased to 50 and then 75 in the coming days.

Participating in the debate, Digvijay Singh (Congress) said when the delineation was done by the central government, the Delhi Government should have given ownership right to these residents with executive orders and there was no need for this Bill. The minister said, "I am confident that our job (of providing ownership to resident of unauthorised colonies) would be done for eight lakh families." Puri told the House that he was working on the issue since 2017 when he took charge of the ministry. Before passing of the bill, Jairam Ramesh (Congress) asked the minister to give some other nomenclature to unauthorised colonies like duly authorised. He was of the view that these people were deprived of their rights due to slow administrative actions.

Congress to take out rally in Delhi on Dec 14

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Congress will take out a mega rally in Delhi on December 14 to protest against the state of the economy, unemployment and unprecedented price hike due to the wrong policies of the BJP government at the Centre, a party leader said here on Wednesday.

"The Congress is organising a mega rally in Delhi on December 14 to protest against

the economic crisis, large-scale unemployment and unprecedented price hike," the chief spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) said.

He added that members of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) and the PCC, including former ministers, former legislators, district presidents and leaders of the frontal wings of the party's state unit from Jammu,

Kashmir and Ladakh, would take part in the rally.

The rally would be taken out as part of the party's nationwide programme against the "worst kind of economic slowdown, leading to large-scale unemployment and an unprecedented price hike", which was a matter of great concern to the countryside, the Congress spokesperson said.

The wrong economic poli-

cies of the BJP-led government over the last six years had brought the country to this situation of financial emergency and as against the promise of generating two crore new jobs annually, those employed in the private sector were losing their jobs, he added.

The December 14 rally would aim at turning the attention of the countrymen towards the prevailing economic situation.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Voilet William & Legal Heirs/ Nancy William & Legal Heirs/ C/o Chagan Bai Narayan Sonwane, Ward No. 12, Ramdada Gali No. 1, Gaoury Nagar, Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh Rajnandgaon-491441/ LBRPR00001427865	Plot Situated At Khasra No. 502/220, Mouza- Chikkli, Mohalla- Gauri Nagar, Ward No. 12, P.H. No. 35/1, Tahasil/ District Sub Registry Office- Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh- 491441 Admeasuring An Area Of Land Area 2178 Sq. Feet/ Built Up Area 861 Sq. Feet/ Date of Possession: 02.12.2019	31.01.2014 Rs. 1,39,742/-	Chattisgarh

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 05-12-2019
Place: Chattisgarh
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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Whereas A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs], The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
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The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 05-12-2019
Place: Chattisgarh
Authorised Officer
Secured Creditor

Fearlessly step out, women told

NMC urges women to reclaim streets with music, celebrations during 2-day carnival

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid lots of hue and cry across society regarding issues of women safety, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) Commissioner Varsha Joshi on Wednesday in order to convey a strong message has announced a two-day street carnival named '#StepOutAtNight' for women in Karol Bagh, urging them to "fearlessly step out" and reclaim the streets with music and celebrations.

The first-of-its-kind festival in Delhi will be hosted at the pedestrianised Ajmal Khan Road and held between 7 pm and 11 pm on Thursday and Friday. The civic body has partnered with UN Women, Delhi Police, Raahgiri Foundation, Jagori and other civil society bodies to organize the event about women safety and cele-

brating the streets at night.

Talking about the features of the event, Joshi said "We are going to celebrate the event for the women to make them feel safe on the streets even at night."

"The festival will include activities such as performances by local pop groups and stand up comedians, Zumba workout sessions and movie screenings. Further wall painting and sketching competitions will also be there during two day festival. The Commissioner further said the recent incidents of violence against women depict a certain mindset of some people in the society, and it is this mindset that the festival seeks to challenge. "We want women to feel safe on streets. We are asking them to come out and reclaim the streets and celebrate the open space," she said.

"While plans had been going on for the past several months to host a festival at the nearly 1.5 km-long Ajmal Khan Road, which we had pedestrianised earlier this year, it all sort of came together recently, with convergence of interests from many other agencies.



North Corporation Commissioner Varsha Joshi addresses the media on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

We also realised UN Women is marking a fortnight to promote gender equality. So, the stars aligned," Joshi said.

The Corporation over two months ago, had pedestrianised street running from Pusa Road to D B Gupta Marg, seeking to decongest the busy area.

Karol Bagh Zone's Deputy Commissioner Akriti Sagar said that there will be two stages, one for artists of Sahitya Kala Parishad, and other for local artists. Shopkeepers have

informally said that women would get discount on purchases made during the festival. "We hope women will come out and enjoy open streets with ease and without any fear."

Women on regular days will want to step out if they know there are more women around them, and we want them to lose that sense of unease they may be feeling after reading about violence against women," she added.

The entry to the festival is free and open to women and

also men accompanying female family members or friends, the senior officer said.

"There will be selfie points, and game zones for kids, we are going to decorate and illuminate the stretch to give it a feel of a carnival. Also, metro station is located close by from the road," Sagar said.

Karol Bagh is in central Delhi and houses one of the most well-known and busy market of the city, which is thronged by a large number of visitors every day.

Govt OK's CAB, sets stage for face-off

From Page 1

Senior Home Ministry Officials said the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime areas and those regions which are governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution will be excluded from the purview of the Bill. In terms of Section 2 of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873, the Inner Line Permit system is prevalent in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. Citizens of other States require ILP for visiting these three

States. Under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, autonomous councils and districts were created in tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

The autonomous councils and districts enjoy certain executive and legislative powers.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI(M) and a few other political parties have been steadfastly opposing the Bill, claiming that citizenship can't be given on the basis of religion. Congress's

Shashi Tharoor said it violates the basic idea of India that religion can never be a reason for citizenship. "Those who believe that religion should determine nationhood..."

That was the idea of Pakistan, they created Pakistan. We have always argued that our idea of nation was what Mahatma Gandhi, Nehruji, Maulana Azad, Dr Ambedkar have said, that religion cannot determine nationhood," he told reporters in Parliament premises.

Veteran Congress leader and three-time Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said the Congress will move the Supreme Court against the CAB which is "unconstitutional" and "divisive". "The Congress will move the SC because we believe that CAB is unconstitutional and against the spirit of secularism. It is divisive, and violates the constitutional provision - equality for all. There cannot be division on basis of Religion, caste or creed," he said in a tweet.

IMPEACHMENT ENQUIRY

Trump abused presidency for own gain: Panel report

Washington: President Donald Trump abused powers of his office and endangered US national security by soliciting the interference of a foreign government to benefit his re-election in 2020, the Opposition Democrats have alleged and said there was "overwhelming evidence" to impeach him.

According to the House Intelligence Committee leading the impeachment enquiry against Trump, the Republican president placed personal political interests "above the national interests of the United States" by trying to "solicit foreign interference" from Ukraine to help his 2020 re-election bid.

"The evidence is clear that President Trump used the power of his office to pressure Ukraine into announcing



House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Calif., right, standing with House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., left, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday.

investigations into his political rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, and a debunked conspiracy theory that it was Ukraine, not Russia, that interfered in the 2016 election," said

chairs of the three House Committees after the release of a damning report on Tuesday.

Released by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, 'The Trump-Ukraine Impeachment Inquiry Report' was written by the staff of the House Intelligence, Oversight and Reform and Foreign Affairs Committees.

In a joint statement, Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn B Maloney and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel alleged that a "baseball bat" of evidence is clear that Trump conditioned official acts on the public announcement of these investigations: a coveted White House visit and critical US military assistance Ukraine needed to fight its Russian adver-

sary.

The White House immediately dismissed the report and slammed the House Democrats for their bid to remove 73-year-old Trump from office.

"At the end of a one-sided sham process, Chairman Schiff and the Democrats utterly failed to produce any evidence of wrongdoing by President Trump," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said.

"This report reflects nothing more than their frustrations. Chairman Schiff's report reads like the ramblings of a basement blogger straining to prove something when there is evidence of nothing," Grisham said.

But the three top lawmakers alleged that evidence is clear that after his scheme to

secure foreign help in his re-election was uncovered, President Trump engaged in categorical and unprecedented obstruction in order to cover up his misconduct.

"These matters are not seriously contested. To the contrary, they make it plain that President Trump abused the power of his office for personal and political gain, at the expense of our national security," they alleged.

"The President's actions have damaged our national security, undermined the integrity of the next election, and violated his oath of office.

They have also challenged the very core of our Constitutional system of checks and balances, separation of powers, and rule of law," the joint statement said.

MAURYA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LTD.
805, E-Block, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
Phone: 011-26423911
Email: maurya1985@gmail.com
CIN: U65990DL1985PLC019988

In the matter of M/s Maurya Industrial Resources Limited
For conversion of public company into a private company
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of M/s Maurya Industrial Resources Limited having its registered office at E-805, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, South Delhi - 110019

..... Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Company intends to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 30th Day of November, 2019 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor Parvavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below.

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Sd/-
Rajat Agarwal
Director
Date: 04.12.2019
DIN: 00026205

Maurya Industrial Resources Limited
E-805, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, South Delhi - 110019

US passes Uyghur Bill, China threatens possible retaliation

Washington/Beijing: The US Congress overwhelmingly passed a Bill seeking a tough response from the Trump Administration over reports of mass detention centres in China's Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, prompting Beijing to threaten possible retaliation.

The US House of Representatives on Tuesday passed the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which among other things, proposes

that America redirects resources to address the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities in China.

The Act, which calls for an end to the detaining, torture and harassment of the Uyghur communities in China, was passed by the Senate earlier.

By passing this bill, Congress is showing that the US will not turn a blind eye to the suffering of the oppressed, House Republican Leader

Kevin McCarthy said. "As with the Hong Kong Democracy and Human Rights Act, we are sending a simple but powerful message to the Communist Party: power cannot be maintained at the expense of the rights of the people without substantial consequences," he said.

Senators Marco Rubio and Bob Menendez, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that the bill is an important step in countering the totalitarian Chinese government's widespread and horrific human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Among these include the mass internment of more than one million Uyghurs and other predominantly ethnic Turkic Muslims, as well as Beijing's intimidation and threats against US citizens and legal

permanent residents on American soil.

In Beijing, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, on Wednesday issued a statement, expressing strong indignation over and firm opposition to the passing of the bill by the US Congress, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The US Congress passed the so-called 'Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019', "maliciously attacking the human rights conditions in Xinjiang, slandering China's de-radicalization and anti-terrorism efforts, making groundless accusations against the Chinese government's Xinjiang policies and grossly interfering in China's internal affairs," said the statement.

"Facts have proved that

the measures taken by the Chinese side are effective, and security situation has improved markedly in Xinjiang where there have been no violent, terrorist incidents in the past three years," it said, justifying the "vocational education and training centres" in Xinjiang.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the US Congressmen were making "unwarranted accusations and totally untrue facts."

"For all wrong actions and words... The proper price must be paid," the spokeswoman warned. Asked if the US move would have an impact on trade talks, Hua did not directly answer the question. But she said there was "no way this can have no effect on China-US relations as well as the two countries' cooperation in important areas."

Wedding bells on hold for Hong Kong protester, policeman

Hong Kong: The venue is reserved, the wedding rings custom-made and the search for the dress has begun. But Hong Kong protester May's nuptials are on hold because her friends oppose her marrying a policeman.

Six months of unprecedented protests in Hong Kong against eroding freedoms under Chinese rule have divided the city's population.

Rifts in some cases have pitted relatives, friends and even lovers against each other. May, who asked to be identified by a pseudonym, is one of those who has seen the political become deeply personal, threatening to torpedo her February wedding. "One of my closest friends — my maid of honour — told me that she's thinking about not attending my wedding," May told AFP.

"I never thought about losing my friends... It makes me very, very sad," the 28-year-old said. "It has made me realise how fractured the relationship between the police and residents has become." Hong Kong's police were once hailed as an example for other Asia forces, but they have become a target of intense hatred to many pro-democracy protesters who accuse them of excessive force.

AP

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

DPT OF MSU FOR DETECTION AND REPAIRING OF CRACK ON MSU SURFACE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RS/NOA, Dum Dum Car Depot Complex, Metro Railway, Kolkata-700 090 for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tender for the following work. Name of work : DPT of MSU for detection of crack on MSU surface and repairing of cracked MSU by welding. Tender Value: ₹ 15,29,208/-. Earnest Money : ₹ 30,600/-. Date and Time of closing : Up to 15.00 hours (IST) of 07.01.2020. Notice Board Address : Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RS, at the above address. Website particulars: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

e-Tender No. : MR-EL-RS-NOA-OT-19-20-04

FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

OA No 1517/18 Date: 19.11.2019

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK VERSUS **APPLICANT**

SH. VIRENDRA JAIN & ORS. RESPONDENT

To, Defendant

1. Sh. Virendra Jain S/o Sh. T.C. Jain 2. Smt. Deepali Jain W/o Mahipal Singh Jain
3. M/s Manju Homes India Ltd. 4. M/s Idea Builders Pvt. Ltd. AI AI : C-284, 1st Floor Near Park Vihar, New Delhi-95

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 2,94,99,803/- (Rupee Two Crore Ninety Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred And Three Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 05.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DRT-II, DELHI.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner(Cord)/ RPF / Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work:

1. Name of the work with its location: Hiring of one multi utility road vehicle Non AC (Innova Crystal, Tata Hexa, Scorpio or equivalent) along with vehicle driver for movement of day & night (24 hrs.) under jurisdiction of ASCR/RPF/GZB Delhi Division on monthly basis for a period of two years.

2. Office Address: Sr.DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K.Road, New Delhi

3. Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) (Rs): Rs.13,53,600/- with GST as applicable

4. E.M.D.(Rs): Rs.27,100/-

5. Last date and time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender: 15.00 hrs on 03.01.2020

6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in

7. Cost of tender documents: Rs. 2000/- + 360 GST 18% Total Rs. 2360/- payment of tender document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only

TENDER NOTICE No.- 2 Sr.DSC(Cord)/RPF/ASCR-GZB/H.V./Delhi-East/2019-20 Dt.4.12.2019 3883/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VIII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi invites online Item Rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No.	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed (Days)	Tender ID No.	Last date & time for submission of Price Bid.
1	EE/CD-VIII/2019-20/73	Construction of Boundary wall for old age home at Gram Sabha Land bearing Kh. No. 24/27 in village Nihari in Kirari A.C.	4217 Plan	6,50,338/-	13,007/-	60	2019_JFC_184538_1	09.12.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

1. The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.

2. Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of VAT documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VIII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 before the last date and time of submission of technical bids.

3. The details of above mentioned works can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://eprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

4. The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.

5. Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender will be accepted. 6. Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VIII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

Sd/-
(J. NARENDER SAGAR)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: CD-VIII

DIP/Shabdharth/1068/19-20

Pak Govt writes to UK; seeks return of Sharif after treatment

Islamabad: Pakistan Government has written to the British authorities, seeking return of ailing Nawaz Sharif after his medical treatment in the UK, according to a media report.

Sharif, 69, left for London on November 19 in an air ambulance for medical treatment after the Lahore High Court allowed him to travel abroad for four weeks.

The ARY News on Tuesday reported that Islamabad has written a letter to the British government seeking handing over of Sharif to Pakistan after his medical treatment is completed in Britain. The Government's letter gave details of the cases against Sharif. A two-member bench headed by Justice Ali Baqir Najafi ordered the federal Government to remove the former premier and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supreme leader's name from the Exit Control List without placing any conditions.

Innocent protesters should be freed: Iran's Rouhani

AFP ■ TEHRAN

"What they've done was not right but... We must not be strict with these people," he said.

But Rouhani said people who used weapons or committed serious crimes during the violence should be treated separately.

"Those who are criminals must be dealt with according to the law," he said.

They included "those who have come to this incident in an organised manner", he added.

Rouhani said their "confessions" would be broadcast "in the future, and you will see they had been planning for more than two years".

"Their masters abroad told them that now is the time, carry it out... These people must be dealt with."

Iran has blamed the violence that broke out on "bugs" backed by its arch-enemies the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

United Airlines orders 50 Airbus aircraft to replace Boeing 757s

New York: United Airlines said on Tuesday it had ordered 50 Airbus A321XLR aircraft, worth an estimated \$6.5 billion, to replace an existing fleet of aging Boeings.

The new Airbus planes, to be delivered starting 2024, will allow United to retire its Boeing 757-200s, the company said.

The Airbus order is the latest blow to the American manufacturer, already deeply mired in the crisis surrounding its 737 MAX, which has been grounded worldwide after two crashes that resulted in 346 deaths.

Boeing has no new aircraft to compete with the Airbus A321XLR in the mid-market range.

Airbus launched the A321XLR only this year, at the Paris Air Show in June.

The single-aisle aircraft's range is 15 percent above that of its predecessor, the A321LR, making it a cost-effective alternative to long-haul wide-body planes.

Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution)
Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited Electric Division Kathua
Email: ee@jpccl.com

Extension Notice-01

In view of Limited response, the last date for submission of e-bids of e-NIT is hereby extended as per below mentioned detail:

S.No. 1 e-NIT No. :- e-NIT No. KED/20 of 2019-20 dated 21-11-2019

Name of work :- Creation of 100 KVA S/stn alongwith HT/LT network of National Seed corporation Kathua.

Last date for submission of e-bids (Extended) :- 09-12-2019 02:00 P.M.

Opening of Technical and Commercial bids :- 10-12-2019 02:00 P.M.

No. DIP/J-1015/19 Sd/- Executive Engineer (Distribution) Dated: 03-12-2019 JPCCL, Electric Division Kathua

MODI INDUSTRIES LIMITED

CIN - U15429UP1932PLC000469
Regd. Office : Modinagar - 201204, (U.P.) Tel: 01232-231755, 243115
E-mail : modiindustrieslimited@gmail.com Website : www.modiindustries.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

CORRIGENDUM TO THE NOTICE OF THE 85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To the Members,

We draw your kind attention towards our Notice dated November 14, 2019 calling the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Company (AGM-NOTICE) to be held on December 18, 2019 at 12.30 P.M. at Modi Industries Transit House (Modi Industries Complex), Modinagar (U.P.) 201204 sent through permitted mode on November 23, 2019 in respect with the Item Nos. 2(a) and 2(b) regarding re-appointment of Shri Rakesh Kumar Modi and Shri Abhishek Modi under Section 152(6) and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule made thereunder (including any statutory modification(s) and re-enactment for the time being in force).

Board of Directors of your Company at their meeting held on November 14, 2019 had approved the ordinary business agenda at Item Nos. 2(a) and 2(b) of AGM-NOTICE regarding re-appointment of Shri Rakesh Kumar Modi and Shri Abhishek Modi under Section 152(6) and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule made thereunder (including any statutory modification(s) and re-enactment for the time being in force).

The order dated 27.08.2010 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in SLP (C) 23095 - 97 /2010 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed to maintain a status-quo with respect to the management of the Company i.e. MIL is still pending adjudication and the said status quo order is still in force therefore the removal of existing director or appointment/re-appointment of a Director of MIL is still sub-judice on the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

In view of the above, it has been decided that the existing Directors shall continue to remain on the Board and no one shall be liable to retire by rotation until and unless the office is vacated on account of voluntary resignation/ demise and accordingly the Board Resolution passed on 14.11.2019 in respect of the re-appointment of Directors is modified by resolution passed through circulation.

The members of the Company are hereby requested to read this corrigendum along with the notice. The Ordinary Resolutions at Item Nos. 2(a) and 2(b) of the Notice, proposed to be passed, stand withdrawn and therefore in view of order dated 27th August, 2010 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India no voting thereon shall take place.

Kindly note that this Corrigendum to the AGM-NOTICE is issued pursuant to the Secretarial Standard-2 issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and all other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, if any, under authorisation given to the undersigned by the Board of Directors in their Meeting held on 14th November, 2019, to finalise the AGM-NOTICE.

Thus the AGM-NOTICE shall always be read with this Corrigendum. The Corrigendum to the AGM-NOTICE of the 85th Annual General Meeting is being uploaded on the Company's website www.modiindustries.net.

Further, by way of prescribed mode under the Act, this corrigendum is being sent to all the shareholders to whom notice of the Annual General Meeting was originally served.

For Modi Industries Limited,
Sd/-
Rakesh Kumar Modi
Director
(DIN-0002386)

Date: 04.12.2019
Place: Modinagar (U.P.) 201204

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: S1.No.;

Tender No.; Name of the work;

Tender value (₹); Cost of tender document (₹); Earnest money (₹);

Period of completion (in months):

[01]; Engg/37/2019-20; Extension of contact tank for increasing storage capacity; 55,28,261.77; 5,000.00; 1,10,600.00; 09 months;

[02]; Engg/38/2019-20; Repairs to Civil Engineering Assets, new works and works of additions and alteration each valued upto ₹ 5,00,000/- for the year 2019-20 ending upto 30.06.2020 in Zone No.1/E (Kolkata-II) under SSE (W)/DANKUNI for ELAAU/CLW/ DANKUNI & DICE/DANKUNI; 55,00,000.00; 5,000.00; 1,10,000.00; 09 months

[03]; Engg/39/2019-20; Recycling of treatment of sewage water; 1,46,51,569.73; 5,000.00; 2,23,300.00; 12 months. NOTE: (i) Date of closing-06.01.2020 at 13.00 hrs. (ii) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in (iii) Contact Number: 9136640201.

Sd/-
Dy. Chief Engineer
CLW/Chittaranjan
ABC-254
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	K Sajeev Kumar/ Sonia John (Guarantor)/ Room No 202 Hostel No1 Township Jindal India Thermal Power Ltd At Darang Arungal Talcher Orissa Talcher 759117/ LBBBS00004124780/ LBBBS00004120390	Freehold Built Up Entire Fourth Floor With Roof Rights Of Property No. B-24 With One Car Parking Space On Silt Floor, Bagdolla Dwaraka Sector 8 New Delhi, Admeasuring An Area Of Land Measuring 100 Sq. Mtrs. Plinth Area Measuring 85.21 Sq. Mtrs.	31-10-2019 Rs. 70,93,088/-	31/08/2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: 05-12-2019
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

Notice under Order V Rule 20 Code of Civil Procedure
CM (M) 1491/2007 and CM No. 46447 / 2019

Petition against the order dated 08/10/2007 passed by Sh. M. C. Garg, ARCT, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi in RCA No. 158/07 and order dt. 03/09/07 passed by Sh. Amit Kumar, I.D. ARCT, Delhi in E. No. 03/09/06.

S.G.S. Construction and Developers limited

Petitioner/s

Vs.

Respondent/s

Subhash Chander Pahwa and ors

Notice to Respondent Nos. 1 to 3:-
R-1: SH. SUBHASH CHANDER PAHWA, S/O LATE SH. A.L. PAHWA, S.SAL SOMPRATIONA, 2, PRACHASORBIKROH ROAD, DINGDONG ROAD, BANGKOK, THAILAND
R-2: SH. V.S. SINGHAL, R-10, GROUND FLOOR, GREEN PARK, NEW DELHI-110016.
R-3: M/S SCOOTER INDIA LTD. POST BOX NO.1, SAROJINI NAGAR, P.O. LUCKNOW-KANPUR ROAD, LUCKNOW-226008, U.P.

Whereas the above noted petitioner has presented a petition under article 227 of constitution of India alongwith application which was dismissed before the court on 22/10/2019 and the Court ordered issuance of notice to you. And whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that you cannot be served in the ordinary manner. Notice is hereby issued that if you wish to defend the above mentioned petition and application you may cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf either in person or through an advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before the court on 20/12/2019 at 10:30 a.m.

If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself, your pleader or someone by law authorised to act for you in the said petition and application on the aforementioned date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said petition and application will be given and the same will be heard and determined ex-parte in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 26th day of November, 2019.

Assistant Registrar
for Registrar General

New Pawar play

By exposing the BJP, the NCP leader is warning it against topple moves and at the same time reassuring Cong, Sena



They say one can never trust Sharad Pawar, the politician, no matter how large-hearted and generous a host he is on home ground at Baramati. Call him a pragmatist, negotiator, bargainer or flipper, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief is on the high table of all politicians. He may have broken away from the Congress over ideology but knows his mantras are no good without a practical module to execute them. That explains his opportunistic alliances to have a shot at power, aligning with the Congress even

though he rebelled against it or even supporting the polar opposite of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). So when he crafted a series of interviews, detailing how he was offered a deal on Maharashtra by Prime Minister Narendra Modi no less, it seemed contrary to his level-headed neutrality. In fact, it seemed too much of an aberrant behaviour. For exposing the BJP, currently being battered over its constitutional misadventure in that State, is one thing, implicating Modi quite the other. That too spilling the beans on a private conversation where the tradeoff was clearly spelled out — cooperating with the BJP at the State level in return for a Central Ministry for Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule. He has also demanded reopening the Sohrabuddin encounter case and judge Loya's death, both of which can put Home Minister Amit Shah in a spot. Going by past vindictiveness of the Modi-Shah duo, why would Pawar risk burning his bridges with the BJP leadership that he had bailed out before? On the face of it, it could be read as his game of one-upmanship, one where he was avenging the BJP's games of poaching on his turf and engineering defections in the NCP before the Assembly polls. Then there was the slew of corruption cases stacked up against his kin. Pushing 80, probably the Maratha warrior thought that he had to fight his last political battle zealously and morally. And he did, winning the bypolls in Satara, the seat of Chhatrapati Shivaji, where he campaigned under the rains and ensured the defeat of his rebel and Shivaji's descendant Udayanraje Bhonsle. The verdict meant a re-appointment of Pawar as a true keeper of the Marathi legacy, one that drew him to Shiv Sena's local-centric and cultural vision. In fact, Pawar was careful enough to clarify that Sena was always upfront about Hindutva, too, but did not bring that to governance and administration, carefully separating it from the BJP's impassioned politics of nationalism. He even reiterated that the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi Government was committed to the Common Minimum Programme. The Sena daily, *Saamna*, became his spokesman noting how Modi called the NCP as a "Naturally Corrupt Party" and Amit Shah questioned Pawar's contribution to Maharashtra before the State polls. Its editorial asked, "If all that was true, then what kind of benefit was the BJP anticipating from NCP's experience?"

However, revenge would be too easy an explanation when it comes to Pawar. He is not explosive but Machiavellian. And at the end of the day, everybody believes that Ajit Pawar's palace coup was probably stage-managed to build some momentum in the Congress camp to shed inhibitions and join the government. Or given BJP MP Anant Hegde's wild claim that the temporary swearing-in was done to access ₹40,000 crore of funds and divert them, making Ajit a fall guy would seem perfect, assuming this hypothetical scenario did happen. Also, contrary to constant rebuttals of the *bhakt* brigade, it is rather odd that no denial has come from the BJP leadership on Pawar's expose. Can this, therefore, mean that the deeper understanding of the old warhorses continues while a divergence of opinions is being highlighted on the surface? After all, it is only Pawar who needs to convey that he is indeed worthy of trust. Particularly for the Congress, whose advisers have time and again been warning their chief Sonia Gandhi that she needs to be wary about him and not go in for the Aghadi experiment at all. But Sonia did give in ultimately to the State legislators, who wanted to be relevant and shore up their bases. Are the interviews, therefore, Pawar's attempt to clear the clouds over his integrity and appear righteous? This serves him both ways, he can still be considered as a strong anchor of the Opposition and by some public shaming, rein in the BJP from getting adventurous about toppling the Aghadi coalition. At least he will be the helmsman till his next masterstroke or chicanery, depending on which side of the prism you are looking at.

India's greatest export

'Make in India' might be in the ICU but as Pichai's elevation shows, Indian brains are still in demand



The world may not run on Made in India cars or necessarily wear clothes made in an Indian textile mill or even use Indian weapons but almost every citizen has been touched by software and hardware engineered by an Indian. Now, the news that Sundar Pichai, the boss of Google, is about to become the top dog at Alphabet, Google's parent company, is something that should be celebrated. He, of course, will not be the first Indian to head one of America's top companies. That honour went to Satya Nadella, who has quietly and

surely been heading Microsoft for five years now. Nobody really knows the secret sauce that makes Indian engineers and managers such great corporate leaders. At one level, it is depressing that Indians have to go to the US and to a lesser extent the UK, to discover their ultimate potential. While the success of people like Nadella and Pichai is a matter of great pride for Indians, it is also an awful indictment of the Indian system where mediocrity rules the roost because success is not encouraged through a competitive format or celebrated.

This is evident in a system, where churning out millions of graduates is seen as more important than the concept of excellence, where education for education's sake matters more than the actual results. One has to encounter a comical situation where you have an apparent doctorate holder applying for a peon's job. This isn't an indictment of the lack of jobs but one where the education system has failed us. Because mediocrity is celebrated at the cost of excellence. India continues to suffer immense brain drain because the best and brightest have little choice but to go abroad to fulfill their potential. Of course, India has many ills that the system is aiming to correct, particularly the caste system and the lack of social inclusion but social mobility will come not just from reservations. A serious audit must be done on the reservations in educational institutions even though the idea itself is an anathema to any mass politician. We have to look at the conclusions of the education system and not just the stories of Pichai and Nadella. We have to question why they had to leave the country? And why neither a Nadella or Pichai couldn't be heading a global top-100 out of India instead. Of course, the US will continue to attract the best and brightest from across the world. That is what makes that country great. But in celebrating Pichai, we should not miss the opportunity to introspect.

Politics of reincarnation

Tibetans should be left alone to decide their spiritual future but even if India does not interfere, it does have high stakes in the issue, particularly in connection with the Himalayan region



CLAUDE ARPI

A few months ago, a board was placed outside a monastery in Tibet; it stated that Government officials and communist cadres were not allowed to enter the premises of the *gumpa* as the Chinese State was atheistic. One can understand that the Communist Party of China (CPC), which religiously follows the precepts of its founding fathers, is not in favour of any spiritual practices. More recently, the CPC issued a notice banning retired Tibetan Government employees from taking part in any religious activities.

According to Human Rights Watch, the notice required "all Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Government and retired Government employees — regardless of whether those retirees are party members — to submit a list by August 18 of any 'retired personnel performing the *korā*, the Tibetan practice of circumambulating a sacred site.' Though the People's Republic of China is atheist by definition and does not believe in the return of a soul, it now wants to control the reincarnation of the Tibetan Lamas. Read the "management measures for the reincarnation of living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism" notified by the State Council on July 13, 2007, and you will understand.

Article 1 spoke of "protecting religious concord and social harmony and protecting the normal order of Tibetan Buddhism." It asserted: "Reincarnating living Buddhas should respect the religious rituals and historically established systems of Tibetan Buddhism." It insists on an old ritual rarely used, the Golden Urn, which can easily be manipulated. Further, "Reincarnating living Buddhas shall not be interfered with or be under the dominion of any foreign organisation or individual." In other words, the Dalai Lama is not allowed to be reborn in India.

Is China an atheist or a religious State? The answer is: It depends on the interests of the party. When it is convenient, it follows the Marxist orthodoxy but when its interests differ, the CPC becomes an expert in religious practices, particularly in the "reincarnation" process. Already in 2015, Padma Choling, the then Chairman of the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Congress and then the only "ethnic" Tibetan and a member of the CPC's Central Committee, created a flutter when he declared: "It's not up to the Dalai Lama to decide about his own reincarnation." He objected to an announcement by the Lama that "his traditional religious role should cease with his death." Choling affirmed that the Lama's renouncement was against "the Tibetan Buddhism tradition as the soul of a senior Lama is [always] reincarnated in the body of a child on his death."

Marx would have shuddered in his tomb had he heard Choling utter this blasphemy. But this does not disturb the Communist leaders "in the new era." Today, they argue that one can be Marxist and capitalist at the same time. A recent development



brought some clarity. On November 29, the Dalai Lama addressed the issue of his reincarnation at a three-day Tibetan Religious Conference, a gathering of 117 Tibetan Buddhist and Bon senior leaders, in Dharamsala. During the closing ceremony, the Tibetan spiritual leader told the Rinpoches that there was no hurry to talk about his reincarnation. He affirmed, "I am fine physically and mentally — is there any hurry to talk about my reincarnation?" He added that he will consult his advisors to decide on his reincarnation when he turns 90.

This is a welcome change from some contradictory statements he had made earlier, particularly those like he was not keen to "return," that the system was "medieval" or that he would come back as a woman.

On the first day of the conference, the assembled Lamas passed an important three-point resolution to counter China. The first point mentioned was the Karmic bond between the Dalai Lamas and the Tibetan people, which is "unbreakable." It added that all Tibetans "genuinely wish for the continuation of the institution and reincarnation of the Dalai Lama in the future." The Lama was supplicated to "come back."

The second point made it clear that "the authority of deci-

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 ”

sion concerning the way and the manner in which the next reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama should appear solely rests with His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama himself. No Government or otherwise will have such authority." It was the best way to counteract Beijing's stance (and new religious "skills").

The third point the monks gathering urged was that "the same unique Tibetan traditional method, which has been continuously used until now, will be followed."

Though it says that this method conforms to "the basic philosophy and tenets of the Buddha dharma and originated in Tibet over 800 years ago," no details were provided, leaving the door open to possible manipulation by China. Incidentally, it is regrettable that among the 117 senior monks, the feminine gender was not represented. This is probably one of the reasons why the Dalai Lama terms the system as "medieval."

The Chinese are aware that the reincarnation system is not purely a religious affair; it has always had a political angle. One historical example is the strife between the ninth Panchen and the 13th Dalai Lama, which revolved around taxes to be paid by the Panchen Lama estate to the Dalai Lama's Government.

As a result of the dispute, the Panchen took refuge in China in 1923; he was well-looked after by the Kuomintang, who had an eye on Tibet. A Chinese scholar recently wrote that "the treatment of the ninth Panchen Lama was further enhanced in response to [China's] needs on the border [with India]. In June 1931, the National Government appointed the ninth Panchen Lama as an Ambassador and set up an agency which was given a hefty monthly budget of 15,000 yuans."

The Panchen Lama himself received 120,000 yuans monthly. It was not a salary, said the scholar, but "for his personal expenses and the living expenses of his followers and monks."

The fact that the US Congress recently passed a Bill on the succession or reincarnation of the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders shows that it is still a highly political issue today. The Tibetans should be left alone to decide their spiritual future but even if India does not interfere, New Delhi does have high stakes in the issue, particularly in connection with the Himalayan region where Buddhism has so far played a stabilising role. The Dalai Lama is hopefully aware of this.

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

SOUNDBITE

The Government will not be a postman on the issue of appointment of judges but be a stakeholder and have a say.

Union Minister — Ravi Shankar Prasad



The big directors didn't take me, so I had to work with the new ones. When big people don't take you, you have to start your own journey.

Actor — Akshay Kumar



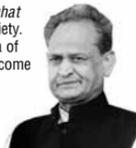
We want to help other countries follow the Indian model of transitioning from being an aid recipient to a partner and then to a donor.

USAID Administrator — Mark Green



The custom of *ghoonghat* is still prevalent in society. We are living in the era of science. The time has come to put an end to this.

Rajasthan CM — Ashok Gehlot



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hard economic truths

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "India Inc worried" (December 4). Industrialist Rahul Bajaj is probably the most outspoken voice of Indian Inc. He has always been forthcoming with his views on key issues affecting the economy. So when he asked if the present Government was open to criticism and that there was a sense of fear among entrepreneurs and businessmen, it's really worth pondering over. It was heartening that Home Minister Amit Shah acknowledged his concerns and promised that indeed if what he said was true, then his Government would work on the issue. However, it was surprising that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that Bajaj's comment could hurt national interests.

Our economy grew at 4.5 per cent in the last quarter of the present financial year, the slowest in the last 26 quarters. This is proof that something is seriously wrong in the way the economy is being managed. Some external factors may be the reason but we can't have an ostrich-like approach.
Bal Govind Noida

A reminder of terrorist threats

Friday's knife attacks in London have sent shockwaves across the world. They have demonstrated, once again, the increasing vulnerability of the civilised world *vis-à-vis* brainwashed, bloodthirsty terrorists. Risking their lives, some brave British citizens restrained the terrorist before the arrival of the police. That should be the spirit. The terrorist was identified as 28-year-old Usman Khan, a British citizen born in London and of Pakistani origin. A terrorist is a terrorist and his origin should be of no account. Yet the attack raises an important question: How was a convict, who had spent jail time and whose proclivities for terrorism had been well established, left to roam free without any surveillance?

The British police shot the young terrorist dead after he was restrained. They obviously did not want to take any chance. But had such an incident happened in India, the policeman, who would have pulled the trigger, would have incurred national and international opprobrium for shooting a suspect and the country would have been censured in Geneva. The London Bridge wouldn't have been



safe for civilians but for the Islamic State. There's no such thing as a good terrorist. All terrorists are savages and they must be treated as such. The same holds true for their backers, who flaunt socio-political causes in a bid to justify mindless violence as justice.

JS Acharya
 Hyderabad

The other perspective

Sir — This refers to the article, "Historic leap of faith" (December 3) by Priyanka Chaturvedi. It is true that the BJP showed haste in forming a Government in Maharashtra. Perhaps it could not read through the hollow claims of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

leader Ajit Pawar, who said he had the backing of his party's MLAs. Thus, the BJP became vulnerable to onslaught from all sides.

However, I do not subscribe to the writer's viewpoint that there is no analogy between the way Governments were formed in Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively. The writer is of the view that in Karnataka, the JD(S)

and the Congress, who were fighting elections separately, formed the Government out of convenience. On the other hand, she has opined that in Maharashtra, the public wanted the Shiv Sena-Congress-NCP combine to form the Government. Does this not sound ludicrous? Rather, the opposite holds true. The public had given

the mandate to the BJP-Shiv Sena combine. Had the BJP not acted in haste, it would have proved itself cynosure of all eyes among the public.

It is also true that if the present Uddhav Thackeray-led Government falls, how will it face the public if mid-term polls are held, a fact ignored by the Sena. Moreover, can the Shiv Sena afford to ignore or dilute its Hindutva ideology if it continues to enjoy power for full term?

Sagar Singh
 Muzaffarnagar

Forest for the tiger

Sir — It's encouraging that the tiger population in the country has increased by 750 in the last four years to 2,976. However, this should also mean a corresponding increase in the number of people visiting the forest areas. With the rise in their numbers, it is also essential to expand and build new sanctuaries so that the big cats have roaming privileges.

Sunita
 Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Save that ground you walk on

Though agrochemicals have ushered in a Green Revolution, their overuse remains a threat. Let's introspect on World Soil Day



RAJESH AGGARWAL

This year has been an eventful one, for who would have thought that our protective guards, the Amazon rainforest, would be ravaged with fire. This is, however, not an isolated incident as burning forests to create land for agriculture is an age-old practice. Slash and burn agriculture is a widely-used method in which wild or forested land is cleared by cutting trees and any remaining vegetation is burnt. The resulting ash is said to provide the newly-cleared land with a nutrient-rich layer that acts as a fertiliser for the crops. Every year, people in north and west India battle smog and poor air quality only because farmers in the region opt for burning the stubble instead of using more scientific methods to dispose the biomass. They do this as they find burning crop residue to be more cost-effective. But such unscientific methods do more harm to the soil quality and to agricultural yields in the long run than the farmers can imagine.

The right crop for the soil type: India has various types of soil, ranging from the fertile alluvial of the Indo-Gangetic plains to the black and red soil of the Deccan Plateau. For instance, in the State of Tamil Nadu, soil in the fields in Salem and Periyar districts is red while that in the fields of Coimbatore and Ramanathapuram is black. Different kinds of soil are suited to growing different types of crops through their unique physical, chemical and biological properties. Alluvial soil is a fertile soil, rich in potassium and is suitable for agriculture, especially for crops such as paddy, sugarcane and plantain. Red soil has high iron content and is fit for crops like red gram, Bengal gram, green gram, groundnut and castor seed. Black soil is rich in calcium, potassium and magnesium but has poor nitrogen content. Crops like cotton, tobacco, chilli, oil seeds, jowar, ragi and maize grow well in it. Sandy soil is low in nutrient content but is useful for growing trees such as coconut, cashew and casuarinas in areas with high rainfall. However, with better irrigation and treated seeds, factors like these have seemingly become irrelevant to the farmers. To force a land fit for jowar and ragi to produce paddy by using fertilisers indiscriminately is not only a waste of resources, it adversely impacts the soil health and may affect the future growth of crops too.

Repeating single crop cultivation over the years: Traditionally, farmers chose to cultivate a number of crops on a piece of land and even left it uncultivated so as to allow it to regain fertility. This rotational farming helped the soil retain the nutrition that it had lost in the previous crop cycle. Both land-use change and intensification of agricultural production on existing croplands can have significant adverse impacts on soil but these impacts depend critically on farming techniques.

Inappropriate cultivation practices can reduce organic matter and increase erosion by removing permanent soil cover. The removal of plant residues can reduce nutrient contents and increase greenhouse gas emissions through loss of soil carbon. However, fallow land is more of a compulsion today than a choice — keeping land uncultivated means financial loss, something farmers can ill-afford at a juncture when they are battling poor prices. Though the Government has been working in this direction but the response to the same has been lukewarm.

Lack of knowledge: The variety of crops cultivated earlier is gone as, in pursuit of more income, farmers cultivate only those crops that tends to fetch good prices. As a result, a piece of land is used for cultivating the same crop cycle over and over for years together. Farmers also choose specific crops, also known as cash crops, over food crops in order to get a better price for their produce. However, their sustained cultivation harms the soil health as it naturally drains it of its fertility. To cope with it, farmers have to use large amounts of fertilisers. This jeopardises soil health all the more. To counter this, farmers must be made aware of the right kind of agrochemicals needed for their crops and how they must be used judiciously.

The fact remains that agrochemicals have ushered in the Green Revolution in India and turned the country from a food-deficient nation to a food grain-surplus country. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, use of technical grade pesticide in India has gone up from 47,000 tonnes in 2001 to 53,000 tonnes in 2017. Schemes like soil health card and various irrigation projects have only added to India's capacity to remain self-sufficient in terms of its food requirement. Yet, the dangers of overuse of these chemicals and fertilisers remain a real threat to India's future food security, the environment and soil health. These issues need to be countered through awareness, education and long-term policy decisions and not knee-jerk reactions.

(The writer is managing director of an insecticides manufacturing firm)

OUR FORMER FINANCE MINISTER P CHIDAMBARAM HAS NO ANSWER TO THE (GRAFT) ALLEGATIONS LEVELLED AGAINST HIM.

—BJP MP
 RAKESH SINHA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



CHIDAMBARAM'S 106-DAY INCARCERATION WAS VINDICTIVE. I'M CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE IN A FAIR TRIAL.

—CONGRESS LEADER
 RAHUL GANDHI

Ecstasy fades as reality bites

Now that the initial excitement over abrogation of Article 370 has died, people are waking up to the harsh truth that nothing much has changed on the ground



ANIL GUPTA

Time changes fast and so does the mood of the people. The initial euphoria over the abrogation of Articles 35A, 370 and division of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories is dying and stark reality is staring the people in the face. They are disappointed by the fact that the situation is worsening and not improving. Unemployment, corruption, poor governance, red tape and a non-responsive administration continue to haunt the people.

While officials like "large projects require a gestation period", "large investments will take time to flow in", "no loss of lives is paramount" and "there will be no compromise on security" is well understood by the people, it is the widening disconnect between the citizens and the administration that is worrying.

Though the post-August 5 dynamics are entirely different in Jammu & Kashmir, there is one commonality and that is the need to win the confidence of the people. Nothing much has been done in this respect either by the Central Government or the UT administration headed by the newly-appointed Lieutenant-Governor. Lofty announcements made by the last Governor of the former State remain on paper and have yet to be implemented.

Pakistan was a nuisance then and it continues to remain so even today. The figures tabled in the Parliament by the Minister of State for Home Affairs do not project a positive picture as far as law and order is concerned. As per him, there were 361 cases of stone pelting/law and order disruption up to August 4 and 190 from August 5 to November 15. Going purely by statistics, while there were 51 cases per month prior to August 4, the figure went up to 54 cases per month after August 5. Not a very rosy picture, despite the changed circumstances and the increased deployment of security forces.

Though there have been no civilian deaths due to retaliation by the security forces, Pakistan-sponsored terrorists have been able to create fear through random killing of civilians and migrant labourers associated with the industry and the apple trade. The speed at which procedures were carried out during "Operation All Out" to flush terrorists has decelerated and "Operation Clean Up" has yet to gain momentum, though in winters it is easier to track down and eliminate terrorists as they are forced to vacate their hideouts in the upper reaches.

The crusade launched against graft by the previous Governor received an overwhelming response and people were happy when the corruption in the J&K Bank was exposed. But after the initial hullabaloo nothing much has happened till date, creating a doubt in the people's mind over the Government's sincerity in dealing with the corrupt.

More than a dozen proven cases of corruption pertaining to prominent politicians, including ex-Ministers, have been languishing for more than a decade, with no forward movement at all under the present dispensation, too. No action has yet been taken against those involved in scams in the J&K Cricket Association and the Roshni scheme. Many other cases of corruption, including a few involving former Chief Ministers exposed by the previous Governor, have yet to be investigated. The much talked about Employees Group Insurance

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scam seems to have been buried, too. This has disappointed the citizens who were anxiously looking forward to action against the corrupt. Gradually, the confidence in the system is getting eroded.

Grassroot-level democracy was introduced in the State with much fanfare and the people participated in the panchayat and local body elections in large numbers, defying terrorist threats. But nothing seems to have changed thereafter. These bodies are still crying for empowerment and financial independence and promises made to them have yet to be fulfilled. The lukewarm response to the Back to Village initiative to reach out to the people at the grassroots level as compared to its first version will certainly be a cause of worry for the new L-G.

The promise of providing 50,000 Government jobs to the youth remains unfulfilled and there is no indication of the Government even putting the process into motion. Though there were certain recruitments made by the police but the people belonging to the West Pakistan refugee community and other deprived communities were denied entry as they did not possess a Permanent Residence Certificate, which should have become irrelevant post abrogation of Article 35A. The much-awaited domicile laws have yet to see the light of day adding to the prevailing feeling of disappointment.

After abrogation of Article 370, the people were hoping that the policy of one nation, one tax would be implemented here as well but the levying of toll tax on select goods entering the UT through Lakhapur has added to the list of woes.

The lack of internet for over 100 days has not gone down well with the people

as it has become a necessity not just for accessing Government services but also for running businesses, trades, offices, hospitals and hotels. Security is paramount but blanket denial of this facility amounts to collective punishment. Mass punishments seldom resolve the problem but in fact add to it because of collective annoyance. It is not only adversely affecting students and businesses, it is also adding to the Government's revenue loss due to non-filing of various mandatory returns.

However, every dark cloud has a silver lining. The fall in the number of local youth joining the militant ranks is very heartening. Long queues seen at the recruiting rallies of the police, Indian Army and Central Armed Police Forces are even more heartening. But the Government has to provide more avenues of employment to the youth to keep them away from militancy because the adverse effects of conflict-related stress can easily make them rebellious. There is a need to give a fillip to traditional sectors like horticulture, handicraft, tourism, handloom, animal husbandry and agriculture.

The people of Jammu had welcomed the abrogation of Article 370 with open arms and has countered the propaganda launched by the status-quoists. But now, the prevailing view in Jammu is that while *de jure* Jammu has been rid of Kashmiri hegemony, *de facto* it continues to remain subservient to the Kashmir-centric approach of the bureaucracy. This anomaly needs to be set right by the administration.

The big question in the mind of most of the people is "what has changed?" Nothing can change as long as the

administration remains cast in the same mould as it was during the era of 370. The *raja* (king) and *praja* (citizen) approach has to give way to the *sevak* (worker) and *praja* system to gain the confidence of the people.

Revival of tourism is crucial to win people's confidence because it affects both the regions. Special "Leave Travel Concession" packages for Central Government employees for visiting Kashmir during winters are likely to increase the footfall of civilian tourists too.

Exclusive fast track courts need to be set up to try corruption cases and investigations must be speeded up. Deadwood should be got rid of or sent on postings to some distant UTs. To save the youth from further radicalisation, not only the madrasas but school education needs a thorough overhaul. The Jammu cadre, which has been rehabilitated under the *Rehbar-i-Taleem* scheme, is doing greater harm than the teachers of the madrasas.

Genuine grievances of the people need to be considered sympathetically and disposed of without the baggage of erstwhile State politics. The administration needs to engage the aggrieved section in a dialogue and close their grievances. This will help win the confidence of the people in the short-term so that they become willing partners in ensuring the success of long-term measures, as envisaged in the new narrative. This is essential to bring peace, stability, development and happiness for the people of the Union Territory of Jammu-Kashmir.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran, political commentator, analyst, columnist, security and strategic analyst.)

Whose rights is the Trans Bill protecting?

The concept of requiring certification to prove one's gender is draconian. It not only stems from the idea of discrimination but also opens the door for increased corruption and humiliation of an already ostracised community



KESHAV SURI

In India and south-east Asia, we have traditionally and culturally celebrated transgender people from time immemorial. With colonisation and other cultural shifts, the idea of a diversity mosaic, which was intrinsic to the DNA of our existence, seemed to fade away in time.

A struggle started in 2014 with the NALSA Vs Union of India case and continues till today, where the legislature has a chance to undo the atrocities the trans community has been subjected to over time, much like what the Supreme Court (SC) did for the Section 377 verdict in September 2018.

Can we imagine a world without separation and labels? I wonder what

that would be like? A Bill, meant to protect the trans-community, stands on the very foundation that evokes the idea of discrimination. The Transgender Rights Bill treats gender in a fixed binary, which goes against the basic principle of requiring certification to prove one's gender is draconian. It not only stems from the idea of discrimination but also provides a doorway for increased corruption. An already ostracised and economically weak community will be further humiliated and exploited to enable this said process of certification. According to a trans-activist, the 2014 NALSA judgment stated that transgender people had the right to gender self-identification and that a trans-person could choose to identify as a male, female or third gender.

The Government's Bill says that one has to go through a District Magistrate (DM) to receive a certificate approving one's identity as a trans-person. However, to be identified as male or female, one will have to undergo surgery and then get the certificate revised.

Protection is the right of every marginalised community but the ultimate aim is to get them on par in society. The provisions of the Transgender Rights Bill passed by the Parliament fail on all accounts.

No legal protection against rape and sexual assault: The new Bill does not fill the legal gap by laying out any much-needed, specific provisions or punishments to deal with the rampant issue of sexual violence, rape and assault of trans-people. The Bill only states, whoever "harms or injures or endangers the life, safety, health, or well-being, whether mental or physical, of a transgender person or tends to do acts including causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years and with fine", as opposed to a minimum seven-year jail term in the Indian Penal Code for sexual assault on a woman. This implies that it is "okay" to violate the bodies of transgenders, or it is less of a crime to force yourself on a trans-individual.

No job reservation: As far as addressing economic equality, what exactly is the road map for the integration and protection of the trans-community? In the NALSA judgment, the State and Central Governments were asked to extend reservations to trans-people in education and public employment. However, there is no mention of a reservation in the Bill. It is creating roadblocks in terms of employment and education. As per the directions of the SC, trans people were to be included in the Other Backward Class (OBC) quota for jobs and education. The Bill has disregarded that directive.

Parenthood: How can one overlook the cumulative effects of the Surrogacy Bill and the Transgender Rights Bill. Put the two together and trans people, who are either single or un-operated, can bid the idea of surrogacy and therefore parenthood, goodbye.

A study of the Bill makes it clear that those drafting it neither have sensitivities for the community nor are qualified to undertake the task. The Bill identifies transgender and intersex persons together. There is no distinction

between biological sex and gender. What's more bizarre and disappointing is that stakeholders were not consulted while drafting or amending the Bill. After there have been numerous protests by the community across the country regarding the irksome provisions of the Bill, ignoring the community's reservations shows the apathy of the Government and its insincerity in protecting the rights of trans-individuals. The Bill has flouted basic human rights, the directions of the apex court and the guidelines set by international bodies like the World Medical Association and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. What we do get instead are some cosmetic changes like district screening committees and dilution of the begging provision.

The Bill violates the fundamental rights of transgenders. The trans-community believes that the Bill makes a mockery of their personhood, community, rights and only adds to everyday humiliation and violation. I concur. In its current state, the Bill is promoting transphobia. The need of the hour is to support the community and

listen to the voices emerging from it. Unless we figure out the root of a leak, it is impossible to stem the flow of water. Similarly, if we don't understand the issues plaguing the community, any Bill will only work as a superficial bandage without providing any real healing.

As my activist friend Zainab summarises, "Instead of protecting and promoting our rights and entitlements, the Government has taken away our right to self-determine our gender, forcefully rehabilitated us with biological families. It has willfully remained silent on issues of reservation and watered down punishment for hate crimes and assaults on us."

The authorities concerned need to interact with trans-community members and take their point of view into account. I am not one to despair and lose hope but the Parliament's approval of this Transgender Rights Bill does make me understand the enormity of the task in front of us. It is upon us, the people, to assert what we desire the future of our nation to be.

(The writer is Executive Director, The Lalit Hotels)



FOREIGN EYE



PLAN TO SPREAD POVERTY WIDELY?

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson uses conservative social positions to encourage poor voters to betray their economic interests. Brexit Britain pines for the past. Yet a century ago the free market created squalid slums and soup kitchens. Today we have tent cities and food banks.

It must be a concern for the country that if he wins, Johnson's campaign nostalgia is likely to become prophecy.

(The Guardian editorial)

4 jawans killed by avalanche near LoC

PNS ■ JAMMU

Four Army personnel, who were guarding the frontiers of the Nation in adverse weather conditions, sacrificed their lives in two different incidents of snow avalanches near the Line of Control in North Kashmir late Tuesday evening.

This is the third incident of avalanche hit in the region in the last over two weeks. Due to local conditions, the dead bodies of the soldiers were recovered early Wednesday morning. Official sources said, "an Indian Army post in Tangdhar sector of North Kashmir was hit by an avalanche on Tuesday afternoon. The rescue teams Wednesday morning recovered three dead bodies while the fourth soldier was retrieved safely."

Since November 18, the Indian



Army has lost a total number of 10 soldiers while two civilian porters also lost their lives after they were buried in snow avalanche in Siachen glacier at a height of over 18,000 feet. According to Col Rajesh Kalia,

Ministry of Defence spokesman in Srinagar, "an avalanche hit a post in Tangdhar sector and an Army patrol was hit by a blizzard in Gurez sector on December 3".

He said, the rescue teams managed to locate and retrieve all personnel from both the locations.

Despite best efforts by the rescue and medical teams, three Army personnel in Tangdhar sector and one Army personnel in Gurez sector succumbed, he added. On November 30, two Indian Army soldiers were killed after they were trapped in an avalanche in southern Siachen Glacier at an altitude of approximately 18,000 feet.

On 18 November, four Army soldiers and two civilian porters died after they were trapped in an avalanche on the Siachen Glacier's northern sector.

Army's northern command chief visits forward areas along LoC

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Army's northern command chief, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, on Wednesday visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch, and asked troops to remain battle ready at all times.

The Army commander, accompanied by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Harsha Gupta, visited forward posts in Poonch and Rajouri Sectors in the backdrop of increased ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army, a defence spokesman said.

He emphasised the need to remain vigilant and battle ready at all times, appreciated the preparedness and high morale of

all soldiers.

During the visit to the sector, Lt Gen Singh was briefed by the commanders on the ground about the current operational situation, prevailing security scenario and the actions taken to meet the challenges of increased ceasefire violations through aggressive domination of the Line of Control. He interacted with the soldiers and complimented them for their unwavering dedication to duty, selfless devotion and high standard of professionalism, spokesman said.

He also interacted with residents of Seklu village in Poonch sector where a helicopter had crash-landed on October 24.

LG: Internet will be restored once situation turns 'more normal' in Kashmir

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Internet services would be restored in Kashmir in phases once the situation turns "more normal", Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) G C Murmu said on Wednesday.

However, he gave no timeline for restoration of internet services, which were snapped across all platforms in the Kashmir valley on the intervening night of August 4 and August 5.

The Centre announced abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5.

"We are reviewing it (internet ban) and as it (situation) becomes more normal, we will do it (restore) phase-wise. We have already discussed it with our administration and we are taking it up," Murmu told reporters on the sidelines of the passing-out parade of police recruits at the Police Training Centre, Sheeri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The LG described the situation in the valley post abrogation of Article 370 as "very good".

"I think the situation is very good, it has improved very well. The police have been doing a yeoman's service and there is a high level of coordination among all the forces here. People's participation is very good, they are coming out and are interested in development," he said.

BJP advocates redressal of 'genuine demands' of panchs, sarpanchs

Jammu: As the hunger strike by 'panchs' and 'sarpanchs' demanding various measures to strengthen the Panchayati Raj institutions in Jammu & Kashmir entered second day, the BJP here on Wednesday called for meeting their "genuine demands" expeditiously.

"Panchs and sarpanchs can prove a game changer if empowered properly and bestowed proper respect and protocol. However, no move has been made in this respect so far despite a lapse of almost a year after the panchayat elections," BJP spokesperson Brig (Retd) Anil Gupta said in a statement here.

Dozens of panchs and sarpanchs on Tuesday began a week-long hunger strike here in support of their various demands, including the clearance of ₹ 1,000 crore liabilities under the Centre's flagship MGNERGA scheme.

The hunger strike under the banner of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) also seeks to press for security cover to all panchs and sarpanchs belonging to vulnerable areas and enhancement of the monthly honorarium of ₹ 2,500 and ₹ ₹ 1000 presently given to sarpanchs and panchs respectively.

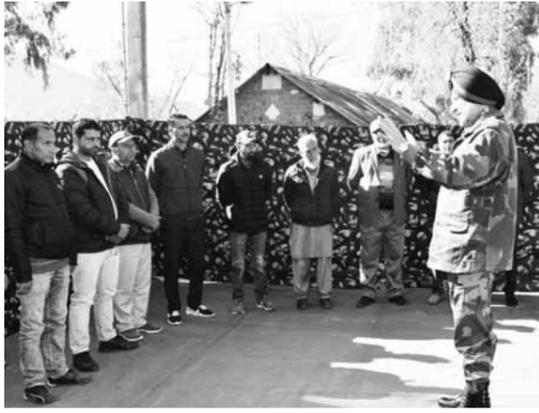
Army commander on a thanks giving visit to Poonch

PNS ■ JAMMU

Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh, Army Commander, Northern Command on Wednesday visited village Seklu in Poonch on a thanks giving visit and expressed deep gratitude for their wholehearted assistance in management and speedy evacuation of the injured.

Lt-Gen Singh along with senior officers of the Northern Command were injured when their helicopter crash landed in the area on October 24.

Ministry of Defence spokesman in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "during his visit to the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch, the Army Commander, accompanied by the White Knight Corps Commander, Lt Gen Harsha Gupta, was briefed



by the commanders on ground about the current operational situation, prevailing security scenario and the actions taken to meet the challenges of the increased ceasefire violations through aggressive domination of the Line of Control".

"The Army Commander interacted with the soldiers and complimented them for their unwavering dedication to duty, selfless devotion and high standard of professionalism", defence spokesman said. Defence spokesman said, Lt-Gen Singh also emphasized on the need to remain vigilant and battle ready at all times, appreciated the preparedness and high morale of all soldiers".

TN CM felicitates techie who located Vikram lander's debris



PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Wednesday felicitated a city-based techie who helped US space agency NASA discover Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander's debris on the lunar surface.

Shanmuga Subramanian had analysed data for about eight hours everyday to zero in on the crash site, and the 33 year-old had come in for all round praise on Tuesday for his discovery.

Palaniswami felicitated Subramanian on Wednesday, and posted a picture of him handing over a bouquet of flowers to the former.

NASA had marked the location of the crash site 'S', giving credit to Subramanian for the discovery.

"Thank you for your email informing us of your discovery of debris from the Vikram lander. The LROC team confirmed that the location does exhibit changes in images taken before and after the date of the landing," deputy project scientist Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission (LROC) John Keller said in an email to Subramanian.



Newly inducted J&K police personnel march during their passing-out parade, at Subsidiary Training Centre (STC), in Sheeri area of Baramulla on Wednesday. PTI

Bengal Govt attacks TMC Govt again for humiliating him

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar once again came down heavily on the State Government for pulling the strings from behind to control institutions like the universities that fall within direct jurisdiction of the Raj Bhavan with the Governor being the Chancellor of all the State universities.

The Governor said so after he visited the Calcutta University only to find not single senior office bearers including the Vice Chancellor to receive him.

Deeply "humiliated once again" the Governor who had "informed the Vice Chancellor about my intention to visit the University at 2 pm today" said he could find not single top officials — "not even the Vice Chancellor, pro-V-C or the Registrar."

He said he had come in the capacity not as the Governor of the State but the Chancellor of the historic University and "desired to meet the staff here or whosoever wanted to visit me." He complained that not a single mobile or landline worked when the senior officials were tried to be contacted.

"This is unprecedented" he said adding the room of the V-C was locked and he was forced to sit outside. The Governor and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had been at loggerheads ever since he went to Jadavpur University on September 19 to personally rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo gheraoed by students for 5-6 hours.

Subsequently the Governor's repeated attempts at

visiting the districts and holding administrative meetings with the Government staff would go down well with the ruling party and things reached such a pass that the both the Chief Minister and the Governor came face to face at Srare Assembly recently on Constitution Day celebrations but would not exchange pleasantries. The twosome literally looked the other way when they came face to face.

Meanwhile the Governor on Wednesday announced that he would visit the State Assembly on Thursday with an intention to visit the library and the people there.

The Assembly which is in session has been unprecedentedly adjourned for two days following the Governor withholding three bills sent by the Government.

Hindu wing members, cops clash in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hundreds of Hindu Jagran Manch members many of whom are co-members of the Bharatiya Janata Party too on Wednesday clashed with the Kolkata Police at different places in Kolkata leading to minor lathi-charge.

A multiple rallies called to protest against alleged attacks on the Hindutva organisations saw the HJM taking the police on in guerilla style after being blocked from proceeding by the men in uniform beyond Sealdah Station area and Esplanade.

A large posse of police led by Deputy Commissioner (Central) Sudheer Kumar Neelakantam batom-charged the protesters when they tried to break the barricade at Sealdah.

While about 50 rallyists were arrested from the Sealdah area, hundreds of them resurfaced at Esplanade three km away raising slogans and taking on the men in khaki.

The police were seen jostling with the central security personnel guarding State BJP leader and former MP Anupam Hazra who was leading the procession. Hazra a former TMC leader and professor



Police in action against members of Hindu Jagran Manch, who were holding a protest rally, in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

at Viswa Bharati University was subsequently whisked away by his security staff.

The incident seen as the saffron forces' desperate to gain back relevance days after the BJP suffered a humiliating defeat the hands of the Trinamool Congress in all the three Assembly seats of Kaliaganj, Karimpur and Kharagpur that went by-elections late last month was condemned by senior TMC leader and Union Minister Mukul Roy who called it an open war by the Trinamool Congress against the Hindu organisations.

"The HJM was protesting peacefully when the police pounced upon them beating

them brutally," Roy said adding the police acting upon the instruction of the ruling party "did not even spare Professor Anupam Hazra." Such actions were "not acceptable in a civilized country," he said claiming about 150 protesters were arrested by the police.

Meanwhile in a separate development the ruling Trinamool Congress has decided to raise a separate minority arm of the ruling outfit to counter the growing clout of All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen or AIMIM (All India Council for Unity of Muslims).

The new TMC wing will include a host of minority leaders and even moulanas

who would take on the AIMIM, sources said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had last month attacked AIMIM and its chief Asaduddin Owaisi for trying to help the BJP in Bengal by breaking the TMC's minority vote bank. "Some parties have been imported from Hyderabad (read AIMIM) and are in the payroll of the BJP who are trying to destabilise Bengal. I alert all the people including the minorities to remain alert against these imported people," she had said drawing flak from Owaisi himself who wondered how during Banerjee's regime the BJP could expand its base in such a big way.

3 TMC MLAs who switched over to BJP in touch with party: TMC sources

Kolkata: Three TMC MLAs who had switched over to the BJP after the Lok Sabha polls this year are in touch with the Mamata Banerjee-led party and have expressed their wish to return to the party fold, TMC sources said.

However, Trinamool Congress leadership claimed that none of the turncoats would be taken back to the party as "traitors" cannot be trusted.

According to the TMC sources, within months of joining the saffron party, three TMC MLAs of North 24 Parganas have been trying to get in touch with the party top brass and have expressed their desire to return to the parent party.

"Three MLAs from the district who had switched over have been sending feelers to party leaders. The party high command will take a call," a senior leader of TMC's North 24 Parganas said on condition of anonymity. Senior minister and president of North 24 Parganas TMC unit, Jyotipriyo Mullick said the party would never take them back.

NAFED blames TN for not procuring onion stock from it

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), the body under the Government of India that is entrusted with market intervention viz-a-viz agricultural commodities in the country had warned the States about the impending shortage of onions.

As onion prices in retail markets in Tamil Nadu were ruling between ₹ 170 to ₹ 180 per kg on Wednesday, a senior NAFED official told *The Pioneer* that the agency had procured more than 50,000 tones of onions from farmers in Maharashtra and Gujarat earlier this year.

"But the State Governments does not show any interest in procuring the stock from us. Onion being a perishable commodity, we were not in a position to keep the stock for long and exhausted the commodity. There was no communication demanding extra stocks from the States," said the official who did not want his name to be quoted.

He pointed out that the unexpected heavy rain in



Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh resulted in crop failure and this could be the reason for the sudden hike in onion prices.

"The Government of India has put orders for procuring onion from Egypt and Turkey. The first consignment is expected by December 10 and the subsequent shiploads would reach Mumbai port on December 17, 24 and 31. We hope the prices would start getting stabilized with the arrival of the stocks from Egypt and Turkey," said the official.

He said that onion was being sold at ₹ 20 per kg even in the month of October and there was no hint of any shortage in the commodity other than the reports about the crop failure. Office bearers of

Koyambedu Vegetable Wholesale Merchants Association said that this is the first time in the last four decades the price of onion was making a hole in the pockets of the buyers.

"Though we had seen prices of commodities like tomato, chillies, shooting up, this is the first time the name of onion itself bring tears in the eyes of housewives," said Abdul Khader, secretary of the association.

The Department of Horticulture has drawn up plans to bring in an additional 25,000 acres of land under onion cultivation in the State. This is in addition to the 50,000 acres of land where onion is cultivated as of now, said a department spokesman.

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender

No. SSAMIS/CRCC-Supervision/510/2012/PI-I/10538 Date : 04.12.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from reputed agency for Restructuring of Database, Remedial Teaching and Integration of Teacher Evaluation with Hoisting & Maintenance CRCC Academic Monitoring System.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.



Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Asaduddin Owaisi to address mega rally in Kolkata in Jan: AIMIM

Kolkata: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi will be addressing a mega rally in Kolkata in January ahead of the civic polls in West Bengal, with an eye on the 2021 assembly elections, a party leader said.

The party has sought permission from the authorities to organise the rally in the second week of January at the Brigade Parade Grounds, state president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Zameerul Hasan told PTI.

Asaduddin Owaisi will be the main speaker," he said.

After the rally, the Hyderabad MP's brother, Akbaruddin Owaisi, and other senior leaders of the AIMIM would tour different districts of the state to strengthen the party's organisation, he said.

The announcement of the rally at Brigade Parade Grounds, which has been witness to several historic political gatherings, comes days after a war of words between Mamata Banerjee and Owaisi, after the Chief Minister warned the people against "minority extremism" in an obvious attack on the AIMIM. PTI

Schoolgirl gang-raped by CRPF jawan, 3 others

PTI ■ MIRZAPUR (UP)

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by four men, including a CRPF jawan in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district, police said on Wednesday.



vehicle and drove towards Halia forest.

The incident took place on Monday night when the high school student was allegedly called by one of the accused, who along with three others took her to a forest and gang-raped her, they said.

An FIR was registered by the victim's father on Tuesday at Haliya police station under various sections including Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Inspector Davidar Shukla said.

Seeing this, the villagers informed the police. When the accused were returning with the girl a few hours later, police caught them and took the five including the victim to the police station, he said.

Those arrested includes Mahendra Kumar Yadav, a

CRPF jawan, Ganesh Prasad Bind, Lovkush Pal and Jai Prakash Maurya, who is said to be the son of a former jailor.

Mirzapur Superintendent of Police Dharamveer Singh said the four accused and the victim will sent for medical examination.

The matter is being probed, he added.

Akhilesh says 'worst era' for women's security in UP

Lucknow: Describing reports of rapes and atrocities from across Uttar Pradesh as "heart-wrenching", Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said this is the "worst period" for women's security.

His tweet was soon countered by another from the BJP Government, which claimed that the period when Yadav himself was the Chief Minister was worse.

"The way in which news of rapes, atrocities and murders of sisters and daughters of the state is coming is heart-wrenching," the former UP chief minister tweeted in Hindi.

Nagpur cops announce drop facility for stranded women at night

Mumbai: Against the backdrop of horrific rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad, the police in Maharashtra's Nagpur city have launched a new initiative: transport facility for women stranded in lonely places at night. Police commissioner Bhusan Kumar Upadhyay said the measure was necessary to boost women's confidence in the aftermath of the Hyderabad incident.

As per his directive, issued two days ago, if a woman dials '100' or calls up a nearby police station between 9 pm to 5 am saying she wants to go to a particular place but there is no safe transport option, a beat marshal will reach the spot to help her.

If needed, a police vehicle with a woman cop will drop her at her destination. The gruesome rape and murder of a 25-year-old woman veterinarian by four men in Hyderabad last week led to nationwide outrage and put a question mark on women's safety in cities. "After that incident, there was environment of fear among women. There was a need to boost their confidence and with this initiative they will feel safe and secure," commissioner Upadhyay told PTI.

"We are getting good response from women to this move," he said, claiming it could be a first of its kind initiative in any metro city of the state.

The Nagpur police already has anti-eve teasing Damini squads, Bharosa Cell and Women Safety Committees for the assistance of women in distress, he said.

Shahjahanpur law student granted bail

Allahabad: The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday granted bail to the law student charged with trying to extort money from Swami Chinmayanand, the BJP leader whom she has accused of rape.

Chinmayanand, whose trust runs the Shahjahanpur law college where the woman studied, was arrested under section 376-C of the IPC and continues to be in judicial custody.

But, in a related case, the 23-year-old woman and her three friends were also booked on Chinmayanand's complaint that they had demanded Rs 5 crore from him. The former Union Minister alleged that they had threatened to make public video clips that showed him getting massages from the student.

Allowing the student's bail application, Justice S D Singh observed that the police had already completed the investigation and filed a charge sheet. He said no reasonable apprehension had been cited by the state that her release on bail will delay the trial. Hence, there is no need to

detain her further, the court added. During the bail hearing, the woman's counsel argued that she is a victim of sexual harassment and claimed that all allegations against her are fabricated.

The counsel alleged that the student was raped by Chinmayanand over a long period of time.

Chinmayanand's lawyer opposed the bail application and said the student had used a spy camera for recording the video clips.

The BJP leader was arrested on September 20 by a special investigation team (SIT), formed by Uttar Pradesh Police following directions from the Supreme Court.

He was booked under section 376-C, a charge short of rape. It is applied when someone in authority takes advantage of his official position and "induces or seduces" a woman to have sex with him.

Apart from the rape allegation, the 23-year-old student said she was often called for giving massages to Chinmayanand, and used a concealed camera to record video clips as evidence.

Conspiracy within BJP led to defeat of Pankaja, Rohini: Khadse

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

The Pankaja Munde saga assumed a new dimension on Wednesday, as the senior side-lined BJP leader Eknath Khadse made a shocking allegation after meeting her that Pankaja and his daughter Rohini Khadse in the recent State Assembly polls were defeated due to a conspiracy hatched by some party leaders.

A day after the BJP's former Minister Pankaja Munde said that she had no plans to quit the party, Khadse met the former at her Mumbai residence and discussed with the aggrieved party leader the circumstances leading to her putting out a Facebook on Sunday, in which she had indicated she would decide on her "future journey" on December 12.

Talking to media persons after the meeting, Khadse said: "Some senior BJP leaders are responsible for the defeat of Pankaja and Rohini. There was a conspiracy behind the defeat of both Pankaja and Rohini. I know who were behind the defeat of both Pankaja and Rohini. I have complained to the BJP leadership. I am hopeful that action would be taken against the BJP leaders concerned".

Khadse said that the defeat of Pankaja and Rohini was part of conspiracy to erode the influence of the OBC leadership in the State. "Because of

the defeat of these two women leaders, the OBC leadership has weakened in the State. More than certain individuals who contributed to the defeat of the two leaders, the State BJP leadership that is to be blamed," the senior BJP leader said.

While Pankaja was defeated by her cousin Dhananjay Munde in the October 21 State Assembly polls by a margin of 30,701 votes in their home constituency of Parli in Beed district of Maharashtra, Rohini Khadse faced a defeat at the hands of an independent candidate Chandrakant Nimba Patil at Mukhtainagar constituency in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra.

It may be recalled that Eknath Khadse had filed nomination to contest the 2019 Assembly polls from Mukhtainagar constituency, but was denied ticket by the BJP leaders. The BJP instead gave party ticket to his daughter Rohini.

Khadse has been in the doghouse ever since June 4, 2016, when he resigned from his post as the State Revenue Minister over irregularities in the purchase of a plot of land at Bhosari in Pune district.

Meanwhile, Dhangar community leader and former MLA Prakash Shengde, who was a close aide of senior BJP leader Gopinath Munde, said that it was essential for Pankaja to quit the BJP and join the



Shiv Sena, so as to protect her own political identity in the state.

"Since she is an OBC leader, Pankaja is being weakened within the BJP. It is her own interest that she joins the Shiv Sena. The BJP had in the past an attempt to remove her father Gopinath Munde in a similar manner. However, the attempt had fallen flat after some leaders had thrown their behind Munde and opposed the efforts to show him the door. Similar attempt is being made to force Panaka out of the party," Shengde said.

Though Pankaja has gone on record saying that she had no plans to quit the BJP, informed party sources insisted that she would make a big announcement on the occasion of her father Gopinath Munde's birth anniversary on December 12.

Talking to media persons a day after her Sunday's Facebook post and subsequent removal of the BJP's name

from her twitter handle sparked intense speculation that she might quit the BJP on December 12, Pankaja had said on Tuesday: "I had not put the Facebook post to indulge in pressure tactics within the party. I am a loyal party worker. Rebellion is not in my blood. My Facebook post has been misinterpreted. I am upset with misleading news reports. I am very committed to the BJP. Rumours are being spread to suggest that I am leaving the BJP".

Pankaja had made the statement after former ministers Vinod Tawade, Babarao Lonikar and Ram Shinde met Pankaja at her Mumbai residence and requested her not to take any extreme step of quitting the BJP.

Earlier on Monday, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil had ruled out the possibility of Pankaja quitting the party. "There is absolute truth in the rumours that Pankajatai would quit the BJP. Many of us have spoken Pankajatai. I don't think there is any possibility of her taking a step (of quitting the BJP)," Patil had said.

Forty year-old Pankaja is the daughter late BJP leader Gopinath Munde. Pankaja had taken over the legacy of her father Gopinath Munde after the latter died in a road accident in the national capital on June 3, 2014.

Pankaja had created a major stir in the state political circles on Sunday through her Facebook post. While inviting her supporters for a meeting called on December 12 her late Munde's birth anniversary, she had written: "Considering the changes that changes in political situation in the state and also the responsibility before me, we need to decide our future course of action".

"You are asking me time for meeting you. I will give you all time after eight to ten days. During the eight to ten days, let me introspect. I want to decide on what should I do next? What can I give to people? What's my strength? What do people expect from me? After deliberating on all these questions, I will come before you on December 12," Pankaja told her supporters through her Facebook post.

In her another pointer to fact that she was moving away from the BJP, Pankaja on Monday removed the party's name from her twitter handle @Pankajamunde... The only mention that is there on twitter handle is: "RT's r not endorsements".

IN KARNATAKA Crucial bypolls today; outcome will decide BSY Govt's fate

Bengaluru: The crucial by-elections to 15 assembly constituencies in Karnataka that will determine the fate of Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa led BJP Government will be held on Thursday amid concerns of political parties of a possible low voter turnout.

Polling will be held between 7 am to 6 pm on Thursday in the 15 constituencies where a total of 37.78 lakh electors are eligible to cast their votes and all arrangements have been made for the exercise, officials said.

The by-elections are being held to fill the vacancies caused by the disqualification of 17 rebel Congress and JDS MLAs, whose rebellion led to the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy-led coalition government in July and paved the way for the BJP to come to



power. The BJP needs to win at least six of the seats to remain in majority in the 225-member Assembly (including the Speaker, who has a casting vote), which would still have two vacant seats — Maski and R R Nagar.

In the Assembly with the current strength of 208 after the disqualifications, the BJP has 105 MLAs (including an independent), the Congress 66 and the JD(S) has 34 MLAs. There is also one BSP member, a nominated member and the

Speaker. Thirteen of the disqualified MLAs have been fielded by the BJP after they joined the party last month following the Supreme Court allowing them to contest the bypolls.

During the campaign, the BJP sought votes for "stability", while the Congress and JD(S) urged the electorate to defeat the disqualified legislators responsible for the collapse of their coalition Government in July.

Among 15 constituencies going to the bypolls, 12 were held by Congress and three by JD(S).

BJP has fielded 13 of the 16 disqualified legislators as its candidates from their respective constituencies from where they had won in the 2018 assembly elections on Congress and JDS tickets.

Gowda urges voters to defeat disqualified MLAs in bypolls

Bengaluru: A day after public campaigning ended for bypolls in 15 Assembly constituencies of Karnataka, JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday urged voters to defeat the disqualified legislators, and uphold the dignity of the state.

People of the State have got absolute authority to give their verdict against the disqualified MLAs, who defected from the party for the sake of moneysand power, the former Prime Minister said.

"People of the country have their attention on the verdict that the people of Karnataka will give. I request them to give a verdict that upholds the dignity of the state, without falling for any allurements," Gowda tweeted. "In the bypolls that will be held tomorrow, I request you to vote for JD(S) candidates and bless them. #DefeatTheDisqualified #RejectDisqualifiedMLAs," he

added. The ruling BJP needs to win at least six seats in the bypolls to 15 constituencies to remain in a majority in the 224-member Assembly, which would still have two vacant seats — Maski and R R Nagar.

The BJP has fielded 13 of the 16 disqualified legislators who joined the party from their respective constituencies, as it candidates.

The bypolls were necessitated after the resignation and absence of 17 Congress-JD(S) legislators during the trust vote in July, which led to the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy headed JDS-Congress coalition government and paved the way for BJP to come to power.

The 17 legislators were subsequently disqualified by the then Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, under anti-defection law.

CM may go for Cabinet expansion after bypolls: Dy CM

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa may go for cabinet expansion after the December 5 bypolls to 15 assembly segments, Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi said on Wednesday.

The Cabinet expansion will be done after securing approval from the party's national leadership, he told reporters at Athani.

"After considering pros and cons, Chief Minister will decide on whom to be inducted, he (Chief Minister) is thinking about it. He would also seek advice from the high command," Savadi said.

In response to a question, he said senior BJP legislators like Umesh Katti and Basanagouda Patil Yatalna may be considered during the expansion "as they are seniors."

No plan to withdraw serious cases against Maoist-linked activities: Maha Govt

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

When Maharashtra's new Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray assured a delegation of NCP leaders late on Tuesday evening that he would withdraw the cases against the activists linked to the Bhima-Koregaon incident, he spoke about the cases that were registered against activists in connection with violence and arson that followed the incident.

He was not referring to the cases registered against the CPI (Maoist) linked activists associated with the Elgaar Parishad "conspiracy" as is being made out in a section of the media, official sources said here on Wednesday.

While making an announcement about withdrawal of Bhima-Koregaon-related cases, Uddhav said late on Tuesday evening: "The previous Devendra Fadnavis-led government had taken a decision to withdraw Bhima-Koregaon-related cases which did not involve serious crimes. I have given instructions to the administration to check if the

decision has been implemented or not".

Uddhav was referring to the announcement made by former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on the floor of the State Assembly on March 23, 2018 that the State Government would withdraw cases filed against those booked for incidents of violence and arson that took place after the January 1, 2018 Bhima-Koregaon caste riots in which one person was killed and property worth Rs 13 crore was destroyed.

In a statement made in the State Assembly, Fadnavis had said that the police had in all registered 58 cases and arrested 162 persons in connection with the violence and arson that followed the Bhima-Koregaon incident.

In the post-Bhima-Koregaon incident, 60 police personnel and 58 citizens were injured.

"After the incident, 17 offences under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and 600 other crimes were registered. As many 1199 people

were arrested, while the police initiated preventive action against 2053 people," Fadnavis had said.

Of the total property of Rs 13 crore destroyed during and after the January 1, 2018 riots, miscreants destroyed property worth ₹ 9.54 crore at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district.

He had also announced the appointment of an inquiry committee under retired chief Justice of the Bombay High Court J N Patel look into the serious offences registered in connection with the Bhim-Koregaon disturbances.

It may be recalled that thousands of Dalits had gathered at Bhima Koregaon in Pune district on January 1, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of January 1, 1818 victory of British troops over Peshwa Bajirao II's army in Koregaon Bhima. Some activists opposing the celebrations, allegedly belonging to a couple of right-wing organisations from Pune, had hurled stones at the gathering, leading to violence at violence and arson.

In the disturbances that followed, scores of vehicles, shops and other properties were set on fire in the village.

In the bandh called on January 3, 2018 by various Ambedkarite organisations in protest against an attack on a Dalit gathering, there were incidents of violence involving road, highway and railway blockades and stone-pelting and consequent police lathi-charge, in which a 16-year-old boy was killed in Nanded district and more than 50 BEST buses were damaged in Mumbai.

ELECTRIFICATION WORKS
E-Tender Notice No. DYCEE/CON/MLG/13/2019. Dated: 02-12-2019. Open tender through e-Tendering system are invited from valid electrical licensed contractor for the following work. **Tender No.: EL/CON/MLG/11/2019-20/MLG/RT.** Name of works: Electrification of newly constructed Officers Rest House, Transit and commissioning of Electric Traction Passenger Elevator at NVP area against dismantling of old Nilachal Rest House at Maligaon. Tender value: ₹ 23,02,500/-, Earnest money: ₹ 2,76,500/-, Completion period: 180 days. E-tender will be closed at 13:00 hrs. on 24-12-2019 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 24-12-2019. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 13:00 hrs of 24-12-2019 in website www.irps.gov.in and www.nfryconconstruction.org. Dy. CEE/CON, Maligaon (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

PUBLIC NOTICE
IB-2529/ND/2019 Before the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Court No-VI Edelweiss Retail Finance Limited Versus Sach Telecom Private Limited Corporate Debtor Notice is given on behalf National Company Law Tribunal of Delhi that above said company petition has been filed against Corporate Debtor by financial Creditor and same is fixed for 06 th December 2019 for appearance / answer otherwise proceeded ex-parte and ex-parte judgment passed against: Sach Telecom Private Limited (Corporate Debtor) for the sum of Rs. 19,08,427.13/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven and paise Thirteen only) and cost of said action. Gunjan K. Chaubey Advocate

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner/RPF/Co-ordination, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-Tender for the following work. **Name of work with its location:** Hiring of 05 nos. road vehicle Non AC Tata Sumo/Boleto for movement of RPF Personnel day & night in jurisdiction of Inspector in charge RPF Post, Shamli (Uttar Pradesh), Faridabad (Haryana), Delhi Shahdara, Nizamuddin & Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi) Delhi East on monthly basis for two years. **Tender Number:** 6 Sr. DSC-RPF-VH-DLI-E-2017-18 **Office Address:** Sr. DSC/Co-ordination/RPF, P.K. Road, New Delhi 110001 **Period of works:** For Two years. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 67,68,000/- with GST as applicable. **Earnest money:** Rs. 1,35,400/- **Date and Time of closing tender bid:** 03.01.2020 at 15:00 hrs. **Tender open date & time:** 03.01.2020 at 15:00 hrs. **Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** www.irps.gov.in **Cost of tender documents:** Rs. 5000/- + 900 (GST 18%) total Rs.5900/- **Payment of Tender Document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.** **Tender No.:** 6 Sr. DSC-RPF-VH-DLI-E-2017-18 **Date:** 04.12.2019 3884/19 **Serving Customers With A Smile**

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001
OA NO 962/18 Date: 18.11.2019
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK APPLICANT
M/S RADISH TRADING PVT. LTD. & ORS. VERSUS RESPONDENT
To, DEFENDANT
3. Smt. Indu Jain W/o Sh. Raj Kumar Jain, C-10, 3rd Floor, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, UP-201011 Also At: C-1233, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53
4. Sh. Prateek Jain S/o Sh. V. K. Jain C-10, 3rd Floor, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, UP-201011
5. Sh. Vijayant Jain S/o Sh. V. K. Jain C-10, 3rd Floor, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, UP-201011
6. Sh. Tarun Kumar S/o Sh. Ajit Kumar C-294, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95
7. Sh. Virendra Kumar Jain S/o Sh. T. C. Jain, C-294, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 3,65,94,066/- (Rupee Three Crore Sixty Six Lakh Ninety Four Thousand and Sixty Six Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 27.01.2020 AT 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DRT-II, DELHI.

NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF TENDERS
No. SSA/MIS/CRCC-Supervision/510/2012/PI-1/10537 Date: 04.12.2019
The tender invited vide (i) No SSA/MIS/CRCC-Supervision/510/2012/PI-1/10038 dated 08.11.2019 for Restructuring of Database, Remedial Teaching and Integration of Teacher Evaluation with Hoisting & Maintenance CRCC Academic Monitoring System and vide (ii) No. SSA/MIS/VC Hall / Service / 818 / 2017 / 10287 dated 22.11.2019 for repairing and up-gradation of Meeting cum Video Conference Hall, State Mission Office, SSA, Assam are hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (N) II NEAR TRANSPORT AUTHORITY MAIN BURARI ROAD DELHI-84
NIT NO. 79 (ITEM NO.1.2.3) (2019-20) E.E (NORTH)-II.
S. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (Rs.) Date of release of E-procurement solution Earnest money Tender fee (Non-refundable) Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1. Providing and laying 300/400 mm dia sewer line from Subab Sauchalaya G-Block to Cinema Chowk in Jahangir Puri, AC-04, under E.E(North)-II ID 2019_DJB_184857_3 27.03.2020 03.12.2019 54,100/- 500/- Technical bid will be received 24.12.2019, 3:00 PM & opening Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.
Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- Advt. No. J.S.V. 616/2019-20 Executive Engineer (N)-II

BSES BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi
TENDER NOTICE Date: 5.12.2019
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders
NIT No. Brief Item Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/19-20/RBKA/054 Road Restoration works for cable laying & cable faults in BYPL (2020-21) ₹ 20.00 Crores ₹ 8.00 Lakhs 26.12.2019 2.30 PM 26.12.2019 3.00 PM
CMC/BY/19-20/RB/055 Providing Canteen Service in BYPL ₹ 70.00 Lakhs ₹ 1.40 Lakhs 26.12.2019 3.00 PM 26.12.2019 3.30 PM
CMC/BY/19-20/RB/056 Providing Record Management Services in BYPL ₹ 50.00 Lakhs ₹ 1.00 Lakhs 26.12.2019 3.00 PM 26.12.2019 4.00 PM
CMC/BY/19-20/RB/057 Implementation of SAP Disaster Recovery (DR) System in BYPL ₹ 60.00 Lakhs ₹ 1.20 Lakhs 26.12.2019 3.00 PM 26.12.2019 4.30 PM
Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> Tenders -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED -> Open Tenders. Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-39992048 | Fax:011-39992076 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

KARVYCASE SAT refuses relief to banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Wednesday refused any immediate relief to top lenders who challenged the transfer of securities held with Karvy Stock Broking back to the clients or transfer them into an escrow account.

ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Indusind Bank had contended that many of these securities had been used to borrow money from them and had pleaded with the tribunal to either get back the securities back to them or put them in an escrow account to protect their funds. The case pertains to the securities held by Karvy, which were used by the brokerage for borrowing courtesy the power of attorneys that they held. The securities held by over 83,000 clients were given back to them on Monday after Sebi asked NSDL to do so, forcing Bajaj Finance to move the SAT and secure an interim relief on further transfers.

The NSDL move helped 90 percent of the Karvy demat account holders get back their shares bought on borrowed

money from these lenders.

These private sector banks joined the Bajaj Finance petition on Tuesday and there was a lengthy hearing. On November 22, Sebi barred Karvy from taking new brokerage clients and also prevented it from using the power of attorneys (PoAs) given by its clients after the brokerage was found to have allegedly misused clients' securities.

On Wednesday, SAT bench comprising MT Joshi and CKG Nair refused to give any relief to the lenders beyond the order in the Bajaj Finance plea and instead asked them to approach Sebi by December 6.

SAT also Sebi whole-time member (Ananta Barua who issued the order against Karvy on November 22) to give a personal hearing to the aggrieved parties and pass an order by December 12.

In the Bajaj Finance case, SAT had on Tuesday had asked Sebi to hear the financier latest by Wednesday, and directed Sebi to pass a fresh order by December 10.

On these banks' specific request for either getting back the securities which have been

given out as loans or at least freeing them till a decision is reached, the SAT maintained that such a plea is "untenable" as the securities are already with the clients.

Legal sources on Wednesday said the combined value of the loans given out by the petitioning lenders using the securities which were with Karvy is ₹1,400 crore, while the total value of the securities at the time of the transfer was ₹2,800 crore.

They clarified that it will be inappropriate to say that the loan to value ratio is 50 per cent because ₹1,400 crore is the combined value of loans made out by different lenders and the underlying securities may also be carrying of different risk perception. During the course of the arguments on Tuesday, a counsel for HDFC Bank had said it has an exposure of ₹300 crore to such loans, while the value of the securities against which the loans were made is ₹470 crore, while Bajaj Finance's exposure is ₹312 crore.

The lenders had collectively said that the NSDL decision following a Sebi direction

on Monday, can put the entire loans against securities business in a quandary if the underlying security will no longer be available to be invoked. The NSDL counsel had told SAT that the decision was taken by its board and also cited a June 19 order by Sebi which barred them

from taking such securities.

Speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi had declined to comment on the matter saying the matter is sub-judice. He, however, said whatever the SAT will order will be "valid and acceptable to all".

SAT asks NSE to decide by Friday in Karvy's licence suspension matter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has asked the NSE to take a decision by Friday in the matter of suspension of trading licence of Karvy Stock Broking Ltd.

This comes after Karvy moved to SAT against the NSE's directive which suspended the broker's licence on Monday due to non-compliance of regulatory provisions of the exchange. This suspension pertains to its trading in capital market, futures & options, currency derivatives,

debt and commodity derivatives segments.

Karvy had allegedly misused securities of over 95,000 clients which it was holding on behalf of the clients to raise over ₹600 crore in loans from various lenders. In an order passed on Tuesday, the tribunal said Karvy will be at liberty to file an appeal under the NSE Rules. "In case, if such an appeal is filed, appellant (Karvy) shall be heard as expeditiously as possible and in any event shall be decided by December 6, 2019," it added.

Google founders step down, Pichai takes helm

Pichai also named chief of parent company Alphabet

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Sundar Pichai, Google's CEO will also become the chief of the parent company Alphabet after the internet giant's co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin stepped down from their executive roles, making the India-born tech wizard one of the world's most powerful corporate leaders.

Page and Brin are stepping down as CEO and President, respectively, of Alphabet, the company announced on Tuesday.

Pichai, 47, the current CEO of Google and a longtime executive at the company, will take over as CEO of Alphabet in addition to his current role.

"I'm excited about Alphabet's long term focus on tackling big challenges through technology. Thanks to Larry & Sergey, we have a timeless mission, enduring values and a culture of collaboration & exploration — a strong foundation we'll continue to build on," Pichai tweeted after the announcement of his elevation. "The move confirms the



ascendancy of Mr. Pichai, as one of tech's most powerful people," The New York Times commented.

"Now he is the sole executive in charge of a company that has giant businesses in search, advertising, maps, smartphone software and online video, as well as a variety of fledgling bets in far-off areas like drone deliveries and internet-beaming balloons," it said.

Considered as a significant shakeup in the Silicon Valley company, the shuffle comes at a time when Google is facing

mounting scrutiny over its size, data privacy practices and potential impact on society.

With Alphabet now well-established, and Google and 'Other Bets' operating effectively as independent companies, it's the natural time to simplify our management structure, the two Google co-founders, who are both 46, wrote in a public letter.

"We've never been ones to hold on to management roles when we think there's a better way to run the company," they said.

L&F reports ₹22,527 crore loss for FY19

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cash-strapped Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) on Wednesday reported a stand-alone net loss of ₹22,527 crore for the fiscal to March 2019, as against ₹333 crore in the previous fiscal.

The scam-ridden infra lending major reported revenue of ₹824 crore, massively down from ₹1,734 crore in the previous year.

This is the first earnings announcement after the government sacked its board in October last year.

As of end March 2019, total assets stood at ₹4,148 crore, a pale shadow of ₹23,868 crore year-ago, a company statement said, adding its liabilities rose to ₹21,083 crore from ₹18,276 crore in FY18.

It said the board adopted prudent provisioning on loans/impairment for investments, besides taking a conservative view on fair market value and recovery estimates.

In October 2018, the government seized control of the debt-trapped company and superseded its board led by Uday Kotak as the chairman.

The new board, as part of the overall resolution process for the IL&FS Group, has sold a number of assets to clear the dues and debt.

Jaguar takes wraps off new XE sedan

PNS ■ MUMBAI

British carmaker Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), owned by the Tata Group on Wednesday took the wraps of their updated XE sedan.

This car, the smallest in Jaguar's line-up competes against the BMW 3-series, Mercedes-

Benz C Class and Audi A4.

The XE sees several cosmetic changes to its exteriors and interiors and features several technical updates, including the addition of Apple CarPlay to the infotainment system. Despite a tough year for JLR's parent Tata Motors, the carmaker's Managing Director

in India, Rohit Suri said that JLR has seen its market share in the luxury segment increase to 16 per cent and also said that 2020 will see some major launches from the JLR stable including the new Land Rover Defender as well the award-winning Jaguar I-Pace electric SUV.

Cabinet approves exchange traded fund for bonds

LIKELY TO HIT MKT THIS MONTH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After exchange traded fund (ETF) for equities, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the launch of exchange traded fund (ETF) for bonds to create an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and state-owned financial institutions.

The New Fund Offer (NFO) of this ETF is expected to be launched during December itself.

Bharat Bond ETF would be the first corporate bond ETF in the country. "With the creation and launch of umbrella ETF we hope to diversify investor base," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters after the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave in-principle approval to

bond ETF.

It will help deepen bond market as was announced in the Budget, she said. ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by state firms or any government organisation, and will be tradable on exchange, she said, adding that the unit size will be of ₹1,000, allowing small investors to invest.

Each ETF will have fixed maturity date and will track underlying index on risk replication basis, she said, adding that for now it will have two maturity series — 3 and 10 years — with a low cost of 0.0005 per cent.

Speaking to reporters, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said, "we are hoping to launch the NFO during the month".

India ranks 73rd in UN index assessing e-commerce readiness

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India has ranked 73rd out of 152 countries in a business-to-consumer E-commerce index that measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping, moving seven places up in the list.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019 has been topped by the Netherlands for the second consecutive year.

European nations hold eight of the top 10 spots on the index, which ranks 152 countries on their readiness to engage in online commerce.

The only non-European countries on the top 10 list are Singapore (3) and Australia (10). The index scores 152 nations on their readiness for online shopping, worth an estimated USD 3.9 trillion globally in 2017, up 22 per cent from the previous year.

India is ranked 73rd in the 2019 index, slightly improving its position from 80 in 2018 and 83 in 2017.

Jio to raise tariff by up to 39%

Still costs 15-25% less than rivals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio will raise mobile call and data charges by up to 39 per cent from December 6 through its all-in-one plans, which still will be an estimated 15 to 25 per cent cheaper than rivals.

The all-in-one plans will provide at least 1.5 GB per day of data and increased number of offnet calls, the company said in a statement.

The tariff hike, which is planned to match similar increases by rival Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd earlier this week, give 300 per cent more benefits, it said.

"Further to its last statement dated 1st December 2019, Jio...Announced the new 'All-in-One' plans. These plans will provide up to 300 per cent more benefits to the Jio con-

sumers. These plans will go-live on December 6, 2019," Jio said in a statement. The company on December 1 has announced that it will raise mobile plans rates by up to 40 per cent.

According to the new tariff plans, Jio customers will have to pay ₹555 for 84-day validity and 1.5 GB of data per day, which is 39 per cent higher than the earlier plan of ₹399 offering similar benefits.

The company has raised the price of ₹153 plan to ₹199; ₹198 plan to ₹249; ₹299 plan to ₹349; ₹349 plan to ₹399; ₹448 to ₹599; ₹1,699 plan to ₹2,199, and ₹98 plan to ₹129.

The ₹199 plan, a 28-day validity plan that offers 1.5GB data per day, is about 25 per cent cheaper than the plans of rivals offering similar benefits at a price of around ₹249.

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have already raised mobile services rates by up to 50 per cent effective December 3.

Reliance Jio new plans come in line with expectation

of market analysts that the company will price them lower compared to rivals. "We think the incremental 300 per cent benefit which Jio is talking about is by offering more data allowances."

In our view, it incrementally doesn't entice users much beyond 1.5 GB. Even after these hikes, we believe Jio will continue to be 15-20 per cent cheaper than the incumbent operators," Bank of America Merrill Lynch had said.

Telecom companies' move to raise mobile tariff follows the Supreme Court judgement, on October 24 this year, upholding the Government's method of calculating revenue share that it should get from earnings of service providers.

Vodafone Idea last month reported a consolidated loss of ₹50,921 crore — the highest ever loss posted by any Indian corporate — for the September quarter on account of liability arising out of the Supreme Court's order.

Govt taking steps to check onion prices, says FM

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said in Lok Sabha that the Government has taken a host of measures including imports to deal with the rising prices of onion.

She said there are several structural issues related to storage of onions and the government is trying to address them. The Minister was replying to the debate on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants. Prices of onions prices in many places have crossed ₹100 per kg because of shortage.

Steps taken by the government to check rising prices of onion include ban on exports, imposition of stock limit, import and transfer of onion from surplus to deficit area.

She also said due to implementation of direct benefit transfer scheme, the Government has been able to save ₹1.41 lakh crore in the last five years. PTI

Opp-ruled States meet FM over delay in GST compensation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Ministers and representatives of Opposition-ruled States on Wednesday met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and expressed their concern over the delay in release of GST compensation which they said has put them in an acute financial position.

The Finance Ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh and repre-

sentatives Kerala, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh and West Bengal attended the meeting over delay in payment of compensation.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said the Government is under obligation to pay the compensation which is pending for August and September.

"We discussed that issue with the Finance Minister. Even the compensation for the next period (October-November)

will be due now, so August-November. Government is under obligation to pay."

So far, the State has not received compensation for the month of August and September and post December 10, compensation for the period October-November will also be due, he mentioned.

"The Finance Minister assured us that the compensation will be released as early as possible but she did not specify any timeline," he said.

Asked about meeting with states on GST compensation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "Some of state finance ministers met and they have requested compensation amount to be given...All of us are duty-bound to safeguard the interest of States."

The Centre will ensure that the rights of states in terms of compensation under the Goods and Services Tax are protected, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at out side MCD Dispensary, near Palace Cinema, Roshanara Road, Subzi Mandi, Delhi on 04.11.2019 in the area of P. S. Sabzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide FIR/DD No. 08-A, dated 04.11.2019 at P.S. Sabzi Mandi, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** approx 45 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Grey and red colour strip shirt and grey colour pant. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. SHO P.S. Sabzi Mandi, Delhi DP/704/N/19 Ph: 011-23823161, 8750870126

CABINET APPROVES 4TH LABOUR CODE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday said Union Cabinet has approved fourth labour code — the Code on Social Security Bill 2019.

The Bill seeks to consolidate the laws relating to social security of workers and subsume eight Central laws. "In a major labour reform, this social security code is approved by the Cabinet today. This is fourth labour code," Javadekar told reporters in a briefing on Cabinet decisions on Wednesday.

Airtel board approves raising \$3 bn via debt, equity

New Delhi: The board of telecom major Bharti Airtel on Wednesday approved a plan to raise \$3 billion via Qualified Institutional Placements (QIPs), stake sale, as well as by debt, to pay its adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues worth ₹43,000 crore to the Government by January 24.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said that it will launch one or more QIPs, or offer for sale of equity shares, or a combination of similar offers

to raise \$2 billion. The balance \$1 billion would be raised through debentures and bonds.

The Airtel board has authorised the Special Committee of Directors for taking necessary steps for implementing the fundraising plans. "One or more Qualified Institutional Placements for an aggregate amount of \$2 billion, issuance of unsecured and/or secured, listed and/or unlisted, Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) in one or more

tranches for an aggregate amount upto \$1 billion (equivalent currency) on private placement basis or otherwise...and issuance of unsecured and/or secured, listed and/or unlisted, redeemable non-convertible debentures for an aggregate amount upto \$1 billion private placement basis or otherwise. Apart from \$2 billion, the overall issuance for now shall be upto \$1 billion, thereby totaling to \$3 billion," the Airtel filing said. IANS

CABINET CLEARS PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the much-anticipated Personal Data Protection Bill and the government will now introduce the bill in Parliament in the ongoing winter session.

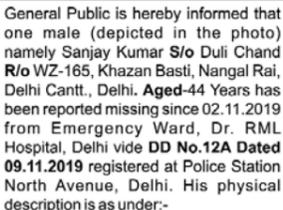
Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar, however, did not give any details of the bills to the media, saying details will be discussed first in

Parliament.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) moved the Bill in the Cabinet and Telecom and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had recently informed the Upper House that the work on Data Protection law is in progress and would be introduced very soon in Parliament.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this missing/kidnapped man please inform the undersigned. IANS

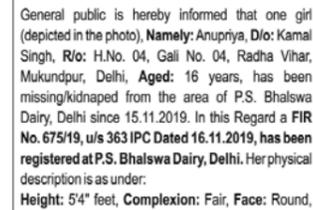
SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE



General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Sanjay Kumar S/o Duli Chand R/o WZ-165, Khazan Basti, Nangal Rai, Delhi Cantt., Delhi. Aged-44 Years has been reported missing since 02.11.2019 from Emergency Ward, Dr. RML Hospital, Delhi vide DD No.12A Dated 09.11.2019 registered at Police Station North Avenue, Delhi. His physical description is as under:- **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Long, **Body:** Thin **Hair:** Black, **Clothing:** White and black coloured check shirt and brown coloured pant. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, North Avenue, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sho, North Avenue, Delhi Tel.: 011-23093040, 23093294 DP/2149/ND/19

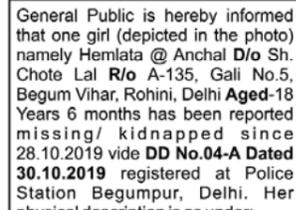
SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Anupriya, D/o: Kamal Singh, R/o: H.No. 04, Gali No. 04, Radha Vihar, Mukundpur, Delhi, Aged:** 16 years, has been missing/kidnaped from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi since 15.11.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 675/19, u/s 363 IPC Dated 16.11.2019, has been registered at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under: **Height:** 5'4" feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Physique/BUILD:** Thin, **Clothing:** Black Colour Jeans, White Colour Top and Blue Colour Shoes in feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> In Tele No.: 11-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Ph: 011-27811933, 27811934 DP/817/ON/19.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Hemlata @ Anchal D/o Sh. Chote Lal R/o A-135, Gali No.5, Begum Vihar, Rohini, Delhi Aged-18 Years 6 months has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 28.10.2019 vide DD No.04-A Dated 30.10.2019 registered at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Light Grey coloured Kamji and Black. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, Begumpur, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sho, Begumpur, Delhi Tel.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 DP/3443/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one man **Namely: Gagan Preet Singh, S/o: Baljeet Singh Chadda, R/o: 17/18, Meera Kunj, Nilothi Extn., Delhi, Age:** 40 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** T-Shirt-Blue Jeans Pant and sport shoes in feet has been missing/kidnaped since 24.09.2019 from the area of PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 50-A Dated 25.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this missing/kidnapped man please inform the undersigned. IANS

AFP ■ BURNLEY

Gabriel Jesus scored twice as Manchester City showed no signs of giving up their Premier League title without a fight as a 4-1 victory at Burnley cut the gap on unbeaten leaders Liverpool to eight points.

Pep Guardiola's men have struggled to match the blistering standards they set in back-to-back title-winning seasons, but looked more like their old selves in what could have been a tricky trip to Turf Moor.

Jesus made the most of his chance to shine in the absence of the injured Sergio Agüero with two brilliant finishes either side of half-time to end an eight-game goal drought before long-range strikes from Rodrigo and Riyad Mahrez moved City above Leicester into second place on goal difference.

"The strikers are there to score goals and we need them," said Guardiola of Jesus's importance with Agüero also expected to miss Saturday's Manchester derby.

"His effort, his commitment is always there but strikers like him and Sergio live for the goal and it's important."

Robbie Brady pulled a late goal back for Burnley, who remain in 11th.

"City are a top-class side and they showed it tonight," said Burnley boss Sean Dyche.

"We kept it tight first half and made it awkward but they were excellent second half and we never got to grips with it."

The visitors were dominant from first minute to last and could have been far more convincing winners but for some wayward finishing and Nick Pope's resistance in the Burnley goal.

"We played a good game, we controlled them and we didn't concede much apart from the goal in the last minutes," added Guardiola.

"Our level was so good in most of the games. I don't have the feeling we played bad in certain games. In general, I'm more than satisfied with the level of the team."

'NOT GOING TO GIVE UP'
Jesus did not look like a striker searching for confidence as he opened the scoring with a sumptuous curling effort that found the far corner from David Silva's pass.

Pope then stood up well to block with his feet from Raheem Sterling and Bernardo Silva to keep Burnley in the game until the break.

Jesus gave City a cushion five minutes into the second half with a thumping finish from Bernardo's inswinging cross.

Rodrigo continued a night of fantastic finishes when he capped a brilliant individual display by drilling high past Pope

Oh Jesus!

Gabriel finds goal touch as Man City bounce back to thrash Burnley



Gabriel Jesus celebrates after scoring his second goal against Burnley at Turf Moor on Tuesday; (right) Crystal Palace's Cheikhou Kouyate (8) battles for ball possession against Bournemouth Diego Rico (21) PL/Twitter

22 minutes from time. The Spanish midfielder insisted City would be ceaseless as they attempt to chase down Liverpool in the title race.

"Until the maths say something else, we are not going to give up on anything. We are going to fight until the end," Rodrigo told Amazon.

Mahrez came off the bench to score

"I know my qualities. I know I can score. Sergio scores every time. That is my ambition. I want to play and score every time."
—GABRIEL JESUS

his 50th Premier League goal with a precise strike on his weaker right foot from outside the box.

Brady denied City a first clean sheet in eight games, but that was the only negative for the champions ahead of Manchester United's visit to the Etihad.

Crystal Palace moved up to fifth with a 1-0 win over Bournemouth despite play-

NUMBER GAME

36 Manchester City's 4-1 victory over Burnley was the 36th time they have won a Premier League game by 3+ goals under Pep Guardiola — the most of any team in the competition since the start of the 2016-17 season

50 Riyad Mahrez has become the ninth different player from Africa to reach 50 Premier League goals, netting 39 for Leicester and 11 for Manchester City (177 appearances)

8 Gabriel Jesus has scored eight goals in his last nine starts away from home in the Premier League, including five goals in five away starts in the competition this season

2 Jeffrey Schlupp has scored in consecutive Premier League games for the first time ever (142 apps, 10 goals)

5 Top scoring Brazilian's in the Premier League; 52 — Roberto Firmino; 41 — Philippe Coutinho; 31 — Gabriel Jesus; 30 — Willian; 29 — Juninho Paulista

19 Since their promotion to the Premier League in 2015-16, Bournemouth have seen their opponents pick up 19 red cards, six more than any other side

SINGLES

EAST BENGAL RKFC SETTLE FOR 1-1 DRAW
KALYANI: Marcos De La Espada's 75th minute strike helped Kolkata giants East Bengal hold Real Kashmir FC to a 1-1 draw in their I-League encounter. Although East Bengal enjoyed 64 per cent possession over the course of the match, Real Kashmir held their nerves to leave the ground with one point. After Gnohere Krizo put the Kashmir-based side in the driver's seat in the 33rd minute, De La Espada heeled in the equaliser in the 75th minute to provide East Bengal supporters with some much-needed respite.

MORGAN, KNIGHT TO LEAD LONDON SPIRIT
LONDON: England's limited-overs skipper Eoin Morgan will lead the London Spirit men's team while Heather Knight was named captain of their women's side for the inaugural edition of The Hundred. Morgan will work alongside spin legend Shane Warne, who will serve as the men's head coach. While Knight, who famously led England to their fourth Women's World Cup triumph at Lord's in 2017 will be reunited with Griffin, who was announced as the head coach of the women's team.

ASIA XI VS WORLD XI MATCH AT MOTERA
AHMEDABAD: A new-look Sardar Patel cricket stadium in Motera in the Gujarat city could see a Asia XI and World XI exhibition match being played next year to mark the refurbishment of the stadium which is set to be one of the largest in the world with a capacity of around 1,10,000. According to a report, the stadium is expected to be ready by early next year and the BCCI is planning a grand inauguration. The Asia XI and World XI game could be in March next year if the ICC agrees to BCCI's request. The Asia XI-World XI matches have been conceived by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to mark the birth centenary of the country's first Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The plan is to have three T20Is between the two teams, with the first two in Dhaka and the third at Motera.

JEETAN IS NEW ENG SPIN CONSULTANT
NEW DELHI: Former New Zealand off-spinner Jeetan Patel has been appointed as England's spin bowling consultant for the upcoming tours of South Africa and Sri Lanka respectively. Patel, who was part of England's successful five-match T20I series victory over New Zealand will join the England team on December 24 in Centurion ahead of the first Test starting on Boxing Day against the Proteas. He will also be part of the white-ball leg of the South Africa tour, which includes three ODIs and three T20Is. He will also play a significant role during England's Test tour of Sri Lanka starting in March 2020 when Joe Root's side plays a two-match Test series as part of the ICC World Test Championship.

PUJARA IN SAURASHTRA RANJI SQUAD
RAJKOT: Test specialist Cheteswar Pujara was named into the 16-member Saurashtra squad for the first two Ranji Trophy games beginning from December 9. The senior selection committee selected 16 members of Saurashtra's senior team for first two matches, which is led by left-arm speedster Jaydev Unadkat. **AGENCIES**

GRUPO A		GRUPO B	
ARGENTINA	A1	COLÓMBIA	B1
AUSTRALIA	A2	BRASIL	B2
BOLIVIA	A3	QATAR	B3
URUGUAI	A4	VENEZUELA	B4
CHILE	A5	EQUADOR	B5
PARAGUAI	A6	PERU	B6

Aus face Argentina at Copa America

AFP ■ CARTAGENA

Australia will face Lionel Messi and Argentina in next year's Copa America after being drawn alongside the tournament co-hosts on Tuesday.

The Soccerroos, one of two guest teams invited to the South American football championship, will also face Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay and Chile in Group A.

In Group B, Asian champions Qatar, the other guest nation, will face Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, with all games taking place in Colombia.

The first round designations for Australia and Qatar were the only major issue left to be decided at Tuesday's ceremonial draw.

The other teams in the two groups had already been determined based on geographical proximity to co-hosts Argentina and Colombia, which are separated by some 4,350 miles (7,000 kilometers).

Australia coach Graham Arnold said his team was relishing the prospect of facing Argentina in Buenos Aires.

"That's what it's all about, it's about testing ourselves at the highest level," Arnold said following the draw. "The players are so excited to have this great opportunity."

"Our boys haven't really had the experience of playing in South America. So to be able to play in South America in those great stadiums in that environment is going to be a buzz."

SPLIT FORMAT

The 2020 Copa America marks the first time in the modern history of the tournament that the event is being co-hosted.

Argentina and Colombia were chosen as hosts after South American football's governing body CONMEBOL turned down an offer from the United States Soccer Federation to hold an expanded 16-team edition of the Copa America.

The 2020 tournament will also see a change in format. At this year's Copa America, won by host nation Brazil, the 12 teams taking part in the event competed in three first round groups of four teams, with the top two in each group and the two best third placed teams advancing to the quarter-finals.

Next year, the tournament will instead see two first round groups of six teams. The top four finishers in each group will qualify for the quarter-finals.

Tournament co-hosts Argentina will kick off the tournament against bitter rivals Chile on June 12 in Buenos Aires. Chile scored back-to-back victories over Argentina in the finals of the Copa America in 2015 and 2016. Argentina defeated Chile in the third place play-off at this year's tournament.

Australia will open their tournament against Uruguay on June 13.

Qatar, meanwhile, who finished bottom of their group at this year's Copa America to exit in the first round, will open their tournament against Peru on June 14.

The June 12-July 12 tournament is the 47th edition of the Copa America, the oldest international competition in world football.

Zlatan fuels talk of Serie A return



Ibrahimovic in action for Milan AP/File Pic

AFP ■ MILAN

Sweden footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic has fuelled speculation that he is set to return to Italy, where he has played for AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus, by saying in an interview: "see you soon in Italy".

The 38-year-old striker confirmed his departure from Los Angeles Galaxy last month following the club's elimination from the Major League Soccer playoffs.

"I'll join a club which must get back to winning, which must renew its history and is in search of a battle against everyone and everything," Ibrahimovic told GQ Italia.

"That is the only way I'll be able to find the necessary motivation to surprise you again."

"It's not just about choosing a team, as there are other factors that need to line up, including in the interests of my family."

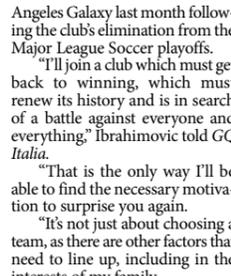
"I'll see you in Italy soon."

According to reports in Italy, Ibrahimovic has been offered a six-month deal to come to the aid of struggling former giants AC Milan, who are 11th in the Serie A table. Napoli are also a possible destination as last season's runners-up sit seventh, after a run of six league games without a win.

"I love to make the difference," he added. "I don't just want to do one or two things well, I want to do all of it."

Ibrahimovic played for two seasons between 2010 and 2012 with AC Milan, helping them to their last Serie A title, and scoring 42 goals in 61 league appearances.

Mumbai City search first home win



Mumbai City FC player (yellow) battles for ball possession MCF/PTI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC will be eyeing their first home win of the season when they take on Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League game here today.

The Jorge Costa-managed team have played two home games this season at their usual fortress the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri, but suffered defeat on both the occasions.

First, it was Odisha FC who stunned Mumbai with a 4-2 win

here and later, FC Goa defeated the hosts by a similar margin on November 7.

Moreover, this would be side's first home game after it was announced that the City Football Group has acquired a majority of shares in the team.

Both Mumbai and Kerala are placed in the lower half of the points table and a win would help them improve their position. Mumbai have played six games so far, of which they have won one, drawn three and lost

two. Kerala also played six, won one, drawn two and lost three.

The hosts also have equally strong mid-fielders comprising Paulo Machado, Raynier Fernandes, Rowlin Borges, Diego Carlos, Bipin Singh, Mohamed Larbi, Mohammed Asif and Mohammed Rafique.

They will have to be on their toes to keep the Kerala forwards at bay.

Their line will be manned by Pratik Chaudhari, Mato Grgic and Sauvik Chakrabarti.

Their defence is definitely an area of concern and they would have to put a strong show if Mumbai have to record their second win of the season.

The role of their custodian Amrinder Singh, who has so far made 17 saves in the tournament, will also be of utmost importance.

Amrinder would expect to keep a clean-sheet.

For Kerala, its coach would want forward Bartholomew Ogbече and Messi Bouli to play to their potential.

Their midfielders and defenders also will have to play to their potential if Mumbai have to stoppied in their own den.

India continue impressive show in SAG



Indian women's Kho Kho team poses for photo after final match

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Track and field athletes led India's Gold rush on the third day of competitions in the 13th South Asian Games as the country added a whopping 29 medals to surge ahead in the medals tally on Wednesday.

India won 15 Gold medals with athletics contributing five of them as the country's medal tally stood at 32 Gold, 26 Silver and 13 Bronze for a total of 71.

Athletics gave 10 medals (5 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze) while six each from came from table tennis (3 Gold and 3 Silver) and taekwondo (3 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze), five from triathlon (2 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze) and two — all Gold — from kho kho.

India completely dominated in athletics yet again to take the total medal count from the discipline to 20.

Archana Suseendran won her second Gold by clinching the women's 200m race in 23.67 seconds to add to her yellow metal in the 100m dash. Compatriot A Chandra Lekha was third with a time of 24.37 seconds.

Suresh Kumar won the men's 10,000m race with a time of 29 minutes 32 seconds before the duo of Lokesh Sathyanathan and Swamyathnan produced an Indian 1-2 in men's long jump by clearing impressive distances of 7.87m and 7.77m respectively.

Another 1-2 result for the Indians came in the men's discus throw through Kirpal Singh (57.88m) and Gagandeep Singh (53.57m).

Navjeet Kaur Dhillon fetched India's fifth Gold of the day in women's discus throw with a below-par 49.87m while Survi Biswas' 47.47m effort was good enough to win a Silver in a mediocre field.

In women's long jump, Sandra Babu won a Bronze to add to India's medal tally with an effort of 6.02m.

In taekwondo also, India

Paddlers sweep doubles Gold



Gayathri Gopichand in action during SAG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian paddlers bagged Gold and Silver medals in both men's & women's doubles events in Kathmandu on Wednesday.

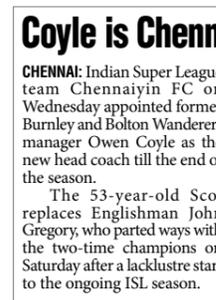
In an all Indian affair, Harmet Desai and Anthony Amalraj defeated Sanil Shetty and Sudhanshu Grover in the men's doubles final.

The duo of Harmet and Amalraj won 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10 in the title clash.

In the women's doubles final, Madhurika Patkar and Sreeja Akula beat Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee 2-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, 5-11, 11-5.

In mixed doubles final, Harmet combined with Sutirtha Mukherjee to down Amalraj-Ayhika 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-8. **PNS**

Coyle is Chennaiyin new coach



Owen Coyle as Chennaiyin FC head coach

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian Super League team Chennaiyin FC on Wednesday appointed former Burnley and Bolton Wanderers manager Owen Coyle as the new head coach till the end of the season.

The 53-year-old Scot replaces Englishman John Gregory, who parted ways with the two-time champions on Saturday after a lacklustre start to the ongoing ISL season.

"I am incredibly proud to join Chennaiyin FC as Head Coach. I believe we possess a squad with great potential and the hunger to do well, complimented by an ardent fanbase always backing us. I can't wait to get started," Coyle said in a club statement.

Coyle begins his stint as CFC head coach with an away game against Jamshedpur FC on December 9.

Chennaiyin FC will have to put a strong show if Mumbai have to record their second win of the season. The role of their custodian Amrinder Singh, who has so far made 17 saves in the tournament, will also be of utmost importance.

Amrinder would expect to keep a clean-sheet. For Kerala, its coach would want forward Bartholomew Ogbече and Messi Bouli to play to their potential.

Their midfielders and defenders also will have to play to their potential if Mumbai have to stoppied in their own den.

Amrinder would expect to keep a clean-sheet.

For Kerala, its coach would want forward Bartholomew Ogbече and Messi Bouli to play to their potential.

Their midfielders and defenders also will have to play to their potential if Mumbai have to stoppied in their own den.

Bumrah is generational talent: Bishop

Former Caribbean pacer heaps praise on Jasprit for consistent show in all three formats

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former West Indies speedster Ian Bishop says the foundation of India's "another level" fast bowling unit was laid by the likes of legendary Kapil Dev and built on by current captain Virat Kohli, who believes in the attack.

He said Kohli's passion to put together a strong fast-bowling unit has made it easier to build on the foundation that Kapil laid.

"Let's remember that this group of bowlers did not emanate right now. The foundation was laid — if you go back to Kapil (Dev) and down the line, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Munaf Patel, Sreesanth," Bishop said in an interview with *ESPNcricinfo*.

"Now it's been built on with a captain who likes fast bowlers, who believes in them. But also the fact that you've found a generational talent in Jasprit Bumrah.

"Generational because he plays all formats of the game very well. And (Mohd) Shami has taken his game to another level. Ishant (Sharma) has also gone up another level," he added.

The 52-year-old Bishop, who took 161 wickets in 43 Tests between 1989 and 1998, said he couldn't have predicted that India's fast bowlers would come to the Caribbean and do to the West Indians what they did to others so many decades ago.

"So credit to Bharath Arun, the bowling coach, and the administrators and captains. I couldn't see this much (improvement), but I thought there was a great deal of promise in having guys who could bowl close to, or over, 90mph," he said.

He, however, refused to compare the Indian unit to the fearsome West Indians of the past.

"Well, they (Indians) have been performing that well that the comparisons are going to come. I would want to stay away from it, because I don't know how you measure it.

"When people talk about (Michael) Holding and (Joel) Garner and (Malcolm) Marshall and (Colin) Croft and (Andy) Roberts — who bowled together for so many years — how do you compare with that?" he asked. Bishop was also reluctant to pick the best among the current crop of fast bowlers in the world.



Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah prepares to bowl against Sri Lanka during ICC World Cup 2019 group stage match at Headingley BCCI/Twitter

Monty joins WI as batting coach

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The West Indies on Wednesday named Monty Desai as their batting coach ahead of the limited-overs series against India.

Desai, who has been handed a two-year contract, has joined the team here before the first T20.

He has held coaching roles with Afghanistan, Nepal, Canada, Indian regional teams and IPL sides Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Lions in a career of over 12 years.

"Desai joined the West Indies ahead of the start of the T20 International Series against India, which bowls off on Friday, December 6 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad," the West Indies Cricket Board said.

West Indies head coach Phil

Simmons said: "I have worked with Monty before and he is an excellent coach. He has proven he has the ability to get players to improve on their talent and also to perform better in matches.

"He has vast knowledge of the game and it is good he is starting here with us in India. I look forward to seeing him work with our batsmen in all formats as we look to get better in all areas."

Desai, on his part, said he is looking forward to being part of a journey to create a winning work environment.

"I am eager to join forces with Head Coach, Phil Simmons and Director of Cricket, Jimmy Adams, and our Captains, such that I may contribute in every possible way to the success of our team."

"There are so many. Jofra Archer. I almost feel when he's on song that it's the perfect streamlined technique. Naseem Shah. Jasprit Bumrah. Mohammed Shami — oh god, I love Shami! That whole core group of what India bring, where I don't want to pick anyone and say, 'This one more than the other.'"

"If I had to pick the best technique right now, Jofra Archer when he's firing. But, I am salivating about world cricket (because of fast bowling talent). That is exciting."

Bishop also named uncapped 21-year-old Uttar Pradesh pacer Shivam Mavi and 19-year-old Rajasthan's Kamlesh Nagarkoti as the future prospects for India.

"I'm eagerly waiting to see if Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti can be fit and continue their progress. Nagarkoti, in particular."

Describing India as a "cauldron" and dominant force in world cricket, Bishop said a T20 World Cup triumph does not mean that the West Indies can beat Virat Kohli's men during the limited-overs series beginning tomorrow though there's

always a hope to do so.

"Well, you always have a chance of winning. (But) How many people come to India and beat India? It's a cauldron. My expectation and hope is for them (West Indies) to win — but if they don't, I'm not going to be put off."

"This is what I want people in the Caribbean particularly to understand: India are a dominant force in the world game. West Indies can't go from winning one World Cup game to beating a team that got to the semi-finals of that World Cup with assurance."

"The fans will want to see victory, but what I'm saying is, maybe this Indian tour is a bridge too soon. If it doesn't happen, all is not lost."

He said West Indies' limited overs tour of India will serve as a good preparation for next year's T20 World Cup.

"Victory will be important, but if it doesn't happen against this dynamic Indian team, it is not, 'Break the house down and build it over.' It is about fine-tuning their game for the T20 World Cup next year and then in 2021."



Kieron Pollard chats with coach Phil Simmons PTI

Our bowlers can't be scared of Kohli: Simmons

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

West Indies coach Phil Simmons says his bowlers will have to avoid being "too scared" of Virat Kohli when they take on India in a limited-overs series as it will make the already difficult task of getting the Indian skipper out, tougher.

Stating that Kohli is a "difficult proposition" to dismiss, Simmons jovially listed some out of the box ideas to get the prolific batsman out.

"One, I can make him bat with a stump. Two, we can sign a book and in the ODIs, we can give him a 100 and bowl at the rest of the players or we can make sure that our plans to him are spot on," he said when asked what are his plans to deal with Kohli.

"We can make sure that the bowlers don't get too scared of him. But in the end, maybe two can bowl at him at the same time. You never know what can happen but it's a difficult proposition to get Virat Kohli out," he added.

Admitting that India are not an easy team to beat anywhere in the world, the 56-year-old former all-rounder called on his players to utilise their past experiences to get the better of Kohli and his men.

"Last year we had some T20s and ODIs in India and we weren't miles apart. We had one game where I think we were tied. So we weren't that far apart," Simmons said.

"We have to look back at what we did then and see how much we can add to that now because they have added things to their games. We have to make sure that we have to get better than last time because India is not easy. India is India," he told *ESPNcricinfo*.



Shivam Dube poses for photo with India's T20 cap BCCI

Dube not looking to replace Hardik

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Young all-rounder Shivam Dube says he is not aiming to replace Hardik Pandya in India's T20 squad but is certainly looking to make the most of the opportunities that are coming his way.

Pandya has been out of the team for more than a month because of a back injury that needed a surgery in England. He is currently undergoing rehabilitation and that has paved the way for Shivam to make the team and he is now gearing up for the upcoming limited-overs series against the West Indies.

Asked whether he is looking to oust Hardik from the team, Shivam said: "I don't think it's an opportunity to replace Hardik but I think I have got a chance and I will try to do well for my country. I have got a job for my country and I will try to do that better."

Primarily a bowling all-rounder, who can hit big shots, Shivam will be aiming to assert himself more in the upcoming T20 games.

In the three matches he has played so far, Shivam hasn't done anything remarkable, except for that three-wicket burst against Bangladesh, but the lanky all-rounder said he enjoys the support of skipper Virat Kohli and the team management.

"Everyone is supporting me. The support from captain and the team management was really good for me. They gave me a lot of confidence. So, I feel really happy and relaxed in the dressing room," he said.

Insisting that fitness is key to success for an all-rounder, Shivam said he is confident about his bowling skills.

"It's always difficult being an all-rounder. Most important for me is to maintain my fitness levels because as an all-rounder, you need to both bat and bowl. So, maintaining fitness is really a difficult job," he said.

"I am very confident of my bowling. In T20 games, every bowler gets a bad as well as a good game. So, I try to prepare myself in very good situations and I feel that I can be a proper bowler who can bowl four overs. I have done that job," he added.

Shivam rated the West Indies as a good T20 side but said he is confident of India pocketing the series easily.

"They (West Indies) have got a good T20 side but we have prepared very nicely. I think India is the best team in world cricket and we will win the series," he said.



David Warner posts photo with Brian Lara in Instagram on Wednesday with the caption that says one day he'll get another chance to break Lara's record

Kohli regains No1 spot

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday regained the top spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankings after Australian Steve Smith slipped a rung in the latest list issued.

Kohli, who had struck a fine 136 in the day-night Kolkata Test against Bangladesh last week to reach 928 points, is now five points clear after Smith's knock of 36 in the Adelaide Test against Pakistan saw him slip to 923 points from 931 before the match.

Cheteshwar Pujara has held on to his fourth spot, while Ajinkya Rahane has come down a spot to sixth in the latest update.

Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah is the highest-placed Indian at the fifth position. Senior off-spinner R Ashwin was also static at ninth in the rankings.

"Australia opener David Warner's epic 335 not out has lifted him 12 places to the fifth position while Marcus Labuschagne is in the top 10 for the first time after being ranked as low as 110th at the start of

the year," the ICC said in a statement.

Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc is another Australia player to gain in the latest rankings, he moved up four places to 14th after grabbing seven wickets in the Adelaide Test.

Pakistan's Babar Azam has moved up two places to 13th, thanks to his fighting knock of 97 in the first innings, while left-handed opener Shan Masood has gained 10 places to reach a career-best 47th position.

England captain Joe Root is back in the top 10 after spending a week outside it, his innings of 226 pulling him up to seventh from 11th. Rory Burns' second Test ton has pushed him into the top 40 for the first time.

For New Zealand, Ross Taylor has gained two places to reach 16th among batsmen and Tim Southee has moved up one place to 13th among bowlers.

West Indies captain Jason Holder's five wickets have helped him move up one slot to third place with a career-best 830 rating points and he has also consolidated his position at the top of the all-rounders' list.

Rahkeem Cornwall has broken into the top 50 with a 10-wicket haul while Shamrah Brooks rises 68 places to 62nd.

Team India's new drill: Chase or Get Chased

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket team's training drills have undergone marked change in recent years and now there is a new fun drill introduced in order to enhance "running speed" of the players along with a sense of being able to withstand pressure.

During the first training session of the team ahead of three match T20 series against the West Indies in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the Indian players were seen doing the usual short sprint drill simultaneously in two batches standing one behind the other.

At times, the queue in front had a handkerchief placed on the back of their shorts and those in the second line would try to chase down and pluck it out.

It is learnt that the Indian



Indian players during a practice session ahead of their T20 match against West Indies at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Wednesday PTI

team's new strength and conditioning (trainer) coach Nick Webb has introduced this drill where the players not only develop speed but can also deal with pressure that there is someone hot on his heels chasing.

"Players either chase someone or be chased which increases sprinting intent," a senior IPL team trainer, who

has trained many Internationals in the past, explained.

"If I can understand after watching the video posted on the BCCI website, the purpose of the drill is to enhance running speed development and enhancing the training environment through competition," the trainer explained.

The short video posted had players changing their starting positions from conventional 'on your mark', 'get set', 'go' to doing stretching exercises and suddenly getting up and sprinting.

Then during one such set, players had one hand 'virtually tied' to the back while sprinting.

"Changing different

starting positions adds more chaos and challenges movement patterns," the trainer explained.

Since the time of Shankar Basu, the Indian team's training methods changed drastically and there are times fun elements were introduced in order to make mundane sessions interesting.

Arthur to be new SL coach

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Seasoned South African Mickey Arthur is set to take over as Sri Lanka's new national cricket coach on a two-year contract with Grant Flower and David Sekar as his support staff. According to a report in *ESPNcricinfo*, Flower will be Sri Lanka's batting coach for the limited-overs format, while Sekar will be their new bowling coach.

Australian Shane McDermott has already been roped in as team's new fielding coach.

"They will all be joining on two-year contracts," Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Ashley De Silva was quoted as saying.

The 51-year-old Arthur, who has served as South Africa and Pakistan's national coach, will be Sri Lanka's 11th coach in the last eight years.

His first assignment will be a tour of Pakistan later this month.

Flower was until recently head coach of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) side Rangpur Rangers, while Saker, who has been involved with the likes of England and Australia, was bowling coach of USA.

Naseem will represent Pakistan in U-19 WC

PTI ■ KARACHI

After creating flutter during his Test debut in Australia, 16-year-old Pakistan pace sensation Naseem Shah will now spearhead the national under-19 team's bowling attack in next month's ICC youth World Cup in South Africa.

The head coach of the Pakistan juniors Ejaz Ahmed confirmed on Wednesday that he has asked chief selector and national bowling coach Waqar Younis to release Naseem from the senior outfit for the youth World Cup.

"Like I said before he will be our main weapon in the mega event and I want him to join the training camp with the junior players at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore," he said.

The former Test captain, who recently guided the Pakistan Emerging side to the Asian Emerging Nations Cup title, said once Naseem joined the junior team the pace attack would look very menacing.

Naseem made his debut in the first Test at Brisbane and impressed with his pace but was then sidelined for the second day and night Test in Adelaide with Waqar insisting that it was a decision based on workload management. He took one wicket his debut Test. Ejaz also said that defending cham-



Naseem Shah poses for photo with bowling coach Waqar Younis after receiving Test cap ICC/Twitter

"Naseem will add a lot of potency to our attack as we have some other very good young pace bowlers and spinners," he said.

The defeated Pakistan squad is due to return from Australia by Thursday night and a source said Ejaz will meet with Misbah and Waqar the next day to confirm on Naseem joining the camp and take a progress report about his fitness.