

**WORLD 5**  
FBI WAS JUSTIFIED IN PROBING TRUMP-RUSSIA: FED WATCHDOG

**OPINION 6**  
UNFULFILLED GOALS

**MONEY 10**  
RCEP DID NOT ADDRESS INDIA'S CONCERNS: GOYAL

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ARSENAL BEAT WEST HAM IN PL CLASH 11SPORT

## CAB fury engulfs N-E

Protesters clash with police at many places; market set on fire; 48-hr Net ban in Tripura



Demonstrators burn tyres during a strike called by All Assam Students' Union and the North East Students' Organisation in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, in Guwahati, on Tuesday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha, the North-East on Tuesday erupted over the proposed law. Police and protesters clashed at several places and the Government enforced a 48-hour Internet ban in Tripura. A day before the Bill is tabled in the Rajya Sabha, normal life was paralysed in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley during the shutdown, led by the All Assam Students' Union and the North East Students' Organisation (NESO). The strike by AASU and NESO coincided with the bandh called by Leftist outfits, including the SFI, DYFI, AIDWA, AISF and AISA. Protesters took out huge processions in different areas of

### CAPSULE

**DRUNK CRPF JAWAN KILLS 2 IN JHARKHAND**  
Ranchi: A "drunk" jawan allegedly shot dead two CRPF personnel, including an officer, and injured another at his camp in poll-bound Jharkhand, officials said on Tuesday, in the second incident of fraticide in the central armed police forces in less than a week.

**4 HURT IN FIRING AFTER FIGHT OVER TIKTOK VIDEO**  
New Delhi: A fight over a TikTok video between two groups prompted three men to allegedly open fire at four members of the other group, police said on Tuesday.

**INDIA 'WALKING THE TALK' ON CLIMATE CHANGE: MIN**  
Madrid: India is "walking the talk" in its climate change commitments and has reduced emission intensity by 21 per cent of its GDP while also being on track to achieve the goal of 35 per cent emission reduction as promised in the Paris summit in 2015, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

## JD(U), Sena in two minds over Citizenship Bill

Sena sets condition: Clarify concerns for our support; JD(U)'s Prashant, Verma ask party to oppose Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the Rajya Sabha is scheduled to take up the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), the Shiv Sena and the Janata Dal(U) appeared to be caught in a dilemma over supporting the Bill in the Upper House.

While Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the Shiv Sena won't back the CAB in the Rajya Sabha till there is clarity on the party's queries posed in the Lok Sabha, JD(U) leaders Prashant Kishor and Pawan Varma have asked Nitish to rethink the party's support to the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, which has set aside 6 hours for a debate on it.

"Disappointed to see JD(U) supporting CAB that discriminates right of citizenship on

the basis of religion. It's incongruous with the party's constitution that carries the word secular thrice on the very first page and the leadership that is supposedly guided by Gandhian ideals", said JD(U) vice president Prashant Kishor.

Another senior JD(U) leader and former diplomat Pawan Varma echoed similar views saying,

"The bandh threw normal life out of gear in Dhalai, West Tripura and Khowai districts with residents remaining indoors while attendance in offices remained thin, accord-

ing to reports. Train services in the entire State of Tripura came to a complete halt and vehicular movement was also hit.

While security forces have been deployed in the market, the incident has triggered fear among the non-tribals who owned most of the shops,

the universities to shelve and reschedule examinations. The strike, however, had little impact in Bengali-dominated Barak Valley.

In Tripura, agitators participating in a bandh called by the NESO, set a market, mostly owned by non-tribals, on fire in Dhalai district, according to the police.

However, no one sustained injuries in the incident and the blaze at Manughat market was doused.

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## Convicts to hang on same date they raped Nirbhaya?

Shifting of convict to Tihar jail fuels speculation about Dec 16 execution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The shifting of Pawan Kumar Gupta — one of the convicts in the December 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case in a moving bus in Delhi — from Mandoli jail in North east Delhi to Tihar jail has fueled speculation that the four convicts will be hanged on December 16, the seventh anniversary of the ghastly incident.

Sources said preparations are going on to hang the convicts once President Ram Nath Kovind turns down the mercy plea. Earlier Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is also the Minister for Department of Justice, is reported to have rejected the mercy petition of one of the accused Vinay Sharma.

However, officials were tight lipped whether the convicts would be hanged on the death anniversary of Nirbhaya to send a strong message. Gupta, who was lodged in the Mandoli Jail, was shifted to Tihar recently, Director General (Prison) Sandeep Goel said. Gupta is lodged in Jail No. 2 of Tihar, where two other convicts in the case — Mukesh Singh and Akshay — are also lodged, while Vinay Sharma is in Jail No. 4 of Tihar, another jail official said.

A former assistant at Sirifort gymnasium is in Jail No. 4 of Tihar, a jail official said.

A minor who was said to have tortured Nirbhaya the most was however, left off after he served his sentence in a juvenile remand home.

Ram Singh the leader of the gang, who had raped and



pulled out the organs of the hapless girl, was found dead in his cell.

"Nirbhaya", meaning fearless, is the changed name of the 23-year-old physiotherapy intern, who was raped and brutalised in a moving bus in south Delhi by six persons, including the bus driver, conductors and helpers, on December 16, 2012.

After receiving treatment in New Delhi for a few days, she was transferred to the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she succumbed to her injuries on December 29, 2012.

All the accused in the case, including a juvenile, were arrested and charged with sexual assault and murder. One of them, Singh, died in police custody. The rest went on trial in a fast-track court. The juvenile was convicted of rape and murder and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility.

On September 10, 2013, the four remaining adult

## Sengar's fate to be decided on Dec 16 as rape verdict reserved

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved verdict for next week in the case of alleged kidnapping and rape of a woman by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Unnao in 2017.

During in-camera proceedings, District Judge Dharmesh Sharma reserved the judgment for December 16 after hearing final arguments by the CBI and the accused in the case. The judge heard the case on a day-to-day basis from August 5 after it was transferred to Delhi from a court in Lucknow on Supreme Court's directions.

The woman was allegedly kidnapped and raped by Sengar in 2017 when she was a minor. The court has also framed charges against co-accused Shashi Singh in the case. Sengar was expelled from the BJP in August 2019.

The court had on August 9 framed charges against the MLA and Singh under Sections 120 b (criminal conspiracy), 363 (kidnapping), 366 (kidnapping or inducing a woman to compel for marriage), 376 (rape) and other sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

On July 28 this year, the car in which the victim was travelling was hit by a truck and she was severely injured. The woman's two aunts were killed in the accident and her family had alleged foul play.

Her father was allegedly framed in an illegal arms case and arrested on April 3, 2018. He died in judicial custody a few days later, on April 9.

Continued on Page 4

## US panel seeks ban on Shah; India asks who're you

US body asks Trump Admin to slap sanction on India's HM for Citizenship Bill

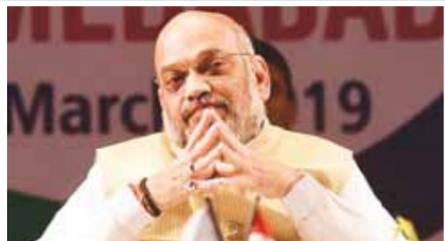
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The US Government panel on religious freedom has slammed the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), inviting strong protest from India.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said the CAB is a dangerous turn in the wrong direction and asked the US administration to consider imposing sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other principal Indian leadership if the Bill with the "religious criterion" is enacted into a law.

The USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan federal Government entity established by the US Congress to analyse and report on threats to religious freedom abroad. The USCIRF on its website says it makes foreign policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress intended to deter religious persecution and promote freedom of religion and belief.

Taking exception to



USCIRF statement, India on Tuesday said it was "regrettable" that the entity, which has no locus standi on the issue, has chosen to be guided by its "prejudices and biases" on the matter.

Rejecting comments by the USCIRF, Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said here the position articulated by the commission was not surprising given its past record.

"It is, however, regrettable that the body has chosen to be guided only by its prejudices and biases on a matter on which it clearly has little knowledge and no locus standi," he asserted. Around a decade

back, the USCIRF had also favoured denying of tourist visa to Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat.

In its statement, the USCIRF said, "CAB is a dangerous turn in the wrong direction; it runs counter to India's rich history of secular pluralism and the Indian Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law regardless of faith," adding that it was deeply troubled over the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Kumar asserted that every nation, including the US, has the right to enumerate and validate its citizenry, and to exer-

cise the prerogative through various policies.

He said the statement on the Bill is "neither accurate nor warranted," adding the Bill provides expedited consideration for Indian citizenship to persecuted religious minorities already in India from certain contiguous countries.

He said the proposed legislation seeks to address their current difficulties and meet their basic human rights and that such an initiative should not be criticised by those who are genuinely committed to religious freedom.

"The CAB does not affect the existing avenues available to all communities interested in seeking citizenship from doing so. The recent record of granting such citizenship would bear out the Government of India's objectivity in that regard," Kumar said.

"Neither the CAB nor the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process seeks to strip citizenship from any Indian citizen of any faith. Suggestions to that effect are motivated and unjustified," Kumar said.

## Baghel announces developing Sonakhan as tourist spot

STAFF REPORTER ■ BALODA BAZAAR

Sonakhan, the birth place of Shahid Veer Narayan Singh, the martyr of country's first freedom movement in 1857, will now be developed as a tourist spot.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made an announcement in this regard while addressing a public meeting at the memorial of the martyr on the occasion of his martyrdom day on Tuesday. Baghel also declared on this occasion to renovate the existing memorial of the martyr and making it gigantic.

Speaking on this occasion, Baghel said the martyr Veer Narayan would be remembered for his contribution in glorious history of freedom struggle. Terming Veer Narayan



a true son of the soil, Baghel said his sacrifice would be remembered for ages to come. Before he laid down his life for motherland the martyr's contribution in combating the famine of 1856 was also commendable, Baghel recalled.

Urban Administration Minister Shiv Kumar Daharia, Kasdol MLA, Shakuntala Sahu, PCC Chief and Congress legislator Mohan Markam as well as the family members of the martyr were present on this occasion.

## TMC-Governor feud spreads from Bengal to RS

SAUGAR SENGUPTA/PNS ■ KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

The sharp differences between West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhanekar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee echoed in Parliament on Tuesday, deepening the bitter conflict that has brought the State Raj Bhavan and Writers' Building face-to-face on day-to-day basis.

The Trinamool Congress MPs on Tuesday raised slogans against the Governor and staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha complaining against the Governor's conduct.

On his part, Dhanekar again slammed the ruling outfit and accused it of implicating the Governor's office in

"dirty State politics." "I am greatly pained at the behaviour and conduct of the Government," the Governor said referring to his alleged delay in signing the SC/ST Commission Bill passed by the State Assembly.

A "dirty politics is being played by them... as if the Governor is sitting on the Bill... which is not so," said Dhanekar, adding that before giving his assent to a Bill he had every right to know about it.

"They are taking mileage out of this issue by involving my name... but what can I do if they move at the pace of a bullock cart," said the Governor, adding "my only request is don't make me a political tool."



Earlier the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her displeasure over the delay on part of the Governor in giving clearance to the Bill. She reportedly told her confidants how the Governor is making inordinate delay in giving his assent to the Bill.

"Already SC-ST laws are in place in 12 States," said Mamata, asking "why is he stopping the Bill is not clear to me? Why the Bill is not being signed? Why it has been left like that though all requisite information has been provided to the Governor?"

Slamming Dhanekar, TMC MP Derek O'Brien said, "The WB Governor has withheld the legislation that was cleared by the West Bengal

Assembly. This is an insult to the Constitution, West Bengal Assembly, both Dalit and tribal communities and the people of West Bengal."

The TMC is now demanding that the Narendra Modi Government should call back the Governor, he said adding, "The Governor's house has turned into a local shakha of the RSS."

TMC Rajya Sabha member Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said, "Everyday he is attacking the State Government on one pretext or the other... while he has taken an oath to abide by the Constitution he is not doing so. Rather he is acting like a BJP agent and working in that interest. We want this Governor to be withdrawn

from Bengal."

In the Assembly too, the TMC MLAs on Tuesday staged a protest against the delay the Governor's sign to the Bill. Party MLA Seuli Saha said, "I being a member of the SC community feel humiliated and so I am protesting here at the Assembly House."

In the meantime taking the conflict between the Raj Bhavan and Secretariat to a new height, the State Government is bringing another Bill that would further clip the wings of the Governor. Accordingly, the Chancellor, who is also the Governor of the State, will no longer decide on who will represent him in the universities.

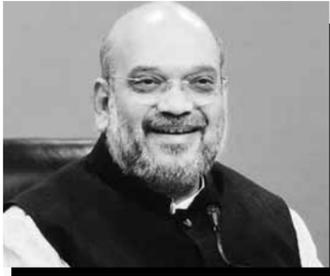
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DETENTION OF J&K LEADERS

# UT admn to take call: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that the Centre has no intention to keep any leader in Kashmir under custody even for one more day but it was for the local administration of Jammu & Kashmir to take a call on their release, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday pointed out that the Government doesn't want to emulate the Congress that had kept Farooq Abdullah's father in jail for 11 years. He asserted that the Centre would not interfere in the process.



Earlier, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, responding to a supplementary question by Sridhar Kotagiri, said stone pelting incidents have decreased substantially in 2019

He said all leaders should be concerned about political leaders in the Valley, he is also concerned but if leaders are more worried about people of Kashmir it will send a better message.

Responding to the question by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir and detention of political leaders, Shah underlined that the situation is completely normal in the Valley. "99.5 per cent students of Class XI class sat for exams there, but for Adhir Ranjan ji this is not normalcy, seven lakh people availed OPD services in Srinagar, Section 144 removed from everywhere. But for Adhir ji only parameter for normalcy is political activity."

Taking on the Congress, Shah said, Farooq Abdullah is in custody for six months but the Congress had kept his father in custody for 11 years.

"Farooq Abdullah's father was kept in jail for 11 years by the Congress. We don't want to follow them and as soon as the administration decides, they will be released," he said.

"..It is for local adminis-

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tration to decide when political leaders will be released. We don't want to keep anyone (leaders) in jail even for a day more than that is required. As and when the local administration feels the time is appropriate, they will be released. There will be no interference from our side," Shah said.

Earlier, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, responding to a supple-

mentary question by Sridhar Kotagiri, said stone pelting incidents have decreased substantially in 2019.

In 2018, 802 such incidents were reported which reduced to 544 in 2019, while only 190 stone pelting incidents were reported since August 5, Reddy said, adding all leading English, Urdu newspapers and TV channels are working in the Valley.

## Concerned over 'fundamental freedom' of people, says EU

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The European Union (EU) on Tuesday said it was concerned over restrictions on "fundamental freedom" of people in Kashmir and called for steps like restoration of communication network and essential services to bring back normalcy in the Valley.

European Union's Ambassador to India Ugo Astuto also said Pakistan must take action against terror groups operating from its soil, including by choking their financial support, and ensuring compliance of steps recommended by anti-terror watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Astuto, at a media brief-

ing, said the European Union's position has been that India and Pakistan should resolve all issues through dialogue.

"Pakistan must take action against militants and terrorists, including against those involved in financing and supporting the terror groups," he said. On Kashmir, he said the European Union understands India's security concerns, but insisted that steps should be taken to restore normalcy in the Valley, adding the bloc's views on the matter remained unchanged since August.

## Abrogation of Article 370 unconstitutional, people of J&K bypassed: Petitioners to SC

New Delhi: The Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 was "unconstitutional" since people of Jammu & Kashmir were "bypassed" and any proposal for altering the constitutional status of the erstwhile State should emanate from the citizens there, one of the petitioners said in the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice NV Ramana, which commenced hearing on batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision, was told by the petitioner that it was violative of the Constitution as orders were passed in "disregard of consent" of people of J&K. Provisions of Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile State of J&K, was abrogated by Centre on August 5.

A number of petitions have been filed in the matter, including that of private individuals, lawyers, activists and political parties and they have also challenged the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which splits J&K into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh.

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, appearing for bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal, Shehla Rashid and other petitioners, said Jammu & Kashmir was under President's Rule from December 19, 2018, till October 31 this year and "will of the people" was not there in the concurrence given by state for abrogation of provisions of Article 370.

He told the Bench, also comprising justices SK Kaul, R Subhash Reddy, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, that powers of the President and Parliament during period of proclamation under Article 356 is in its very nature "temporary" and it cannot be used to bring "irreversible" constitutional changes.

"The record indicates that neither the President nor the Governor held any consultations on the issue either with the public at large or with members of the legislative council," Ramachandran said in his outline of submissions which was handed over to the Bench. **PTI**

## Max lawmakers facing criminal cases against women from BJP: ADR

This is followed by Congress (16) and YSRCP (7)

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of Lok Sabha MPs with cases related to crimes against women has increased from two in 2009 to 19 in 2019.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the BJP has the highest number of 21 lawmakers facing cases related to crime against women, followed by the Congress (16) and YSRCP (7).

As per the report, the number of Lok Sabha election candidates with cases of crimes against women went up from 38 to 126, an increase of 231 per cent, during the period, the report said.

West Bengal reported the highest number of MPs/MLAs (16) who declared cases of crimes against women, followed by Odisha and Maharashtra with 12 MPs/MLAs each.

"In the last five years, a total of 572 such candidates contested in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and assembly elections. None of these candidates have been convicted," the report read.

As many as 410 candidates were given tickets by recognised political parties. 89 of them were nominated for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections, it said.

"In the last five years, Maharashtra reported the highest number of candidates (84) followed by Bihar (75) who were given tickets by political parties even though they have declared cases of crime against women in their affidavits," the report said.

Congress fielded 46 such candidates and Bahujan Samaj Party 40.

The ADR said it analysed 4,822 out of 4,896 election affidavits of current MPs (759) and MLAs (4063).

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## LS passes Arms Amendment Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Arms Amendment Bill providing maximum punishment of life imprisonment for manufacturing and carrying illegal arms. Piloted by Home Minister Amit Shah, the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also ensures that those using firearms in a rash or negligent manner in celebratory gunfire, endangering human life or personal safety of others, shall be punishable with an imprisonment to two years or with fine which may extend to ₹1 lakh or with both.

Replying to a nearly three-hour-long debate, Shah said the Bill has been brought as a requirement to significantly impose weapons control in the country. The Home Minister said that the bill has accorded special status to sportsperson who need firearms and ammunition for practice and participating in tournaments. The Lok Sabha rejected many amendments brought by Opposition MPs, mainly on the number of arms to be kept with license holders. "They (sports persons) will be entitled to get licences for different types of firearms," Shah added, clarifying to the concerns raised by MPs.

Under the proposed provision, a person can have a maximum of two firearms, as against the present norm of three, he added. "Many suggestions came including keeping two firearms by an individual."

I have moved official amendment in this regard also," he said. As per the bill, those who own more than two firearms will have to deposit the third one with authorities or authorised gun dealers within 90 days for de-licensing once the amendment is approved by Parliament.

"There were many discrepancies in the six-decade-old law making crime control difficult," he said. Home Minister said that there is a provision for life imprisonment for those who snatch or loot arms and ammunition from police or defence forces. The Bill seeks to enhance punishment for illegally possessing and making prohibited arms, besides other changes in the six-decade-old Arms Act.

Piloted by Home Minister Amit Shah, the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also ensures that those using firearms in a rash or negligent manner in celebratory gunfire, endangering human life or personal safety of others, shall be punishable with an imprisonment to two years or with fine which may extend to ₹1 lakh or with both

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As per the Bill, the Government proposes to amend Section 25 (1AA) of the Arms Act, 1959, to give punishment from the usual life term of 14 years to "imprisonment for the remainder of that person's life" for manufacturing, selling, repairing and possessing "prohibited" arms. The minimum punishment under this section will be 14 years.

Under the present law, the offence invites imprisonment of not less than seven years but may extend to life imprisonment — mostly up to 14 years. According to an estimate, India has a total of around 35 lakh gun licences. Thirteen lakh people have licences to carry weapons in Uttar Pradesh, followed by militancy-hit Jammu & Kashmir, where 3.7 lakh people possess arms licences, most of which were taken in the name of personal security.

Punjab, which witnessed terrorism in 1980s and 1990s, has around 3.6 lakh active gun licences, most of which were issued during the two decades of strife.

Under PM Kisan Samman Yojna, Government is providing income support of ₹6,000 per year to all farmer families in the country, paid in instalments of ₹2,000 every four months

except for farmers of Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu & Kashmir who have been exempted till March 2020. However, Aadhaar number was mandated for getting the second tranche of money. Due to delay in Aadhaar seeding, the condition was relaxed for till November 30 for availing both second and third instalments.

### INSHORT

#### 2 LOK SABHA MEMBERS DEMAND BAN ON PANIPAT

New Delhi: Two Lok Sabha members from Rajasthan demanded a ban on Bollywood film Panipat, claiming it shows Bharatpur's Maharaja Surajmal in poor light by twisting historical facts. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the House, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's Hamun Benival said sentiments of people in Rajasthan and Haryana have been hurt by the movie.

#### ₹15.13 CRORE RAISED FROM AUCTION: MIN

New Delhi: The Culture Ministry informed Parliament that ₹15.13 crore were raised from the auction of mementos and gifts presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last five years. In an answer to a query in the Rajya Sabha, Culture Minister Prahlad Patel said the money had been raised during three auctions — February 18-20, 2015, January 27-April 1, 2019 and September 14-October 24, 2019. The proceeds were given to the Namami Gange project of the Union Government, he said.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF ₹2,000: MIN SAYS DON'T WORRY

New Delhi: Dismissing reports that Government is set to withdraw ₹2,000 note, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said there was no need to worry about it. "This is real worry (about demonetisation) which has surfaced now. I think you should not worry about it," Thakur told RS replying to a question on Government's plan to withdraw ₹2,000 note in future.

#### PREZ FLAGS CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday flagged the recent incidents of violence against women in the country, saying such heinous crimes force people to think whether the society has lived up to the cherished universal vision of equal rights for all.

### NIRBHAYA GANGRAPE-MURDER CASE

## Convict moves SC seeking review of death penalty

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

One of the four convicts, Akshya Kumar Singh, moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking review of its 2017 judgement handing down death penalty to all of them in the sensational Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case.

Strangely, among others he not only talked about the health risks such as rising pollution level in Delhi but also about the life span of human beings in present age saying there was no reason to continue with the death penalty. His plea also maintained "executions only kill criminal, not the crime."

"Life is going short to short, then why death penalty? When age is reducing, it is mentioned in our 'Ved', 'Purans' and 'Upanishads' that in the age of 'Satyug' people lived the life of thousand years. In the age of

Executions only kill criminal, not the crime, he said in plea

'Dwapar' they used to live for hundreds of the years, but not in 'Kalyug', in this era, age of human beings have reduced much. It has now come to 50 to 60 years, and rarely do we listen of a person who is the age of 100 years.

"Very few people reach up to the age of 80-90 years. This is almost a very true analysis. When we look around us then we come to the conclusion, more or less this analysis is true when a person faces the stark realities of life and passes through the adverse situation, then he is no better than a dead body," it said.

The 23-year-old paramedic student was brutally gangraped

on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, inside a running bus in South Delhi by six persons and severely assaulted before being thrown out on the road. She succumbed to injuries on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

"The state must not simply execute people to prove that it is attacking terror or violence against women. It must persistently work towards systematic reforms to bring about change. Executions only kill the criminal, not the crime..." the review plea said.

The top court, in July 9 last year, had dismissed the review pleas by Mukesh (30), Pawan Gupta (23) and Vinay Sharma (24) in the case, saying no grounds have been made out by them for review of the 2017 verdict. Akshya had not filed his review plea.

## For 2nd week, onion still above ₹100/kg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the second week in a row, onion prices on Tuesday stayed above the ₹100 per kg mark, as Government efforts to cool the rates seem to be taking more time than expected. The rates were as high as ₹165 a kg in Panaji, while the average of 114 major cities in the country came to over ₹100.

As per the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, onion prices started to climb from September and have averaged over ₹100 per kg since November 25. Onion, which is an essential ingredient in many food preparations, is a politically sensitive item and its high prices have been a cause of defeat for many Governments in the past.

According to the data, onion prices are ruling at ₹96 per kg in the national capital, ₹102 per kg in Mumbai, ₹100

in Chennai and ₹140 per kg in Kolkata. Onions are being sold at ₹160 per kg in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Mayabunder, and at ₹150 per kg in Tirupati, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Palakkad.

In Bengaluru, Wayanad, Ramanathapuram and Port Blair, the rates stood at ₹140 per kg. Onion prices prevailed at ₹120 per kg in Gurugram, Jagdalpur, Behrampur, Purulia, Maldah, Itanagar, Agartala, Puducherry, Dindigul, Tirunelveli and Dharmapuri. In Amritsar, Surat, Jabalpur, Darbhanga, Sambalpur, Balasore and Gangtok, onion prices were ₹110 per kg.

Onion rates are

₹100 per kg in Chandigarh, Shimla, Mandi, Srinagar, Jammu, Ludhiana, Gorakhpur, Haridwar, Ahmedabad, Patna, Cuttack, Jeyore, Kharagpur, Raiganj, Shillong and Tiruchirappalli.

Last month, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister attributed the rise in prices to a 26 per cent decline in domestic production during kharif and late-kharif seasons because of late monsoon followed by excess rains in major producing States such as

Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Minister has been maintaining that the Government has taken all possible steps to rein in prices such as imposing a ban on exports and allowing imports of 1.2 lakh tonnes to boost supply.

The Centre has also put restrictions on quantities of onions to be stocked by retailers and wholesalers. On Monday, the Centre further reduced the stock holding limit for onion to 2 tonnes from 5 tonnes for retail traders.



# Don't believe in rumours, Bhupesh Baghel to farmers

Procurement of 15 quintal paddy per acre will be ensured under any circumstances

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has urged the farmers of the state not to believe in any rumours about paddy procurement as the government is committed to fulfill its promise.

Baghel was talking to reporters at police ground helipad before leaving for Balod-Baloda Bazar.

Chief Minister Baghel further assured the farmers of



the state that under any circumstance the state government will procure paddy from them at the rate of 15 quintal per acre. And for that if need be there will be extension of time-limit for paddy procurement or increase in installments of procurement.

Chief Minister has appealed to people not to pay attention to the rumours about paddy procurement being spread by mischief mongers and brokers who have been illegally transporting paddy from other

states to sell at the procurement centers of Chhattisgarh.

Chief Minister said that several steps have been taken to ensure systematic procurement of paddy. Any official or employee found troubling farmers unnecessarily will be subjected to strict action.

Baghel said Chhattisgarh government is the government of farmers and the farmers' interest is its priority. Farmers should have full confidence on the state government, he said.

## Give priority to small, marginal farmers: CS to govt officials

CS makes surprise inspection of paddy procurement centers for the second consecutive day

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Acting on the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Secretary R.P. Mandal made surprise inspections of paddy procurement centers situated at the state borders for the second consecutive day on Tuesday.

While inspecting Jhakarpara procurement center at Odisha state border in Gariaband district, the Chief Secretary gave necessary instructions to the society manager, Tehsildar, Sub Divisional Officer and Food Officer. He instructed them to give priority in providing token to small and marginal farmers.

He instructed the official to procure the paddy as per set norms and make the process hassle free.

The official also interacted with



farmers present there and assured them that the state government would procure paddy from all the registered farmers at the rate of 15 quintal per acre.

Notable, the state government had clarified that it was committed to procure all the paddy of state farmers and if necessary the last date for procurement would be extended.

## Liquor-outlet staff admits overcharging before MLA

MAHASAMUND: Based on a complaint of over-pricing of liquor at Daldali road-based liquor outlet in Mahasamund district, MLA Vinod Chandrakar conducted surprise inspection. During the inspection, the supervisor of the liquor shop admitted that customers are being charged more than the actual selling price to compensate the damages. District excise officer assured of action against employees after the matter was brought to his notice. On Monday evening, a liquor consumer registered complaint with MLA Chandrakar regarding over pricing of liquor. MLA reached the spot where the customers intimated since last week the outlet is over charging. The employees even allegedly thrashed customers who had oppose the over pricing. The employees state that the government has hiked the rates. When MLA confronted the supervisor, Vishu Das Sonwani, he admitted that they were charging from customers more than what was prescribed rate. The district excise officer and his team also reached the spot and the supervisor again accepted of charging higher rate. MLA then directed the officials for immediate action. The excise officer said soon action will be taken.

## Double murder rocks capital, culprits absconding

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Two siblings were brutally killed by two unidentified youth in broad-day light at Godawari Nagar locality under Tikrapara police station jurisdiction on Tuesday.

Though police had got video footage of two youths, the culprits are still at large.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Prafull Thakur informed that the two sisters Manisha and Manju Sidar were brutally killed with the help of frying pan.

The official claimed that they have got some clues about the culprits

**Additional Superintendent of Police, Prafull Thakur informed that the two sisters Manisha and Manju Sidar were brutally killed with the help of frying pan.**

police failed to nab the culprits yet.

The deceased sisters were residing at a house in the Godawari Nagar locality on rent for studying, police said.

Some other tenants who were at the first floor heard cry of the girls but by the time they informed the landlord and went to help the victims, culprits had fled.

Prima facie it was found that the culprits also stayed in the house of the deceased and they attacked the sisters after some dispute, police said.

Meanwhile, police registered a case under relevant sections and was further investigating the matter.

## Human Rights Day observed

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur District and Sessions Judge Ram Kumar Tiwari said whenever any crime occurs it leads to human rights violation. If citizens follow their sense of duty, then the fight between human rights and crimes can be reduced to an extent.

He was addressing the function organised at Government J Yoganandam Chhattisgarh College, Raipur to mark the Human Rights Day on Tuesday.

Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, Raipur Umesh Kumar Upadhyay said there is need for awareness and responsibility so to



protect the human rights.

He said it was during the Second World War a crises on the existence of human beings emerged. It is after the war that the issue of Human Rights was raised. So, there is need to be aware of everyone's rights and also for the duties towards humanity.

As part of Human Rights Day, at Raj Bhawan, Secretariat (Mahanadi Bhawan), district headquarters and government offices, pledge was administered to the officers and employees to work for service of humanity and protecting the human rights.

## BoB opens 'Baroda Gold loan Shoppe'



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Venturing into a new field, Bank of Baroda recently inaugurated Baroda Gold Loan Shoppe offering gold loan in the form of demand loan to those who own gold jewellery/ornaments.

The inauguration was done by Regional Head of the bank and Deputy General Manager

Ranjeet Kumar Mandal.

Official sources informed that the former Mova branch of the bank had been earmarked for the Baroda Gold Loan Shoppe operation.

On the inaugural day, loans worth Rs 15 lakh were sanctioned. Senior officials and distinguished customers of the bank were present in the inauguration function.

## C'garh turned into crime hub from peace island: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP senior leader and former minister Brijmohan Agrawal said 'island of peace', (Chhattisgarh) has now become a "crime hub" as law and order in the state has deteriorated to such an extent that now even broad daylight murder is taking place in Chhattisgarh.

Citing the double murder of girls under Tikrapara police station limits on Tuesday, he said, addressing the media, on one side farmers are agitating over paddy procurement while on the other there is rising crime, particularly against women.

He listed out different incidents occurred across the state where girls were raped, burnt and murdered. He said in Tikrapa inci-



dent, also the girl had approached the police station raising suspicion of imminent attack but the police did not react to it, leading to double murder. The police will now naturally deny it, he pointed out.

Criticising the police and administration, he said, from Inspector General to Station House Officer is being used as 'pack of cards' due to which they are even unable to recognise what is

their duty. After sand mafia, now new mafias are emerging in the state in the form of coal and liquor syndicates, the former minister alleged.

The middlemen in liquor business have become active in rural areas once again which was eliminated by the BJP government, he claimed.

Replying to a query on future course of action, Agrawal said already people

are agitated and if BJP launches agitation, it would create further breakdown of law and order. People will give befitting reply in upcoming polls, he added.

A fact finding team of BJP, BJYM president Vijay Sharma, Pooja Vidhani, Anurag Agrawal and Vibha Awasthi has been constituted which will visit sites of recent crime incidents and submit report to the state government for action, he said.

## Urban Bodies' Elections

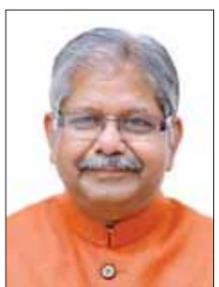
# Kaushik claims BJP will repeat LS-like victory

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Leader of Opposition in the state assembly and BJP leader Dharamlal Kaushik claimed that due to one year misrule of the Congress government in the state, the party will face Lok Sabha-like defeat in the three-tier civic body elections.

BJP leader said the way the last one year is marked by fraud, cheating, lies and broken promises, Congress has left with no morale to face the elections.

For the last one year in the city and in other tier-urban



areas not a single brick has been laid down which can be linked to development works.

Instead the works which had been initiated by the previous BJP government had been halted, citing one reason or another.

He alleged that central government is providing benefits to the farmers, tribal, poor, youth and women under different schemes but the state government is denying them the benefits just for political vendetta.

Kaushik said law-and-order situation in all the urban areas in general has been critical as claims made are all hollow. On daily basis, atrocities on women are being reported.

The people will give a befitting reply to the Congress for this, he added.

Kaushik said the state government and the Congress do not have anything in hand to claim as achievement. The paddy procurement has become a sham and farmers are feeling duped, he alleged.

Additional to it, day by day lies are being served on the issue, the BJP leader claimed. The sensible electors will give befitting reply to all the ills which have been created during one year tenure of the Congress government.

## Forest staff suspended

RAIPUR: Divison Manager Barnawapara Project Division Raipur, K. R. Mudliar has suspended forest guard Mohammed Javed Farooqi with immediate effect for his involvement in poaching of cheetal (spotted deer).

Three spotted deer were recently seized by forest department inspection team before they were being transported from the sanctuary area on December 7. Based on primary investigation, the forest guard is reported to have been involved in it. Farooqi is an employee of Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation.

During the suspension period, he will be attached with Headquarter, Divisional Manager Barnawapara Project Division office, Raipur.

## NTPC Sipat bags Greentech Safety Award

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

NTPC Sipat has been conferred with Runner-up trophy in the 18th Annual Greentech Safety Award 2019 for exemplary performance in industrial safety.

The award was received by Niraj Kumar Yadava, AGM (Safety) from Kamleswar Saran, Chairman and CEO, Greentech and RK Dubey, Chief Advisor, Greentech Foundation and Former CMD, Canara Bank.

The trophy and citation was handed over to Padmakumar Rajasekharan, CGM, Sipat and JSS Murthy, GM (Maintenance) in 138



ORT held on December 10.

This award takes a comprehensive look to maintain full safety on fire and acci-

dent free work place. It is to maintain that Sipat station has been declared as one of Safe plants of NTPC Ltd.

# BJP snubs RaGa for corruption remark

PNS ■ RANCHI

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra has condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for accusing Chief Minister Raghubar Das as most corrupt person. Patra said that remark of Congress scion is not against Raghubar Das but on entire State. The BJP leader demanded apology from Rahul Gandhi in this connection.

The BJP leader said that Rahul Gandhi should introspect before uttering such remarks. Patra said, "Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi are out on bail in connection with the ₹5,000 crore embezzlement case involving the National Herald. Coming out on a bond from jail, these leaders are reaching out to Jharkhand celebrating their bail. Recently, Congress leader P. Chidambaram too Ranchi after coming out of jail reached Jharkhand to celebrate his bail. Rahul Gandhi has the habit of



BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra, Ranchi Mayor Asha Lakra and Prem Mital during a press conference at BJP media centre in Ranchi on Tuesday  
Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

first issuing fact less charges and later apologises in court, which is proven track record."

Patra said that it has been 19 years since Jharkhand became a separate State. First the Congress along with RJD and JMM used Jharkhand as a pasture. "This State was used

as an ATM machine. An independent Madhu Koda was made the Chief Minister and carried scams with a gun in the form of corruption on his shoulder. This is the character of the Congress," added Patra.

Patra said that there was a Government of five years

development. The BJP gave an impeccable Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Raghubar Das. It was a Government of public participation. Referring to the results of the Karnataka by-election, Patra said that the results came in Karnataka and

the tremors of the earthquake reached the Maha Milwati alliance in Jharkhand. The people have rejected the Mahamilwati alliance. Stability will win and the Grand Alliance will lose. Patra described the passage of Citizen Amendment Bill in the

Lok Sabha as historic moment.

He said that this historic decision was hanging. "We had promised that this time we will bring this Bill and the BJP has fulfilled its promise," added Patra. He taunted those opposing this bill and said that this Bill is not against any religion. Home Minister Amit Shah said that the right of no one has been taken away but the right has been given. Patra said that Congress and Pakistan speak the same language.

"After the passage of this bill in the Lok Sabha this morning, a statement came from Pakistan that it would be a blow to India's secularism. This was also the language of the Congress," added Patra. He asked why the Congress and Pakistan speak each other's language. "When there is an air strike, Pakistan says that nothing has happened and the Congress asks for evidence. CAB is neither against the constitution nor the acronym on secularism," he said.

# JMM frightened with public support in PM's rally: BJP

PNS ■ RANCHI

State BJP Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo today said that Prime Minister and other prominent leaders' rallies across the State are drawing huge crowd as they are getting immense public support. "This has frightened the JMM and the leaders are wary of their defeat. The JMM has written to the CEO today that the PM's rallies have been deliberately fixed in such a way that Hemant Soren's rallies get disturbed. The allegation is ridiculous and the JMM is looking for excuses for its defeat. The Prime Minister is the Prime Minister of the country and not of a particular party. And his security is paramount. At the time of the Prime Minister's visit, the rule to make a par-



ticular zone a no fly zone has been there for a long time. The same happened during the UPA regime. But then BJP leaders did not complain about it because for them the Prime Minister was the Prime Minister of the country and not of any particular party. As a matter of fact, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is convinced that the public is going to finish it in the elections, so it is already looking for excuses for its defeat.

# DMRC extends e-bicycle services to 2 more stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro has extended electric-bicycle (e-bicycle) service to two more stations namely Malviya Nagar and Saket on Tuesday. The decision was taken after successful implementation of the scheme at seven metro stations a few months ago.

This service was formally flagged off from Malviya Nagar metro station by AK Garg, Director of operations (DMRC) in the presence of other officials.

Garg said, "The specially designed battery operated



cycles would be helpful in providing last mile connectivity to its commuters and to decongest the road traffic by propagating environment-friendly modes of transport over personal vehicles. DMRC tries to incorporate eco-friendly initiatives in all its spheres of functioning."

# Delhi: 98 cases of dengue reported in week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 98 cases of dengue was reported in the national Capital in a week, taking the total number of patients suffering from the vector borne disease to staggering 1,884 this year. However, the number is significantly reduced from that of the last year as 2,732 cases of dengue were traced in the corresponding period.

According to data released by Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) revealed that seven new cases of Chikungunya also reported in last week, taking the total number to 259 this year.

The data also revealed that mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 178582 households and 141767 legal notices have been issued this year. Besides 17661 number of prosecution has been launched



by the civic bodies.

As per the data of the total 1884 dengue cases, 717 were recorded in November, 787 in October, 190 in September and 52 cases in August.

The number of malaria cases has also risen to 694 while last year the figure was 472 in the corresponding year. Out of total malaria cases, only eight

cases were reported last week. While 68 in November, 249 cases in October while September saw 214 cases, according to the SDMC, which tabulates the data on vector-borne diseases in the city.

A senior Corporation official said that all the preventive steps have been taken to reduce the cases. "The key to preven-

tion of Dengue is ensuring there is no clean stagnant water in homes and around, which does not allow the Aedes mosquitoes to breed, and therefore dengue cannot spread," he said, adding that zonal officials have been instructed to keep making people aware by organizing seminars, functions in schools and colleges.

The officials are also conducting regular checks for breeding and regular spraying and fogging are also being done to control mosquito menace," he added.

Earlier, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had launched the mega Dengue prevention awareness campaign from September 1 and November 15 to combat dengue has garnered a massive support from public and several other well-known personalities across the country.

# New int'l terminal market in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Jai Prakash Dalal on Tuesday said that the State Government is dedicated to set up the new international terminal market for vegetables, fruits, and dairy products at Ganaur in Sonapat district and the work of the construction of first phase of the market will be starting soon.

He said that for setting up this market, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal has allocated an amount of Rs 400 crore.

The Agriculture Minister visited the India International Horticulture Market to come up in Gannur. On this occa-

sion, the market committee and top officials of the Mandi gave a presentation of the construction work.

The Minister said that steps should also be taken to collect revenue in the initial phase of construction of the market so that the market can run smoothly.

Talking about the construction of various stages of the Mandi, he said that there should be no delay in the beginning of the work of the first phase. For this, he directed the appointment of an advisor.

The Agriculture Minister said that construction work will be completed in 537 acres.

# Haryana makes DigiLocker mandatory for Govt dept

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Tuesday said it has made implementation of DigiLocker mandatory for all the government departments, boards, corporations, autonomous bodies, academic institutions and universities of the State.

An official spokesman said that all departments and agencies in the State have also been directed to register themselves as an "issuer"/"requester" organization on DigiLocker platform mandatorily according to their requirements and take necessary actions to integrate their web/mobile applications with DigiLocker platform for issuance/requisition of certificates.

Departments and agencies have been directed to take necessary steps to digitize legacy data of the documents and certificates available in the physical form, to make those available on DigiLocker platform.

The spokesman said the State Government has been making efforts to ensure that all



documents and certificates issued in past and to be issued in future, would be made available on DigiLocker platform to the citizens.

The spokesman said that documents/certificates made available on DigiLocker platform by issuing Government departments, boards, corporations, autonomous bodies, academic institutions and universities in the State would be treated at par with physical copies that are accepted now.

Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication, Haryana would be the nodal agency for

implementing DigiLocker in the state and providing hand-holding and necessary support to the government agencies for the implementation of same in the State.

The DigiLocker platform enables the authorized access of documents and certificates issued by an authority and verification of same anytime, anywhere in a digital format. The initiative has enabled citizens to go away with the need of carrying physical documents as most of digitally issued documents available on DigiLocker platform are accepted by authorities in their electronic form.

# TMC-Governor...

From Page 1  
Furthermore, the Chancellor will have to pass the recommendation of Search Committee (for the appointment of the Vice Chancellor) report in its first tabling.

The Governor and Chief Minister have been at loggerheads ever since the former defied the State Government's advice and personally went to Jadavpur University on September 19 to rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was gheraoed by the students for more than five hours.

The State Government has also been protesting the Governor's repeated "interference" in administrative affairs by suo moto organising administrative meetings in districts. The Chief Minister has gone on record alleging "the Centre and through him the Governor is running a parallel administration in Bengal."

In an unprecedented sight indicating the intensity of the conflict between the two top personalities in the State, Mamata and Dhankar came face to face at the State Assembly but refused to greet each other or acknowledge each other's presence.

A few days later the

Governor on his own visited the State Assembly after intimidating Speaker Biman Banerjee only to find the VVIP gate closed. Not a single functionary, including the Speaker or Parliamentary Affairs Minister, was present to receive him.

Similarly, the Governor was not received either by the Vice Chancellor or the Registrar at the Calcutta University where he visited as the Chancellor of the institution a few days ago. The Governor reacted by alleging that the educational institutions of the State were being polluted by politics.

The incidents were taken up by the Governor in Delhi where he recently alleged that "democracy in Bengal is in peril," reminding how the Ministers of the State were continuously making derogatory statements against his office. In the Rajya Sabha, when TMC members rushed into the well and shouted slogans against the Governor, an agitated Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said Parliament's image was "going down" due to such conduct. The question of delay by the Governor in giving assent to the Bill concerning the formation of SC and ST Commission in West Bengal was raised by TMC MP Saugata

Roy in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019 related to extending the quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in legislatures for 10 years.

This Government is talking about reservation to SC-ST but injustice is being done to Dalits in West Bengal, Roy alleged. "West Bengal Governor is not sending Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission Bill to West Bengal Assembly. The House was adjourned last week for days. This was great humiliation to SC-ST. I would urge West Bengal Governor to change his ways," he said.

In the Rajya Sabha, as soon as Naidu announced the Question Hour, O'Brien tried to raise the issue related to the Bill, but was not permitted by the Chairman as no prior notice had been given, following which TMC members trooped into the Well raising slogans. The Chair also said the members cannot raise slogans against a Governor.

Naidu appealed the members to follow rules of conduct and said they had the right to oppose any issue within rules but the members did not oblige.

# Sengar's fate to be decided on Dec 16 as...

From Page 1  
The local court here has framed murder and other charges against the MLA, his brother Atul and nine others in the case.

The apex court had on August 1 transferred all five cases registered in connection with the Unnao rape incident from a Lucknow court in Uttar Pradesh to the court in Delhi with directions to hold trial on daily basis and completing it within 45 days.

During the trial in the rape case which was held in-camera, thirteen prosecution witnesses and nine defence witnesses were examined.

A special court was also held at AIIMS hospital here to record the statement of the rape survivor, who was admitted there after she was air-lifted from a hospital in Lucknow.

The woman and her family is provided CRPF security as per the apex court's orders. They have now been shifted to a rented accommodation in the national capital with the assistance of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW).

# UAE Ambassador lauds efforts of HP in organising Investor's Meet

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to India Dr. Ahmed Al Banna has appreciated the efforts of the Himachal Government for organising maiden Global Investor Meet at Dharamshala.

In a letter addressed to the CM Jai Ram Thakur, the Ambassador said that the meet has not only created an ideal platform for exchange of views and opportunities, but has also opened newer channels of communication.

He praised the efforts of the State for organising such the event and said, "I believe that under your visionary leadership, the State of Himachal Pradesh is poised to grow like never before in terms of attracting and facilitating foreign investment." The Ambassador expressed hope that there were synergies for cooperation between UAE and Himachal Pradesh especially in the area of agro and food processing, pharmaceuticals and etc.

# CAB fury...

From Page 1

Educational institutions, banks, commercial establishments and markets were closed while public and private vehicles were off the roads in most places of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the strike call by the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU). Attendance in Government offices was almost nil during the bandh which began at 5 am.

The All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) observed a total shutdown in Arunachal Pradesh from 3 am to 6 pm, with the outfit warning that it would intensify its agitation if the Bill was not withdrawn.

Incidents of tyre burning and vandalism of vehicles were reported in Meghalaya capital Shillong and additional police and CRPF forces have been deployed in sensitive areas.

Amendment Bill piloted by Home Minister Amit Shah was passed by the Lok Sabha with an overwhelming majority on Monday night.

According to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, non-Muslim minorities, who fled religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and moved to the country before December 31, 2014, will be accorded Indian citizenship.

However, the Bill has exempted tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, and areas covered under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, notified under Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.

The ILP is an official travel document issued by the Centre to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside the protected States to obtain a permit for entering into the protected State.

# JD(U), Sena in two minds...

From Page 1

"I urge Shri Nitish Kumar to reconsider support to the CAB in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and against the unity and harmony of the country, apart from being against the secular principles of the JDU. Gandhiji would have strongly disapproved it," he said.

The Congress welcomed the Shiv Sena's decision to reconsider its stand on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha after voting in favour in the Lok Sabha, and stated that as an alliance partner, it could not ask the Maharashtra party to alter its position on the issue.

The Opposition party slammed the Government after the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi saying the proposed legislation is an attack on the Constitution and anyone who supports it is attempting

to destroy the foundation of the country, while Priyanka Gandhi said, "India's trust with bigotry and narrow-minded exclusion" was confirmed as the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha at midnight.

The BJP is confident that the proposed legislation will be passed by the House with a comfortable majority as sources in the BJP-led NDA said they would getting near 124-130 votes in the Upper House of 240 members.

Opposition ranks have been boosted by the decision of the six-member Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which has often backed the Modi Government on its key legislative agenda, to oppose the Bill. Opposition is set to give a good fight to the BJP if the Shiv Sena does a turn around and back out after putting its weight behind the Government in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Maharashtra party with a history of pursuing 'hard Hindutva' has three members in the Rajya Sabha.

BJP's allies AIADMK, JD(U) and Akali Dal has 11, six and three members respectively in the Upper House, besides regional parties like the BJD with seven MPs, and YSR Congress and the TDP with 2 each are backing the Bill. The BJP has 83 members in Rajya Sabha. Seven independents and nominated members besides a number of regional parties with one member each will back the Bill, BJP floor managers said.

The Opposition camp includes Congress, TMC, BSP, Samajwadi Party, DMK, RJD, the Left, NCP and the TRS with 46, 13, four, nine, five, four, six, four and six members respectively, totalling 97.

The support of Shiv Sena, Aam Aadmi Party and some smaller parties may take it near 110.

# Anglo-Indians' nomination to LS, Assemblies done away with

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the SC and ST community will enjoy the benefit of reservation in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies for another 10 years, though the Government decided not to extend the same existing privilege to the Anglo-Indian community.

The Lok Sabha passed a Constitution amendment bill in on Tuesday. The Opposition slammed the Government for not extending the benefit to the Anglo-Indian community.

Replying to the concerns of the MPs, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said as per the correct definition and latest Census, as of now, there are only 296 members of the Anglo-Indian community, with a maximum of 124 in Kerala.

However, he said the doors are not shut and the matter to grant Anglo-Indians nomination would be considered later.

The reservation for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians given for the past 70 years in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was due to end on January 25, 2020. The reservation for Anglo-Indians in the form of "nomination" is set to expire on January 25 next year as the Bill does not extend the facility to the community. The Bill was passed with 352 members voting in favour and none against it. Since it was a Constitution Amendment Bill, the voting took place through division. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the House when members voted for the measure.

Though Congress and TMC MPs said there are lakhs of Anglo-Indian members living in India, BJP MPs pointed out that those who have paternal lineage of British people who lived here before Independence are only come under this category. Hibi Eden (Cong) claimed that Law Minister Ravi Shankar

Prasad was "misleading" the House that the country was left with 296 Anglo Indians and demanded that the reservation for them should continue. "In my constituency (Ernakulam) there are 20,000 people of this community (Anglo Indian)," he said, adding that the entire community contributed a lot to the progress of the country.

There are 84 members from the Scheduled Caste and 47 from the Scheduled Tribe communities in Parliament. In State assemblies across India, there are 614 SC members and 554 ST members. "Although the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have made considerable progress in the last 70 years, the reasons which weighed with the Constituent Assembly in making provisions with regard to the aforesaid reservation of seats have not yet ceased to exist," said the statement of objects of the Bill.

# FBI was justified in probing Trump-Russia: Fed watchdog

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The FBI was justified in opening its investigation into ties between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia and did not act with political bias, the Justice Department's internal watchdog declared, undercutting President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he has been the target of a "witch hunt."

The long-awaited report, issued Monday, rejected theories and criticism spread by Trump and his supporters, though it also found "serious performance failures" up the bureau's chain of command that

Republicans are citing as evidence that Trump was targeted by an unfair investigation.

The affirmation of the investigation's legitimacy, balanced by criticism of the way it was conducted, ensured that partisan battles would persist over one of the most politically sensitive investigations in FBI history.

Another review of the origins of the probe continues, and the prosecutor picked by Attorney General William Barr to lead that effort hinted Monday he'll take a harder view of the FBI's actions.

Monday's review by Inspector General Michael Horowitz knocked down multiple lines of attack against the Russia investigation, finding that it was properly opened and that law enforcement leaders were not motivated by political bias.

Contrary to the claims of Trump and other critics, it said that opposition research compiled by an ex-British spy named Christopher Steele had no bearing on the decision to open the investigation known as Crossfire Hurricane.

And it rejected allegations that a former Trump campaign aide at the center of the probe was set up by the FBI.

It found that the FBI had an "authorised purpose" when it opened its investigation in July 2016 into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with Russia to tip the election in its favour.

The report said the FBI had caused to investigate a potential national security threat.

FBI Director Chris Wray, in an interview with The Associated Press, noted that the report did not find political bias but did find problems that are "unacceptable and unrepresentative of who we are as an institution."

The FBI is implementing more than 40 actions aimed at fixing some of the bureau's most fundamental operations, such as applying for surveillance warrants and interacting with confidential sources.

Those changes are in response to some of the report's criticisms.

They largely centered on how agents and prosecutors set about eavesdropping on a former Trump campaign aide who they said they feared was being targeted for Russian government recruitment.

The inspector general identified 17 "significant inaccuracies or omissions" in applications for a warrant and later renewals from the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to monitor the communications of former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page.

The report also details that the FBI used an informant to set up and record a September 2016 meeting with a high-level Trump campaign official.

The official wasn't identified by name, but was not a subject of the Russia investigation, the report said. While the information collected wasn't used during the Russia probe, it does lend support to the assertions by Trump and Barr that the Trump campaign was spied upon.

The report said the errors resulted in "applications that made it appear that the information supporting probable cause was stronger than was actually the case."

# Democrats to introduce articles of impeachment against Donald Trump

IANS ■ WASHINGTON

US House Democrats will on Tuesday announce articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump.

Two articles of impeachment focusing on abuse of power and obstructing Congress were expected to be unveiled, Xinhua news agency quoted The Washington Post as saying in a report on Monday night citing sources who cautioned the plan was yet to be finalized.

Under the current plan, the House Judiciary Committee, which is responsible for writing articles of impeachment, would vote on the articles on Thursday, the newspaper said in its report.

A full House vote will take place next week, it added.

The news broke out only hours after the House Judiciary panel concluded its second and final hearing in the Trump impeachment proceeding on Monday.

The marathon hearing that lasted nearly 10 hours allowed the attorneys to present their findings from the first phase of the investigation, who provided conflicting accounts of Trump's dealings with Ukraine, as Democrats and Republicans reiterated their positions.

In his closing statement on Monday evening, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler accused Trump of having "put himself before his country."

"I am struck by the fact that my Republican colleagues have offered no serious scrutiny of the evidence at hand. They have talked about everything else, but they have offered not one substantive word in the President's defence," he said.

Doug Collins, the top Republican on the panel, said it will "be the first impeachment that is partisan, and facts are not agreed to."

House Democrats have been looking into whether Trump abused his office by pressuring Ukraine into launching investigations that could benefit him politically. Lawmakers have also been examining whether the Republican conditioned a White House meeting or military aid to Ukraine on those probes.

# Bangladesh starts fencing Rohingya camps

AFP ■ THE HAGUE

**Balukhali:** The Bangladeshi military has started erecting fences around camps housing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees despite complaints from community leaders and rights groups.

An AFP correspondent on Tuesday saw troops in military fatigues erecting pillars for barbed-wire fences around one large camp at Balukhali in the southeastern border district Cox's Bazar.

Bangladesh's refugee commissioner Mahbub Alam Talukder confirmed to AFP that construction had begun but declined to comment further.

Army chief General Aziz Ahmed said late last month that army engineers had begun erecting the pillars and that the military has "placed orders" for barbed wire.

# Suu Kyi told to 'stop genocide' in UN court showdown

AFP ■ THE HAGUE

Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi faced calls for Myanmar to "stop the genocide" of Rohingya Muslims as she personally led her country's defence at the UN's top court on Tuesday.

Myanmar's civilian leader sat through graphic accounts of mass murder and rape as the west African state of The Gambia set out its case at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Thousands of people back home in Yangon rallied in support of 74-year-old Suu Kyi, whose silence about the plight of the Rohingya has tarnished her international reputation as a rights icon.

Around 740,000 Rohingya fled to neighbouring Bangladesh after a bloody crackdown by the Myanmar

military in 2017 that UN investigators have already described as genocide.

"Tell Myanmar to stop these senseless killings, to stop these acts of barbarity that continue to shock our collective conscience, to stop this genocide of its own people," Gambian Justice Minister Abubacarr Tambadou told the judges.

Muslim-majority Gambia accuses Myanmar of breaching the 1948 genocide convention and has asked the court, set up in 1946 to rule on disputes between UN member states, to take emergency measures to stop further violence.

"Another genocide is unfolding right before our eyes yet we do nothing to stop it," added Tambadou, a former prosecutor at the tribunal into the Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

# US asks UN to discuss risk of NKorea 'provocation'

Washington: The United States

on Monday called a UN Security Council meeting this week on the risk of North Korean "provocation" as Pyongyang demands US concessions by a year-end deadline.

The United States, which holds this month's presidency of the Security Council, is scheduling the session instead of a planned meeting on human rights in North Korea, one of the world's most authoritarian states.

This week's meeting will provide "a comprehensive

update on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, including recent missile launches and the possibility of an escalatory DPRK provocation," a State Department spokesperson said, referring to the North by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Security Council also met last week behind closed doors to discuss 13 missile tests by North Korea.

That meeting was organised by European nations, which condemned North Korea's

actions.

But the request for a new session shows growing alarm by the United States on North Korea, which has demanded that Washington propose a new offer by December 31 to kickstart nuclear negotiations.

North Korea has warned of countermeasures if not. On Saturday, North Korea also claimed to have carried out a "very important test" that will change its "strategic position," without providing further details.

**AXIS BANK**  
Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida 14.2.3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Nis Khand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201012. Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec-16, Faridabad, Haryana-12102. Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: Trishul, 3rd floor, opposite Samarsheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

**POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. 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 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) 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(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Date of Possession 3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
<b>1.Mr. Hitesh Agarwal</b> S/O Mr. Ramesh Chand Agarwal U-23/35 Ground Floor, Pink Town House, U Block, DLF Phase-III, Gurgaon-122022, Haryana Also At: Mr. Hitesh Agarwal S/O Mr. Ramesh Chand Agarwal 25A Deepali Jeevan Jyoti Nagar, Ganargah, Madangari, Ajmer, Rajasthan-305801 Also At Mr. Hitesh Agarwal S/O Mr. Ramesh Chand Agarwal Price Water House & Co. Chartered Accountants LLP Building 9 7th & 8th Floor, Tower-B, DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana Mrs. Khushboo Gang W/o Mr. Hitesh Agarwal U-23/35 Ground Floor, Pink Town House, U Block, DLF Phase-III, Gurgaon-122022, Haryana Also At Mrs. Khushboo Gang W/o Mr. Hitesh Agarwal Shastri Nagar Colony, Ajmer Road, Keki, Ajmer, Rajasthan-305404	Residential Ground Floor Dwelling Unit called 'Town House' having its covered area of 76.50 Sq. Mtrs. (823 Sq. Ft.) bearing No. U-23/35 together with impalpable and undivided prorate share of land in Plot No. 35, Road No. U-23, measuring 125.07 Sq. Mtrs. in the Residential Colony Known as DLF City, Phase-III, (Earlier known as DLF Qutub Enclave Complex), situated in and around Village Nathpur, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana) and bounded as under:- East: Property No. U-23/36 West: Property No. U-23/34 North: Road South: Property No. U-22/19	1. 16-Sep-19 2. 6-Dec-19 3. Rs. 10,181,267/- + Interest, incidental expenses and cost
<b>1.Mrs. Nilofar Singh</b> W/o Mr. Inder Singh R/O 607, Saranyiya Vihar Apartments, Saranyiya Vihar, New Delhi 110016 Also At: Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/o Mr. Inder Singh F-90/33, Okhla Industrial Area Phase -1 New Delhi-110020 Also At Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/o Mr. Inder Singh H.No-503, Second Floor, Block-E, G.K. -2 New Delhi 110048 <b>2.Mr. Harman Singh</b> S/o Mr. Inder Singh R/O 607, Saranyiya Apartments, Saranyiya Vihar New Delhi 110016 Also At Mr. Harman Singh S/o Mr. Inder Singh H.No. 503, Second Floor, Block-E, G.K. -2 New Delhi 110048 <b>3.M/S Nitex Overseas</b> Through its proprietor Mrs. Nilofar Singh F-90/33, Okhla Industrial Area Phase -1 New Delhi-110020 Also At M/S Nitex Overseas Office at 287, Sant Nagar, East of Kailash, New Delhi 110065	Entire Second Floor of the Property No. 503, Block -E, Measuring 248 sq. yds. Situated in Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen, One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement, Half "To" Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ schemes/ complex.	1. 16-Sep-19 2. 6-Dec-19 3. Rs. 2,373,358/- + Interest, incidental expenses and cost
<b>1.Mr. Sumit S/O Mr. Charanjai Lal</b> R/O 3291, Gali No. 28, Beadon Pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 Also At Mr. Sumit S/O Mr. Charanjai Lal Sridhar Insurance Broker Pvt. Ltd., A-125, Sector-63, Noida, U.P.-201301 Also At Mr. Sumit S/O Mr. Charanjai Lal Flat No. 703, 7th Floor, SuperTech-Livingston, Tower E, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad U.P.-201016 <b>1.Mr. Charanjai Lal</b> S/O Sh. Badri Prasad R/O 3291, Gali No. 28, Beadon Pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 Also At Mr. Charanjai Lal S/O Sh. Badri Prasad Flat No. 703, 7th Floor, SuperTech-Livingston, Tower E, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad U.P.-201016 <b>Mr. Ravi Pal Udar</b> S/O Mr. Dharam Pal Udar R/O House No. 510, Mass Housing Society, Plot No. 24, Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi-110075 Also At: Mr. Ravi Pal Udar S/O Mr. Dharam Pal Udar M/S Janak Medicos, B9 Basement, Shankar Garden, Viaspuri, New Delhi-110018 Mrs. Rachna Udar W/O Ravi Pal Udar R/O House No. 510, Mass Housing Society, Plot No. 24, Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi-110075 Also At: Mrs. Rachna Udar W/O Ravi Pal Udar M/S Janak Medicos B9 Basement, Shankar Garden, Viaspuri, New Delhi-110018	All That Piece And Parcel of The Built Up Apartment Bearing No. C-748 On 7th Floor in Building/ Tower No. 12 Having Area of 109.83 Sq. Mtrs. (1180 Sq. Ft.) (Covered Area 846 Sq. Ft. Balcony & Utility Ward 140 Sq. Ft. And Common Area 194 Sq. Ft.) Alongwith Undivided and impartly Proprietary Share In The Land Underneath The Building And Undivided Proportionate Share In The Common Areas of The Building Including All Elementary Rights Attached Thereto Alongwith Right of Use To General Commonly Used Shankar Garden, Viaspuri, For Common Use of All Occupants Within The Said Complex Together With Right To Use The Reserved Car Parking Space In The Complex, Being Part of The Residential Complex Named "River Heights" Situated At Village Near Nagar, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P.	1. 29-Apr-19 2. 7-Dec-19 3. Rs. 17359000 & Rs. 3109991/- + Interest, incidental expenses and cost

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' 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.

**Govt. of Bihar**  
**BHAGALPUR SMART CITY LIMITED**  
CIN- U93090BR2016SGC033046

NIT No: BSCL/ICCB/2019/19  
**Notice Inviting Short Term E-Tender**  
Second Call  
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction of ICCB Building (G+5 floors) including utility services under Bhagalpur Smart City Mission, Bhagalpur on EPC basis.

Sr. No.	Work Descriptions	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Tender Processing Fee (In Rs.)	Tender Documents Fee (In Rs.)	Ernest Money Deposit (In Rs.)
1.	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction of ICCB Building (G+5 floors) including utility services under Bhagalpur Smart City Mission, Bhagalpur on EPC basis.	26,22,00,000/- (Twenty-six crore and twenty-two lakh only)	As per e-proc norms. <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a>	25,000/- (Twenty-five thousand only)	36,22,000/- (Thirty-six lakh and twenty-two thousand only)

**Tender Schedule:**

Sr. No.	Activity	Date and Time
1.	Online Sale / Download date and time of tender documents. <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a>	From 14/12/2019 to 03/01/2020 (up to 23:00 hrs.)
2.	Prebid Query Submission date and time. Email: <a href="mailto:bscl.pq@gmail.com">bscl.pq@gmail.com</a> & <a href="mailto:info@smartcitybhagalpur.org">info@smartcitybhagalpur.org</a>	19/12/2019 up to 23:55 hrs.
3.	Prebid Meeting Date and time	19/12/2019 at 11:00 hrs.
4.	Last date and time for online uploading of the tender. <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a>	03/01/2020 up to 23:55 hrs.
5.	Submission of hard copy of Tender Documents Fee & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in original. Address: Chief Executive Officer, Bhagalpur Smart City Limited, Swami Vivekanand Path, Near Ghuran Peer Baba Chowk, Bhagalpur - 812001.	04/01/2020 up to 14:00 hrs.
6.	Date and Time of Technical Bid Opening. <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a>	04/01/2020 at 15:00 hrs.
7.	Date and Time of Financial Bid Opening. <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a>	20/01/2020 at 13:00 hrs.
8.	Contact person for official correspondence.	Chief Executive Officer, Bhagalpur Smart City Limited, Email: <a href="mailto:bscl.pq@gmail.com">bscl.pq@gmail.com</a> & <a href="mailto:info@smartcitybhagalpur.org">info@smartcitybhagalpur.org</a>

For further details please visit website [www.prdbihar.gov.in](http://www.prdbihar.gov.in) Chief Executive Officer, Bhagalpur Smart City Limited.  
PR. No. 011936 (Ni Ni) 2019-20  
बैटी हे एक बरदान। दहेज देकर मत करो अपमान।।

# Chilean military plane disappears with 38 onboard

IANS ■ SANTIAGO

A Chilean military aircraft enroute to Antarctica with 38 people onboard, has disappeared off the radar, the country's Air Force confirmed in a statement.

The Hercules C130 aircraft took off on Monday from the Chabuncu Air Base in Punta Arenas at 4.55 p.m. and lost radio contact at 6.13 p.m., Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying.

The statement said that it was heading to the President Eduardo Frei Montalva Air Base in

Antarctica, adding that people onboard comprised 17 crew members and 21 passengers.

The statement further said that the plane was around 450 miles into its 770-mile journey when contact was lost, placing it within the Drake Passage, reports the BBC.

The Drake Passage is a body of water connecting the South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans, and is known for treacherous weather conditions.

But the Air Force said that local weather was good at the time of the plane's disappearance.

Air Force General Eduardo Mosquera told local media that the plane also did not activate any distress signal.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said that he was "dismayed" by the loss, and was monitoring the situation from the capital, Santiago.

Chile controls over 1.2 million sq km of Antarctic territory, bordering land claimed by the UK and Argentina.

Within this territory it operates nine bases - the most of any country in the world.

# Hong Kong court lifts ban on face masks

**Hong Kong:** A Hong Kong court on Tuesday lifted a ban on face masks by refusing the governments request to suspend an earlier ruling that found it unconstitutional.

Acting chief judge of the High Court Jeremy Poon Shiu and Court of Appeal Vice President Johnson Lam revealed they were satisfied the government appeal was "reasonably arguable" but found that the authorities had failed to show there was a need to further suspend the lower court's declaration of unconstitutionality and refused the application.

But the judges also warned their decision "is not and should not be regarded as an encouragement or condonation for any person to cover their

face" in situations previously caught by the ban, the South China Morning Post reported.

The Court of First Instance on November 18 ruled in favour of 25 pan-democrats who applied for a judicial review challenging the constitutionality of the ban on masks that was introduced by the government to quell the anti-government movement roiling the city since June.

A notice of appeal was lodged on the following working day, with the government arguing that the court should have allowed the executive branch a broader discretion over emergency laws, in its bid to reinstate the ban.

# GLOBE TROTTER

**NZ VOLCANO DEATHS: CRIMINAL PROBE LAUNCHED**  
Wellington: Police in New Zealand on Tuesday launched a criminal investigation into the circumstances behind the White Island the Whakaari volcano eruption which has left five dead, 8 missing and 31 others injured.

**165,000 AFFECTED WITH AIDS IN PAKISTAN**  
Islamabad: The number of HIV/AIDS patients in Pakistan stands at 165,000, the National AIDS Control Programme said, adding that 9,565 new cases were detected this year.

**'AF WAR CAN END IF PAK DENIES HAVEN TO TALIBAN'**  
Washington: The war in Afghanistan would end in a few weeks if Pakistan denied the Taliban safe haven, a top US Senator has said, urging the Trump administration that it should start negotiations with Islamabad rather than the Afghan insurgents to stop the deadly conflict.

**CZECHSHOOTING**  
Prague: At least six people were killed after an armed assailant opened fire at a hospital waiting room in the Czech city of Ostrava before shooting himself in the head, police said on Tuesday. The shooting took place at Ostrava University hospital on Tuesday morning, with police saying the victims were all patients, Xinhua reported.

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# Boris' spoof on 'Love Actually' scene sets Twitter abuzz

**London:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new pro-Brexit ad, a spoof on the 2003 hit movie 'Love Actually', set Twitter abuzz, with users posting memes and funny comments.

The 3-minute clip called 'Brexit Actually' got 9.7K retweets and 25K likes after it was posted on Johnson's Twitter account on Tuesday. It had 1.7 million views.

The clipping shows Boris standing at a woman's doorstep and using written signboards to seek her vote and warn that the elections are "closer than you think".

Through several billboards, he mimicked a famous scene between Andrew Lincoln and Keira Knightly. Thus, he tried to send the message across to fence-sitting voter about Brexit.

One signboard read: "With any luck by next year we will have Brexit done (if Parliament doesn't block it again) and we can move on."

"But for now let me say, your vote has never been more important. The other guy could win."

"So you have to make a choice - between a working majority or another gridlocked hung Parliament."

It ends with the PM walking away and telling the camera "enough, enough - let's get this done."

Twitterer poked fun at the video and also tore into the Conservative Party leader. One said: "Hang on, isn't the doorstep character trying to sleep with his best mate's wife?"

In reply to @BorisJohnson, one user posted: "Oh, for God's sake now you have really crossed a line."

A Twitter user posted a meme of Johnson sporting blonde hair opening the door to US President Donald Trump with billboards in his hand that say "with some luck you will sell the NHS" and "to me."

One user said

## Anxiety in the N-E

The sub-nationalism of ethnic groups and the fear of influx may just deflate Hindu-dominant nationalism



The problem with identity politics is that it thrives on resentment and insecurities of social groups, fragmenting them further instead of galvanising them into a cohesive social structure. The manipulative politics of extremism feeds off mutual anxieties, creating an entirely different context of relevance that does not depend on governance. So the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), 2019, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the strength of the numbers of the ruling dispensation, is a deeply unsettling piece of

legislation as it pits all kinds of otherness versus each other. This is the reason why there's a huge unrest in the North-east with indigenous groups fearing the influx of Hindu refugees from neighbouring Islamic countries that the Bill enables would swamp their culture and economy as it has historically. There have been torchlight vigils, students have taken to the streets in massive numbers and the 12-hour bandh has stalled all North-eastern States. This despite assurances that the Bill would not be applicable to Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system exists and those tribal regions of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura which are governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The Bill proposes to grant Indian citizenship to fleeing Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Christians and Parsis, who are residents of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh and are persecuted there. It does not reference other neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar or China from where refugees could come in but predicated it solely on the championship of the post-Partition Hindus, namely those left in Pakistan and Bangladesh. So it excludes persecuted Muslim sects from the same countries, the Shias and Ahmadiyas. In other words, non-Muslim immigrants would not face deportation and Muslims would, making religion a key criterion for asylum. It also proposes to reduce the mandated 11 years of residence in India for eligibility to six years, thereby hastening the cooption of Hindu refugees into the mainstream. The BJP wants to neutralise the Muslim infiltration in border States, encouraged by votebank politics of past years, with a Hindu influx and effect a demographic change. But this nationalist spiel, in turn, threatens locals, particularly in Assam.

Ethnic Assamese groups have consistently raised concerns about the Bill being contradictory to the spirit of the Assam Accord and the just-released National Register of Citizens (NRC) list. They argue that the Bill granting citizenship to Hindu refugees from across the border till the cutoff year of 2014 would swamp Ahom identity and the right of indigenous people over their land, opportunities and resources. Truth be told, the BJP has been pushing the citizenship Bill so that lakhs of Hindu families left out of the NRC would automatically be rehabilitated here. For the Assamese, any facilitation of Bengali Hindu immigrants is a remnant of the colonial legacy that saw Bengali civil servants and businesses take over the socio-economic matrix. For a long time, till 1876, Bengali was the operable language in the State. By virtue of territorial contiguity, the Bengali-dominance meant a continuous infusion of Bengalis, exacerbated by the Partition and then the 1971 Bangladesh war. So even if their tribal pockets are protected, the Assamese fear that if Bengali-speaking illegal immigrants, especially those in the Barak Valley, are granted citizenship, they would outnumber the locals, as it has happened in Tripura where Hindu Bengalis have edged out indigenous people from even claiming the political space. The royal scion of Tripura, Pradyot Manikya Debbarma, has been spearheading the cause of the tribals. In fact, the BJP may be playing down the dissent in Assam but language and cultural pride of the Assamese have led to emotion-driven mass movements. Let not anyone forget the *Bongal Kheda* or the organised ethnic cleansing of Bengali Hindus that originated in the late 1940s and continued into the 1960s. The turbulence saw significant property damage, ethnic policing, street violence, conversion of Bengali-medium schools into Assamese and attacks on Bengali students in educational institutions. Similarly, the Mizos, who have struggled to establish their supremacy in power structures, are fearing a massive influx by Buddhist Chakmas. In turn, the Chakmas fear they could be denied citizenship under NRC and with Mizoram exempted from the CAB, protectionist permits would mean that they would be displaced despite being settlers for decades and have to move to other States. With discriminatory attacks, there will be large-scale internal displacement of people for which nobody has any answers. The sub-nationalism of ethnic groups may just take the wind off the sails of Hindu-dominant nationalism.

## Shut out Russia

Is the World Anti-Doping Agency's decision to ban its athletes from international competition justified?



Vladimir Putin is not a happy man. In fact, the Russian President is extremely angry. This because the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has decided to ban all athletes competing under the Russian flag for four years. This is an unprecedented punishment as the ban will cover all major competitions, including the Olympics and the football World Cup. In the case of the latter, even if Russia qualifies for the 2022 World Cup, the athletes will not be allowed to represent their nation. And while Russian athletes, who can

prove that they did not submit to what WADA called a systematic State-sponsored doping regime, can represent themselves at global competitions, they cannot do so under the Russian tricolour. President Putin described this as proof of a global anti-Russian campaign. But was WADA justified? Yes, thanks to Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of the Moscow anti-doping laboratory, who called out how Russian spies were tampering with results and even managing to break open and reseal apparently "untamperable" urine sample bottles. So the case was strong. This systematic tampering has been going on for years and was apparently part of an attempt by the Russian authorities to paint the nation as a sporting superpower, much like it was done in the days of the Soviet Union. Some Western analysts say that the ban doesn't go far enough with some athletes, who apparently gained from the doping regime but were never caught and were still able to compete, albeit under the Olympic flag. If the Russian team qualifies for the World Cup in Qatar, a workaround will be found. Incidentally, this ban does not apply to tournaments not classified as "major" like the Euro 2020 football championship, where the Russian city of St Petersburg will host some matches and the team has qualified.

All said and done, the sports world has to continue to crack down on drug cheats. The drugs that some athletes use are getting more and more advanced and is easy to hide. Moreover, in a technological arms race between drugs and detection, the latter is losing. Was Russia just a bit stupid that it got caught? Would such a punishment ever be imposed on a Western nation? These are questions that need some answering. But for now, this is not final as Russia has said that it will appeal against this decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

## Unfulfilled goals

The best tribute to Gujral, who appreciated the need for India to blend development efforts with environmental protection, will be to revisit the findings of the GREEN India 2047 project



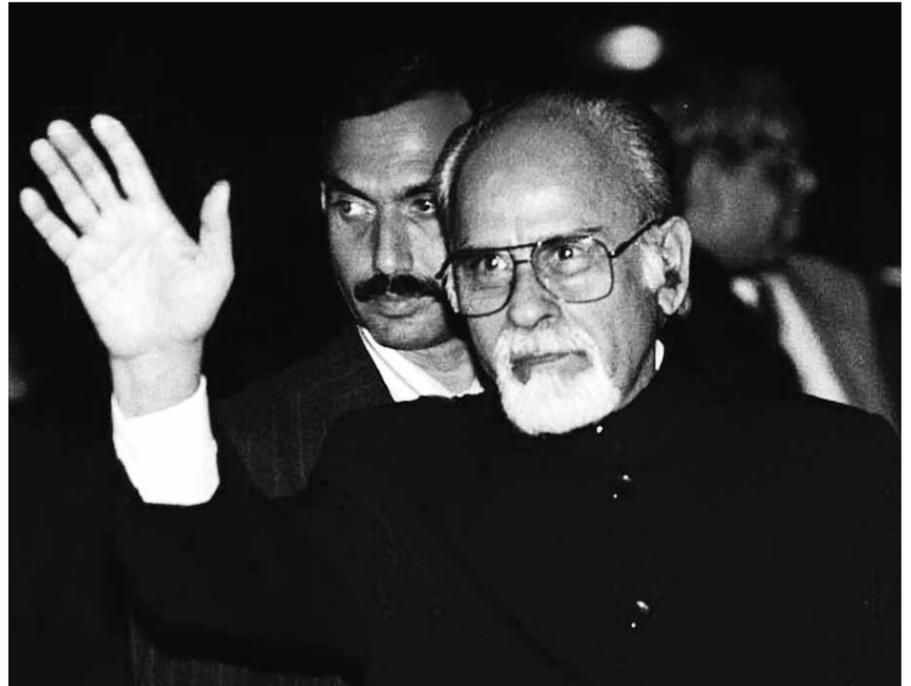
RK PACHAURI

It was last week that some events and television programmes were organised to mark the 100th birth anniversary of I.K. Gujral, who served as the 12th Prime Minister of India from April 1997 to March 1998. Those who have voiced their tributes and eulogies for this humane and gentlemanly leader have highlighted not only Gujral's vision in the field of international affairs but also his qualities as a steadfast friend to those who got to know him. Gujral was not only an intellectual who knew a great deal about subjects that political leaders generally do not read about, but he was also a person who expressed his opinions without fear or favour. It is not well-known that Gujral *saheb* was a person who held environmental issues close to his heart and fully appreciated the need for this country to blend development efforts with environmental protection.

It was in 1995 that The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched a major project called GREEN India 2047 in preparation for the celebration of 50 years of India's independence in 1997. This project, which was the effort of almost three dozen researchers working for almost two years, estimated and documented the damage that Indian society had imposed on the country's natural resources and its environmental quality. It further projected what could happen with business as usual 50 years into the future, that is when India reaches 100 years of independence in 2047. A brief presentation on this project was made before Gujral early in August 1997 at Vigyan Bhavan, during which he also assembled a number of members of his Council of Ministers. At the end of the presentation, which provided startling facts and figures, Gujral *saheb* stated that this presentation "should jolt us into action."

At that stage, the media, too, reported on the stark facts and the disturbing trends which had been in evidence during the first 50 years of India's independence. One particular editorial in a leading newspaper carried the title as "Filthy at Fifty." Much of the media coverage, which undoubtedly supported efforts to inform the Indian public, was clearly the result of the attention provided by the then Prime Minister to the analysis and realities presented to him.

Today it would be useful to revisit some of the findings of the GREEN India 2047 project, perhaps as a salute to Gujral's appreciation of the fact that India cannot develop without due attention to its natural resources and ecosystems, which not only support human life but a range of biodiversity that this country is blessed with. The truth is that in a range of vital resources, there has been rapid degradation as a result of so-called development. Some important facts need reflection even as 1997 is now 22 years



behind us. Even today, almost two-third of India's population lives in rural areas and while several leaders have highlighted the growth of India's population as one factor which imposes a larger and larger footprint on the country's natural resources, we have really not come to grips with what would constitute a sustainable level of population growth and consumption. India's population, which was 336 million in 1947, was estimated as 953 million in 1997. And today, we are 1.3 billion mindlessly pursuing Western consumption patterns, which impose a heavy burden on the country's natural resources.

In this respect, the provision of infrastructure and wherewithal for universal literacy and education have been lacking. So, too, the provision of adequate healthcare facilities in several parts of the country, which would have promoted different fertility decisions. At the same time, the consumerist culture, which Gandhiji was totally against, has not only afflicted the growing urban population but has also percolated to our rural areas.

Besides, as it happens, historically, industrial development has been centered around chemicals and fertilisers, paper, cement, power generation and aluminium, which are resource-

intensive and polluting.

If we look at specific elements of natural resources, water, as is universally accepted, would be heavily stressed in several parts of the country because of the impacts of climate change. It is now clear that with increased warming of temperatures, we would not only see persistent and more serious droughts but also the effects of extreme precipitation events in different parts of the country. In several cases even those areas, which are drought-prone during most of the year, would see heavy precipitation events in some seasons. These would lead to recurrent floods with loss of lives and property.

During Gujral's intervention, after the presentation that was made before him, he stated, "Thus, we have come to a stage when there are two lifestyles. The elite in the country can drink water out of a bottle; the common man can drink municipal water; and the worst, the slum dwellers can drink untreated river water. This is the picture that is emerging. Therefore, when we look at the coming 50 years — we are now at the golden jubilee of our independence — we must ask: Is this the lifestyle we are thinking of? Is this the life that we are offering to our people? Is this the future of our

children? And when I say children, I do not mean children only of the elite. The child living in the slum, the child who is walking and sleeping on the street, what future are we offering him?"

Sadly, many of the projections that were made in this project and presented to the then Prime Minister have only become more threatening. Whether it is the air quality, chemical and toxic pollution of our groundwater, dumping of waste in our rivers, thinning of forests and the huge mountains of solid waste being generated not only by our cities but by our rural areas as well, the outlook for 2047 looks grim and frightening.

While we have widespread opportunities, the inertia in our system is pushing us in the direction of business as usual. There is, therefore, a dire need for Indian society to shift gears and move towards a path of sustainable development. That would not only be a fitting tribute to Gujral but a reassurance for our children living a secure existence devoid of the growing risks from human-induced climate change and the catastrophic destruction of our natural resources.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

“ THE PROJECT ESTIMATED AND DOCUMENTED THE DAMAGE THAT INDIAN SOCIETY HAD IMPOSED ON THE COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. IT ALSO PROJECTED WHAT COULD HAPPEN WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL 50 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, THAT IS WHEN INDIA REACHES 100 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE ”

### SOUNDBITE

The last thing he (Dhoni) will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him. He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL.



India coach —Ravi Shastri

I wasn't a household name. I was known by my character's name or the guy who spoke very fast. I was also known as the 'monologue guy.'



Actor —Kartik Aaryan

Citizenship Bill is a part of the RSS's Hindu Rashtra design of expansionism propagated by the fascist Modi Government.



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

It is regrettable that the USCIRF has chosen to be guided only by its prejudices on a matter (Citizenship Amendment Bill) on which it has no *locus standi*.



MEA Spokesperson —Raveesh Kumar

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Task cut out

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Yediyurappa again" (December 10). With the BJP winning 12 of the 15 seats in the Karnataka Assembly bypolls, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has not only ensured stability to its Government but has dealt a heavy blow to the Opposition, particularly the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular), who were hoping to stage a comeback. However, Yediyurappa has his task cut out. He must focus on delivering a corruption-free Government and work towards inclusive development in the State.

Gajendra  
Via email

#### Address the root issue

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "No more tears please" (December 9). Although the common man has been heavily hit by the high prices of onions and everyone has been groaning about the Government's inability to get the bulk back within their reach, it would be wrong to

put the entire blame on the Government.

Much of the crop was destroyed due to unseasonal rains in key onion-growing regions in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan that left the year's kharif crop damaged. But it is also true that the Government failed to take stock of the situation at the right

time. It could have ordered the import of onions right at the time when an increase was reported. Instead, it chose to wait for prices to spiral. It is now that we have ordered the import of onions from Egypt, Afghanistan and Turkey.

The way forward for us should be to find possible solutions to increase the production

of onions and one of the measures could be to increase the area under onion cultivation across the country.

Onions are the staple food for millions of Indians, the poorest of whom often make meals of wheat-rolled roti, green chilli and this vegetable.

Devendra Khurana  
Bhopal

#### CAB: A violation of the Constitution

This refers to the report, "LS clears CAB amid pitched battle" (December 10). It is sad that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is working on an amendment that could worsen the religious divide in the country. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) and the National Register of Citizens both will have serious Constitutional and social implications, eroding the secular fabric of the country. In effect, the amendment to the CAB, when it is adopted by both Houses, will grant citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians while shutting the doors for Muslims.

There is no doubt that the population of Hindus has seen a drastic decline over the past several decades in countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh due to the discriminatory measures adopted against them. It is also true of the North-eastern States, especially Assam, where the influx from across the border has been very high. It goes without saying that in nature and spirit, Indian secularism and its treatment of Islam have been far more liberal than in the neighbouring coun-



tries. That said, one sincerely hopes the Bill, when it is passed, would undergo changes that are not inimical to the basic goals of the framers of the Constitution. Of course, we have the right to frame strict laws in regard to immigrants.

JS Acharya  
Hyderabad

#### Business as usual

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Murder most foul" (December 10). The fire in New Delhi's Sadar Bazar, that claimed the lives of 43 labourers, was an accident waiting to happen. Most industrial activities in the country are not regulated and function in utter violation of labour, safety and environment laws. That such a cavalier set-up was functioning uninterrupted speaks volumes about how lethargic our system has become.

If the proceedings in the Uphar case are anything to go by, one can very well imagine the time the courts will take to decide on this case. Moreover, one does not even know if the punishment will be exemplary. The fund relief announced by the Government for the victims in the Azad Mandi fire does not matter. The owner of the factory and its manager have also been arrested. The real test, however, will be if we can amend safety laws.

Sahil Agrawal  
Kolkata

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## EVs are the next big thing

Improved battery technology and concerns over climate change are set to make electric vehicles the dominant force in the automobile space



PANKAJ M. MUNJAL

The increased use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) is the first major game-changing revolution sweeping the automobile industry ever since the internal combustion engine changed the sector's dynamics. Powered by improved battery technology and made extremely relevant by growing concerns over climate change, EVs are slowly but steadily moving towards becoming the dominant force in the automobile space. In 2018, the global sale of plug-in vehicles reached 2.1 million units, which constituted a 64 per cent increase over the previous year. Of this, 69 per cent were all-electric models while 31 per cent were plug-in hybrids, indicating that the consumer is increasingly preferring pure EVs. Electric bicycles (e-cycles) are another category that is fast catching the public's imagination globally. According to a recent report by a leading market research organisation, the global e-cycle market is expected to touch \$21 billion by 2024, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.5 per cent between 2019 and 2024.

Interestingly, a bulk of this growth in the EV category is coming from China, which accounted for more than 50 per cent of global sales. It is the Scandinavian countries, however, that lead the way when it comes to adoption of EVs. In Norway, a whopping 40 per cent of new car sales in 2018 comprised EVs while in Iceland it stood at 17.5 per cent and in Sweden 7.2 per cent. In India, the Government has already provided a major boost to the EV sector by announcing major investment goals for realising the objective of creating requisite charging infrastructure for them. The last Budget also announced significant income tax breaks for people buying EVs. As the transport sector globally tilts towards them, a great amount of churning is expected to take place in the automobile industry, which is currently dominated by internal combustion engine-powered vehicles.

An increasing shift to alternative energy is transforming different aspects of the automotive industry. With EVs clearly emerging as the future of the industry, automobile sector players are already expected to invest billions of dollars in this emerging technology. With EVs becoming a reality sooner than it was expected, investing in this technology will be key for all major players to stay relevant. Currently, the EV divisions of most automobile manufacturers form a minuscule part of their overall businesses. Most manufacturers have just one or two variants of EVs in place. However, as this is likely to change in the near future, the next 10 years will be very critical for conventional automobile manufacturers. It is not that the automobile technology has not witnessed any transformation in a century. However, the transformation was ushered by continuing development of existing technology. A shift to EVs, however, marks a complete change in automobile technology as well as major disruption in the automobile ecosystem. For example, automotive parts manufacturers are likely to be hit since EVs use fewer parts than other vehicles.

The coming years will witness a huge boost in Research & Development (R&D) in the EV sector as an increasing number of conventional car manufacturers work overtime to improve their EV technology. The battery supply issues, need for fast-charging batteries as well as long distance charging concerns need to be addressed now. Most R&D efforts in the automobile sector are, therefore, expected to focus on improving battery performance and reducing battery costs to make EVs more affordable. The e-cycle space is also likely to witness a greater churning and growth. The bulkier lead-acid batteries have already made way for much lighter nickel-cadmium and lithium-ion batteries that have made newer models much more viable and acceptable to the end consumer. Newer emerging trends in the e-cycle space include luxury folding e-bikes and high-tech bikes with smartphone integration.

With much-improved battery lives, e-cycles offer a highly sustainable and effective solution to the air pollution-cum-traffic congestion woes of countries like India. E-cycles launched in the country are already offering a viable, versatile and eco-friendly alternative to motorised bikes. These e-cycles come with substantial battery life and can easily be pedalled back manually in case of loss of battery. Interestingly, most path-breaking innovation in battery technology is coming from startups and not from established automobile players which also indicates that the latter might have to fight harder for survival.

Another interesting shift might be observed in the global centres of automobile manufacturing. With countries like China and India giving a major policy push to EVs, a lot of automobile manufacturing is likely to shift to these countries over the next 20 years. The next Detroit might as well emerge in one of these countries.

The emergence of EVs in a big way also gives a shot in the arm to the alternative fuel sector in general. An increasing yearning for a carbon-neutral world has prompted greater work in the direction of making a basket of clean fuels workable. An ethanol-powered bike has already been launched in India. The decline of fossil fuels in general and a shift towards a greener economy will, therefore, provide a boost to biofuels as well as solar energy.

(The writer is Chairman & MD of a major motor company)

**WHEN WILL FAROOQ ABDULLAH AND TWO OTHER FORMER CHIEF MINISTERS AND POLITICIANS OF KASHMIR BE RELEASED FROM PRISON? —SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER ADHIR RANJAN CHAUDHARY**

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**SHEIKH ABDULLAH WAS KEPT IN JAIL FOR 11 YEARS BY CONGRESS, WE WON'T FOLLOW THEM. ONCE THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDES, THEY WILL BE RELEASED. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH**

# Take it into account

While standard accounting norms like IFRS are about creating a level global playing field, the freedom to differentiate each economy through reporting is also vital



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The world is witnessing an integration of economies like never before. At the same time, political and economic volatility has also increased manifold and no country is immune to the resultant turmoil. Another consequence of this global economic integration is the rise of multinationals with transnational operations and subsidiaries in numerous countries and access to financial markets worldwide.

More than one-third of all financial transactions occur across borders and that number is expected to grow as the search for diversification and better investment opportunities expands. Different accounting standards mean different models. For example, a company may recognise profits under one set of national accounting norms and losses under another, which could ultimately have an impact on its reported financial performance and position. Without common accounting standards, cross-border activities were complicated in the past that resulted in adding cost, complexity and risk for both companies and investors using those financial statements to make economic decisions. In such an integrated but impulsive world economy, it is important to have a common business language that can help understand and compare businesses. Financial reporting is an important way through which companies communicate with external stakeholders and standardisation of such reporting processes worldwide to bring about uniformity is more valuable today than ever before.

With a view to improve corporate governance and increase free flow of capital across the globe, in 2001, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) developed the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), a set of high-quality common accounting rules established to bring about consistency, transparency, reliability and comparability in the financial statements worldwide. They define the types of transactions with financial impact, their maintenance and reporting. This goal of a single set of high-quality global accounting standards is being supported by several nations, including G20 countries, several professional accounting organisations and investors worldwide.

IFRS norms support the three pillars of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Transparency in financial statements is brought about by improving the comparability and the quality of financial information internationally, thereby improving the decision-making capability of investors and other external stakeholders. As a source of globally-comparable information, IFRS norms are also of vital importance to regulators around the world. By reducing the information asymmetry between the providers and users of capital, they boost accountability. Improving capital allocation by helping investors to identify opportunities and risks across the world, these standards contribute towards better economic efficiency. The usage of IFRS has become quite widespread with approximately 120 nations partially requiring these standards for their domestic listed companies. However, as many as 90 countries have fully conformed with IFRS as promulgated by the IASB and include a statement, acknowledging such conformity in their audit reports. Even those countries that don't apply the standards directly, like China, closely follow the rules that the IASB has established over the decades. According to a 2018 IFRS Foundation report, 27,000 domestically-listed companies on 88 major stock exchanges in the world use the standards. India's convergence with



“ WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INCREASE FREE FLOW OF CAPITAL ACROSS THE GLOBE, IN 2001, THE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD DEVELOPED THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS, A SET OF HIGH-QUALITY COMMON ACCOUNTING RULES ESTABLISHED TO BRING ABOUT CONSISTENCY, TRANSPARENCY, RELIABILITY AND COMPARABILITY IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WORLDWIDE. THEY DEFINE THE TYPES OF TRANSACTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPACT, THEIR MAINTENANCE AND REPORTING ”

IFRS started with its commitment to the momentum of growth in the G-20 summit held in 2009, following which the Ministry of Corporate Affairs formulated an action plan to implement the convergence of Indian Accounting Standards with International Financial Reporting Standards from April 2011.

However, after initial glitches, from 2016, India has implemented a new framework of the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) that are based on and seek to substantially converge with IFRS, although not fully adopt them. Leasing, revenue recognition, foreign currency convertible bonds, current vs non-current liabilities, bargain purchases are among the areas where India has deviated from IFRS.

According to the Ind AS, from April 1, 2016, adoption of these standards has been compulsory for companies with a net worth upward of ₹500 crore, which later expanded to every listed company from accounting period beginning on or after April 1, 2017. Even unlisted companies with a net worth greater than or equal to ₹250 crore but less than ₹500 crore came under its purview. Once any company starts following Ind AS, either voluntarily or on mandate, it cannot revert to its old accounting method. As on date, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified 41 standards. Fair value and accurate reporting are given more importance, while computing financial statements in the new accounting standards and substance are recognised to reflect the most current picture of financials. It has also changed how the key financials such as revenue, net profit, book value, operating profit, goodwill and return on equity are computed. For instance, under the old rules, excise duty was deducted from sales. Conversely, as per the Ind AS, excise duty is now treated as a tax on manufacturing activity. Therefore, it is assumed to be a part of revenue, which thereby, increases the revenue of companies but depresses oper-

ating margin, without, however, affecting Earnings per share (EPS).

Several studies have been conducted worldwide to examine the usefulness of IFRS in realising the three pillars of transparency, accountability and efficiency and to help economic decision-makers and stakeholders alike to make informed decisions. In Germany, the impact of IFRS adoption was studied during 1998 to 2002 by Hung and Subramanyam where they concluded that the value of total assets and equity and variability of net earnings are significantly higher under IFRS compared to the German Accounting Standards. However, changes in financial ratios were not supported by their study.

Agca and Aktas conducted a pre and post-adoption study on impacts on financial ratios of 147 listed firms on the Istanbul stock exchange during 2004-2005 and found out that ratios that were majorly affected were the current and net asset turnover ratios. In contrast to other individual surveys by country, analysts Callao and Jarne, conducted two studies comparing results in Spain and the United Kingdom (UK).

The results revealed that the quantitative impact on financial ratios is significant in both countries and that it is higher in the UK. Blanchette, Racicot and Girard, in their research, examined various financial ratios of liquidity, leverage, coverage and profitability and their impact on the adoption of IFRS in companies operating in Canada and did not find any difference. Although survey results showed differences in means, medians and volatility in most financial ratios of companies but statistical significance could not be established in many cases. When they specifically evaluated their results by groups of companies who adopted IFRS at different dates, no significant variations were found in their results.

Arouri researched the IFRS impacts on return on equity (ROE) and value rel-

evancy over 40 French listed firms in 2004 utilising the longitudinal analysis and found that ROE and net income are increased by decrease in equity value due to the concept of fair valuation. Also, they did not observe any evidence of improvement in transparency and value relevance. In India, Achalpathi and Bhanu Sireesha studied several firms and showed that IFRS adoption has led to an increase in most of the liquidity, profitability and valuation ratios, which were statistically significant and were able to conclude that an opportunity for capital maintenance and protection against failure risk may have been provided to companies due to the transition to IFRS. Although standardisation and harmonisation of financial reporting is important in this globalised world, complete integration may not be possible as there is an increasing focus among different stakeholders on the future. Therefore, in an environment that is highly volatile and ever-changing, it is rather difficult for companies to make accurate predictions. Thus, more flexibility is needed in this area and the possibilities of standardisation become limited. Besides, non-financial aspects, like Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals, have started to play a major role in company reporting, the informative value of which may vary greatly from one industry to another and one country to another. The individual characteristics of each firm and their complex value chains must be taken into account here, as well as the industry, sector and country-specific requirements. Adequate flexibility is vital for coherent, stringent and appropriately-structured reporting. While standard accounting norms are all about creating a level global playing field, adequate freedom to differentiate each economy through our reporting is also vital.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

# Time for collective introspection

Society should strongly support the victims of rape and not blame or shame them. The moral fabric of the country is tearing up and this needs to stop. Boys must be taught to respect women by their parents at an early stage



KALYANI SHANKAR

In William Shakespeare's famous drama *Julius Caesar*, Cassius, a nobleman, speaking with his friend, Brutus confides in the latter that in the best interests of the public, Julius Caesar must be stopped from becoming the monarch of Rome. Cassius tells him, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." How apt is this quotation today! The solution to the increasing number of rapes and atrocities on women lies with us not elsewhere. This was my intro while writing about the Nirbhaya rape case.

Unfortunately, since then, despite public outrage, rape and molestation cases have been on the rise and they have become more violent. The recent Telangana rape-murder case and the burning of the Unnao rape victim and her subsequent death in a hospital, show that nothing has changed. Delhi is now considered the rape capital of the world. Foreign countries like the US and the UK have sent advisories to tourists travelling to India. In these countries too, there are crimes and rapes but by and large, the public is aware that the "big brother" is watching and the perpetrators will be caught sooner or later.

Sadly, this is not the case in India as criminals seem to have no fear of the authorities.

The public outrage following these unfortunate incidents is huge, as it should be. Asha Devi, mother of Nirbhaya, went on record and vented her frustration over the fact that her

daughter's rapists had still not been given capital punishment after all these years. In the meantime, there have been many high-profile rape cases allegedly involving some politicians and gurus.

However, the way some parliamentarians clapped their hands in support of the police encounter of the four alleged rapists in Telangana and the public support for the extrajudicial killings reveals the frustration of the people with the country's criminal justice system which takes years to mete out punishment.

But many apprehend that police encounters often end up thwarting justice and are often misused as a quick-fix by the security establishment under public pressure.

After the Nirbhaya incident, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was amended and is held as one of the most concrete steps taken by the Government to curb violence against

women. After the Telangana and Unnao incidents there has been clamour for even more stringent punishments. The question is, do we need more laws?

In reality, what is needed is stringent implementation of the existing laws by the police, Government, law enforcement agencies and awareness campaigns by women's organisations. The cases drag on for years. In the meanwhile, the perpetrators get emboldened and attack infants, children, girls, women and even grandmothers, to satiate their lust. Many women still do not go to the police to report these incidents for lack of faith in the criminal justice system.

The spate of atrocities against girls/women is indeed a wake up call for the judiciary. The State Governments and the High Courts (HCs) must support the Centre's proposal to set up 1,000 special courts to fast-track nearly 1.67 lakh rape cases,

of which the maximum crimes were those involving hapless children. It is also important to note that the conviction rate is a dismal 32 per cent and the other perpetrators are roaming free.

Poor investigation and shoddy case build-up by agencies result in culprits getting away scot-free. In short, there are failings in the entire criminal justice system. The police are not prompt in dealing with rape cases, the prosecution fails to get the perpetrators convicted and the courts do not have enough judges to take up cases.

The Centre and States need to address the issue of women's safety on a war footing as the public has lost confidence in the system. It is a sad commentary that despite the Supreme Court's observations that judicial reforms were needed urgently, the Government is dragging its feet on it. Archaic laws need to be amended. It is appalling that when a toddler

is raped and is unable to give evidence, the culprits go scot-free because the mother's evidence is considered secondary. How can a two-year-old child give evidence of rape? The onus of proof should not lie with the victim. It is this kind of incongruity within the legal system which needs to be addressed.

Last, but not the least, there is need to change the mindset of the public. Society should strongly support the victims of rape and not blame or shame them. The moral fabric of the country is tearing up slowly and this needs to stop. Boys should be taught to respect women in a country where the *Shakti* (divine feminine creative power) cult is still relevant.

We should introspect in the aftermath of Hyderabad and Unnao incidents and put the fear of God in the minds of perpetrators and provide justice to the victims.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



**FOREIGN EYE**



## BRING YOUTH TO THE FOREFRONT

Sri Lanka, while dealing effectively with any nation trying to interfere in its internal affairs, needs to change its goals on Universal Declaration of Human Rights issues, and as the 2019 theme says bring our creative, enterprising, imaginative youth to the front and centre of key human rights issues, including decision-making and poverty alleviation. (Courtesy: Daily Mirror)

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

Sonowal welcomes passage of Bill

**Guwahati:** Amid widespread protest over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Assam, State Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday welcomed its passage in the Lok Sabha describing it as a "historic moment".

Himanta Biswa Sarma, the convener of the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), the NDA's version in the region, complimented Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying it "shall be inscribed in gold as a day of bold reform to correct a fallacy of many decades".

The Bill was passed by the Lower House of Parliament on Monday night as the ruling BJP enjoys a majority there. It will be introduced in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

"The passage of the Bill in Lok Sabha is a historic moment for us all. It will not only give relief to six persecuted minority communities from three neighbouring countries but will also pave the way for constitutional safeguards to the indigenous people of Assam,"



Sonowal tweeted.

The Bill seeks to give Indian citizenship to members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014, facing religious persecution there.

He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "for fulfilling a long-standing commitment of India and for taking everyone along and ensuring protection for all indigenous people".

Sarma who is also the finance, health and PWD min-

ister of the State, tweeted that the Bill will go down in "history as a glorious historical correction of a blunder committed by the Nehru-Liaquat Pact! Posterity will owe it to PM Sri @narendramodi for this giant step".

The then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his Pakistani counterpart Liaquat Ali Khan signed an agreement, known as the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, in 1950 to protect the minority communities in their respective countries.

Sarma thanked the Union Home Minister for tearing "into the opposition as he made an inspired speech while replying on the CAB in the Lok Sabha". The Chief Minister had also tweeted on Monday that the CAB is not only for Assam but for the entire country and a section is "maligning the image of the state by spreading

misinformation that only Assam will have to again bear the burden of illegal immigrants". Sonowal had urged BJP workers to stay vigilant and check the spread of misinformation, engage in discussions and deliberations with the public to remove any doubts regarding the Bill so that they are not misled.

Protests against the Bill have erupted across Assam, barring the three districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi in Barak Valley where the majority of the people are Hindu Bengalis hailing from Bangladesh and are expected to benefit from the CAB.

The North East Students' Organisation (NESO), backed by various other bodies and political parties, has called an 11-hour bandh from 5 am against the Bill on Tuesday.

Indigenous people of the Northeastern states are scared that the entry of these people will endanger their identity and livelihood. **PTI**

Kerala CM slams CAB

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) passed by Parliament in 'unusual haste' was an 'attack' on the secular and democratic character of the country, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Tuesday.

The Constitution of India guarantees the right to citizenship for all Indians, irrespective of their religion, caste, language, culture, gender or profession and this very right is being made void by the CAB, Vijayan said in a statement here.

The move to decide citizenship on the basis of religion amounts to rejection of the Constitution, he said.

This was an exercise to divide people on communal lines, he said.

"The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with unusual haste and tenacity," he said.

"Muslims, who have immigrated from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan are being excluded. The discrimination on the basis of religion

and preferential granting of rights is a denial of natural justice," Vijayan said.

The bill mentions that people belonging to six religious groups from three neighbouring countries can be granted citizenship.

These two clauses must be withdrawn, the Chief Minister said.

It is not unknown to the Sangh Parivar that India houses refugees from Sri Lanka in addition to the three aforementioned countries, he said.

"The CAB serves the communal policies of the sangh parivar and their devious plans to establish a non-secular state. The articles of the Constitution that relate to citizenship and fundamental rights are being violated here. India belongs to Indians of all kinds. Efforts to undermine this fact will only take our country backward," he said.

"It will destroy our hard-fought freedom and we must not let that happen", he said. **PTI**

Politics behind Govt's decision to introduce it: Pilot

**Jaipur:** Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot on Tuesday alleged that politics is behind the Government's decision to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

He claimed that the bill is an attempt to divert people's attention from issues like unemployment and slow economic growth.

The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, in order to grant Indian nationality to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who come to India after facing religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan even if they don't possess proper documents.

It was passed in the Lok Sabha a little past midnight on Monday after a heated debate that lasted over seven hours. It will now be tabled in the Rajya

Sabha on Wednesday. "There is politics somewhere behind introducing the bill. It is not written in the Constitution that there should be discrimination on the basis of religion. The Congress has opposed the bill in principle and the party's stand is clear that religion should not be the ground for (granting) citizenship," Pilot, who is also the Rajasthan Congress chief, told reporters here.

"Amendments to the Citizenship Act have been made in the past as well but it is the first time that it is being opposed in parts of the country," he said.

The government's decision to introduce the bill was met with protests in northeastern States with most student unions and regional political parties opposing it. **PTI**

It will dilute Art 371F in long run: Bhaichung

PTI ■ GANGTOK

**Footballer-turned-politician Bhaichung Bhutia** on Tuesday expressed disappointment that Sikkim was not excluded from the ambit of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, unlike several other northeastern States.

Bhutia, also working president of Hamro Sikkim Party, expressed his fears that the legislation will dilute special provisions of the Himalayan state that it enjoys under Article 371F of the Constitution.

He also urged the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha-led government to press for implementing Inner Line Permit in the state and quit the NDA in protest against the passage of the Bill.

The legislation, that seeks to grant Indian citizenship to religious minorities of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who are fleeing persecution there, was passed in the Lok Sabha with 311-80

votes. "We are deeply disappointed with the CAB. The Bill has not excluded Sikkim compared to other North-East states like Nagaland, Meghalaya and a few others."

"We wanted Sikkim also be mentioned in writing on the Bill like other North-East states," Bhutia, said in a Facebook post.

He said though Home Minister Amit Shah had mentioned in the House that the legislation will not have any effect on states enjoying special status under Article 371, the legal provision is different from Article 371F.

"This Bill is surely a way of diluting Article 371F in long run," the former Indian football team captain said.

Bhutia said apparent efforts by Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and the state's lone Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba failed in keeping Sikkim out of the CAB's ambit.



Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu along with party workers burn copies of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), during a protest at GPO in Lucknow on Tuesday **PTI**

It is aimed at pushing Hindutva: Guj activists

**Ahmedabad:** Some activists from Gujarat have criticised the passage of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha, saying the proposed law will sharpen a communal divide while its real objective is to take forward the agenda of Hindutva.

The bill seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan facing religious persecution in those countries.

"While the Citizenship Amendment Bill's stated purpose is to offer refuge to persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries, it only applies to a small, very specific group of minorities and countries. It conveniently omits Ahmadis from Pakistan, Rohingyas from Myanmar, and Tamils from Sri Lanka," stated

a letter signed by Dev Desai and 230 other activists cum citizens of NGO ANHAD.

"This bill is not about protecting refugees, but is instead intended simply to advance the agenda of Hindutva. In turn, the law will inflame passions, and sharpen communal divisions all over the country, particularly in Bengal, Assam, and other States of the North East," it said. **PTI**

Same view not always possible: NCP on Sena backing CAB

**Mumbai:** With its Maharashtra alliance partner Shiv Sena backing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, the NCP on Tuesday said the two are different parties and it is not possible always for them to hold the same view on all issues.

NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik, however, said the parties are committed to ensure that no injustice is meted to anyone on the grounds of religion, caste, language and region in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant also said that though the Shiv Sena has backed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha, it was hopeful the Uddhav Thackeray-led party will stick to the common minimum programme (CMP) while governing the state.

The Sharad Pawar-led party earlier said the CAB is "anti-constitutional" and the



BJP-led Union Government is pushing it only for political benefits.

The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress formed Government in Maharashtra last month after the Thackeray-led party severed its ties with the BJP.

In the CMP formulated before government formation, the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress mentioned that issues regarding constitutional provisions and having a bearing on the state and national secular fabric will have to be discussed among them, and only then

decide on its position.

According to the CAB, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

"We are two different parties. We reached an agreement on certain issues when it comes to governance in the state. Two allies from Bihar too have taken a different stance on some issues," Malik said.

He was apparently referring to the ruling JD(U) and BJP in Bihar holding different views on the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir.

The BJP supported it, while the JD(U) was against its scrapping. **PTI**

TRIPLE MURDER CASE — Calcutta HC rejects Mukul Roy bail plea

PTI ■ KOLKATA

**Senior BJP leader from Bengal Mukul Roy** on Tuesday suffered a major blow after the Calcutta High Court rejected his plea for anticipatory bail in a triple-murder case in which his name has figured in a supplementary charge-sheet.

The case refers to the murder of three brothers Dhanu Sheikh, KatunSheikh and Turuk Sheikh — all CPI(M) members — from Luvpur in Birbhum district at the house of former TMC MLA Manirul Islam.

In the original charge-sheet of the 9-year-old case Roy's name had however not figured.

The Court while rejecting the plea said it was doing so on technical grounds as the bail applica-

tion was erroneous. "This means that the bail has not been rejected on merit," sources close to Roy said adding the BJP would consider further steps.

The original case implicates Islam a former Forward Bloc leader who joined the TMC post 2011 when the party came to power and subsequently he joined the BJP early this year.

The CPI(M) alleges that the murders were orchestrated at Islam's house who had called five brothers for a compromise but got three of them hacked to death. The remaining two brothers fled with their lives and later lodged FIRs. But sustained torture of the family forced it to flee the village and take shelter in the neighboring district of Murshidabad.

Tough task ahead for BSY as he works on Cabinet expansion

**Bengaluru:** As Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa prepares for Cabinet expansion after his four month old Government retained a majority in the Karnataka assembly by sweeping the bypolls, developments on Tuesday indicated that he has a tough task ahead.

The ruling BJP on Monday had swept the by-elections, winning 12 of the total of 15 seats. Yediyurappa on Tuesday said he would soon hold discussions with the central leadership on cabinet expansion.

"In another three to four days I will go to Delhi to meet Amit Shah (BJP National President) and Prime Minister (Narendra Modi), when they decide we will do it (Cabinet expansion)," Yediyurappa said here.

"As I had given an assurance that those who had resigned and came out of (Congress and JD(S)) and won the bypolls, making them Ministers is our responsibility, I have accepted it and will execute it hundred per cent," he told reporters.

Eleven of the 13 disqualified legislators, who successfully contested the bypolls on BJP tickets,

are expected to become Ministers soon.

However, Cabinet expansion will not be an easy task as Yediyurappa will have to strike a balance by accommodating the victorious disqualified legislators as he had promised and also make place for old guards, upset at being "neglected" in the first round of the induction exercise.

He also has to give adequate representation to various castes and regions in his cabinet that already has eight Lingayats, including the CM, three Vokkaligas, three from Scheduled Caste, two OBCs, one Scheduled Tribe and a Brahmin.

Region-wise, Bengaluru Urban, with four Ministers and Belagavi and Shivamogga, with two each, have a larger share in the Ministry.

Including the Chief Minister, there are currently 18 ministers in the cabinet, whose sanctioned strength is 34.

With indications about cabinet expansions on the cards, several ministerial aspirants, both old and newly-elected, have met Chief Minister to push their case, party sources said. **PTI**



A police officer distributes pamphlets among the college students during the launch of 'Kavali SOS' (Police SOS) smartphone application by Chennai police on Tuesday **PTI**

Countdown begins for launch of RISAT-2BR1

PTI ■ CHENNAI

**The countdown began on Tuesday for the launch of India's radar imaging earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1** on board PLSV-C48 from its spaceport of Sriharikota, ISRO said.

The workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, on its 50th mission, PSLV-C48, is scheduled to lift off from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, about 130 km from here at 3.25 PM on Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation said.

Wednesday's launch will mark a significant milestone for the space agency as it would be the 50th flight of the PSLV and also the 75th vehicle mission from Sriharikota. The 628 kg satellite, meant for applications in various fields like agriculture, forestry and disaster management support, will carry nine customer satellites, including one each from Israel, Italy, Japan and six from the United States.

ISRO said the countdown for RISAT-2BR1 began at 4.40 PM on Tuesday. The space agency said the satellites are being launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Ltd. The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is five years, ISRO said. RISAT-2BR1 follows the successful launch of RISAT-2B in May 22.



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle 'PSLV-C48' ahead of its launch tomorrow, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. The launch vehicle will be carrying radar imaging earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1 along with nine foreign satellites. **PTI**

Somalia, Yemen beckon Indian fishermen

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI:

**Between the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka over the rights to fish in region marked as International Maritime Boundary Line has the solution to the decades old political problem. The 'unexplored' sea shores of Somalia and Yemen could be the solution India and Sri Lanka are waiting for, according to marine specialists and diplomats.**

Prof A Ramachandran, vice chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) and an internationally respected industrial marine specialist says that the coastlines of Somalia and Yemen remain underutilised.

"Because of the lack of interest among Somalian fishermen to take the initiative to venture out to the exclusive economic zone of this country,

what is happening is that the region is experiencing large scale poaching in the form of unauthorised fishing. Fisheries resources in Somalia remain untapped due to a host of reasons," Prof Ramachandran told *The Pioneer*.

He also pointed out that coastlines of Somalia and Yemen and virgin areas. "Fish is not very much relished in these countries," said Prof Ramachandran.

Since these countries were not very much into fishing, the untapped marine wealth in the form of fish products could be harnessed by entrepreneurs from India. "Our fishermen, especially those from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, are skilled in fishing in these regions. The area offers immense potential for our fishermen," he said.

What makes the Somalian and Yemen coast unique is the presence of large stock of tuna, lobster, sardine, mackerel, cuttle fish and several other species

which enjoy big demand in global market, said the vice-chancellor.

Since both Somalia and Yemen are not fully equipped for deep sea fishing and do not have modern infrastructure for storing and processing the catch, there is a big potential for Indian entrepreneurs as well as fishermen, pointed out Prof Ramachandran and Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, secretary general, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), an inter-governmental organisation engaged in strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 member States and nine dialogue partners.

Dr Nokwe, a medical doctor-turned-career diplomat said there was big scope for a win-win situation for all the stake holders viz India, Yemen, Somalia the entrepreneurs and the fishermen if such a cooperation materialises. "We in

IORA are willing to play a major role in facilitating such a cooperation between these three countries to develop such an international venture. Indian entrepreneurs have the technology while the fishermen are skilled. This would go a long way in the economic development of all stake holders," said Dr Nokwe.

Jaya Palayan, founder, South Indian Fishermen Federation, said the suggestion sounded fine. "But we need to ensure the safety of our fishermen from the marauding pirates of Somalia, who made that country an infamous entity because of hijacking of ships and other marine vessels," said Palayan, a marine engineer turned fisherman activist.

A representative from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), an industry body involved in the Blue Economy also expressed his apprehension over the threats posed by the Somalian pirates.

# Honour killing not rape-murder

Bihar woman, whose charred body was found in Buxar, was victim of honour killing

**Patna:** The recent recovery of a young woman's charred body in Buxar district of Bihar, which had triggered speculation of murder after rape, turned out to be a case of honour killing and the main accused the father of the victim has been arrested, a top police official claimed on Tuesday.



nobody was coming forward with a missing report which could give us a clue," Rathi told PTI over phone. "The Dinara SHO, in the meantime, got the information that a woman hailing from the locality who got married last year had been missing ever since she eloped with her paramour and her family members, moved by shame, had got their son-in-law married to their younger daughter", he added.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Shahabad Range, Rakesh Rathi said that Mahendra Gupta, a retired Army man and resident of Dinara in Bhabhua the headquarter of Kaimur district was arrested Tuesday afternoon, a day after the victim was identified by her mother and brother.

Subsequently, the brother and mother of the woman were picked up for interrogation and shown the sandals and the toe ring worn by the deceased. "They confirmed it

belonged to their elder daughter. They also said that her father had been seething with rage since her elopement, his fury getting worse by taunts of neighbours and he had been vowing that once caught, he will not spare her", the DIG said.

He also said Gupta, who had been hiding since he killed his daughter on the night of December 2, had confessed that the cartridge found close to the body was fired from his weapon and that he had set the body ablaze after pulling the trigger on his child.

The body was found in the fields in a village under Itarhi police station on December 3 and, coming close on the heels of the rape and murder of a young veterinary doctor in Hyderabad, had fueled speculation that it was a case of a similar nature. PTI

# Unnao rape victim's dying declaration strong evidence to nail killers: UP DGP

**Lucknow:** The dying declaration of the 23-year-old Unnao rape victim, who was set ablaze last week by five men, including the two accused of raping her earlier, is a "strong evidence" and will be used to nail her killers, Uttar Pradesh police chief O P Singh said on Tuesday.

The police will go in for the prosecution of the five accused in a fast-track court, the director general of police said a day after the Uttar Pradesh Government took a Cabinet decision to set up 218 new fast-track courts — 144 to try rape cases and 74 for sexual offences against children.

"Dying declaration is a very strong evidence, and certainly, it will be used. Before dying, the girl deposed before a sub-divisional magistrate that these five persons attacked her," DGP

Singh told PTI.

"When she was taken to Delhi and admitted to the hospital, she also had a chat with doctors. We will try to get the statement of the doctor also in this regard. These will be strong evidence to chargesheet these five criminals," he added.

Singh also said the police will soon file the chargesheet in the murder case. "We will be chargesheeting them within a few days. We want to fast-track the entire case," said the police chief. "We are also exploring the possibility of going for the DNA test of the accused," said Singh.

Explaining the rationale behind going in for the DNA test of the accused, the police chief said the victim also had a mobile phone and a purse, which have already been sent for the forensic test to ascertain if those

items came in contact with the accused and carry their fingerprints or traces of their sweat or hair etc from which the DNA sample of the accused could possibly be lifted.

"We would then match the DNA samples of the accused to those found on the victim's items," said Singh. "We also have several strong pieces of circumstantial evidence in the case," said the DGP. In her statement to Sub Divisional Magistrate Dayashankar Pathak, the woman had said she was attacked when she reached Gaura turn near her home on her way to the court to attend hearing in her rape case.

She had specifically named Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam Trivedi and Shubham Trivedi as the persons who set her on fire. PTI

# Pro-Maratha outfit seeks speedy justice in Kopardi rape case

**Pune:** The Maratha Kranti Morcha has demanded speedy justice in the 2016 case of rape and killing of a 15-year-girl in Maharashtra's Kopardi village.

The pro-Maratha outfit sent a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday, seeking his intervention into the matter and their other pending demands.

"A sessions court awarded death sentence to three accused in the Kopardi rape case. The case is now pending before the Bombay High Court. The Government should intervene and ensure speedy justice to the victim," Maratha Kranti Morcha member Rajendra Kondhare told reporters here on Monday.

The victim, a Class IX student belonging to the Maratha community, was found brutally killed after being raped on July 13, 2016 at Kopardi village in Ahmednagar district. According to police, the accused also inflicted injuries all over her body and broke her limbs before throttling her. PTI

# Over 1,500 rape cases in Kerala till Sept this year

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Over 1,500 rape cases have been registered in Kerala so far this year, according to police statistics.

The numbers have been revealed at a time when there is a Nationwide uproar over increasing crimes against women after the recent killing of two young women in Hyderabad and Unnao in Uttar Pradesh respectively.

In Hyderabad, a young veterinarian was gang-raped, killed and set on fire by four men, while in Unnao a rape victim died after being set

ablaze by her attackers.

According to the police's crime records bureau, a total of 10,516 cases of atrocities against women have been reported up to September this year, of which 1,537 were rapes.

Though there is a slight dip in the number of rape cases this year compared to the 2,015 last year (provisional figures), it could go up when the cases in the rest of the months are taken into consideration.

Besides the rape cases, a total of 3,351 molestation, 167 kidnapping and abduction, 309 eve-teasing cases, four dowry



deaths and 2,019 cases of cruelty by husbands and relatives have also been reported in the first nine months this year, it said.

A total of 2,003 and 1,656 rape cases had been reported in Kerala in 2017 and 2016 respectively, it added. Kerala Women's

Commission Chairperson M C Josephine said fast-track courts, speedy trial and women-friendly police stations besides grassroots level awareness drives are the solutions to address the increasing atrocities against women.

However, she said compared to many other northern states, cases are registered in the state fast and it was a positive sign in a way.

"Delayed justice is a cause of worry in the cases of atrocities against women. Justice delayed amounts to justice being denied to the victims,"

Josephine told PTI.

"It prompts people to think and act emotionally. That's what we saw in Telangana recently," she said.

So, fast-track courts should be set up. Trials should be expedited and stringent punishment should be ensured to the culprits, the Women's Commission chairperson said.

Despite stringent laws, women are facing new forms of crimes and atrocities nowadays, she pointed out. "Five women have died in petrol attacks in Kerala in the last six months," she said. PTI

# Capital punishment only way to curb rapes: Cong

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Goa Congress women's wing on Tuesday said capital punishment was the only way to curb crimes like rape in the country.

It supported Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark that India was now known as "rape capital" of the world.

The recent trend of rapes and killings of innocent victims clearly reflects what Gandhi has

stated, Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee president Pratima Coutinho said.

"We should not live in a state of denial. There are cases of minor girls being raped and killed. Women are not feeling safe on streets in several parts of the country. This is the actual situation and not a political statement," she said.

Coutinho said time has come to amend the existing law and ensure that those convict-

ed for raping and killing are "hanged to death in public".

"There is a need to instill fear in the minds of pervers that if they commit such crimes, they would face severe consequences," she said, adding that countries all over the world are adopting a zero-tolerance attitude towards such crimes.

Such crimes can be controlled only by capital punishment, she asserted.

# New year gift: Mumbai to get first AC local on Jan 1

■ RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Suburban railway commuters await a New Year gift, as the Central Railway prepares to operate the first-ever Air-conditioned suburban local on January 1, 2020.

"The first Air-conditioned EMU (Electrical Multiple Unit) local train has arrived in our yard. It will be a New Year gift for our commuters. This AC EMU train has 12 cars fully air-conditioned including driving cabs," a Central Railway spokesperson said here on Tuesday.

"A motor woman will in all likelihood operate the AC local on its maiden run," the spokesperson added.

The AC local has been manufactured by ICF (Integral Coach Factory) Chennai, which has made a new breed of indigenous air-conditioned EMU train set.

The salient features of the new local include: AC system for passengers comprising 2 X



15 ton capacity roof mounted package units (RMPU) for air conditioning in each coach, provision of an EMU rake with secondary air suspension with two air bellows, provided on each bogie, availability of a Passenger Address & Passenger Information system (PAPIS), a GPS based information system for passenger with intercom facility and LED Based Coach

identification system for Alarm chain pulling & Door malfunctioning. Among the safety features for commuters, the local has an electrically-operated automatic door closure system, Emergency Talk Back (ETU) system which is a part of PAPIS and a manual door opening system in each coach that can be accessed.

At the meeting, the chief minister directed the senior State police officers to initiate action against the culprits behind the sexual atrocities on women.

"Sterner action needs to be

# Uddhav directs admin to prepare guidelines for swift usage of Nirbhaya funds

■ RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking serious cognisance of non-utilisation of funds by the previous Government under the Nirbhaya Fund, Maharashtra's new Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday directed the State administration to prepare guidelines for utilising the money allocated to the State under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Speaking at a meeting of senior State police officers at the office of Director General of Police (DGP) here, Uddhav said: "It is a serious matter that the State has not utilised the funds allotted to it under the Nirbhaya Fund during the last few years. We have to look at ways to utilise the funds quickly. For the purpose, there is a need for preparing guidelines to utilise the funds allocated under the Nirbhaya fund."

At the meeting, the chief minister directed the senior State police officers to initiate action against the culprits behind the sexual atrocities on women.

"Sterner action needs to be

taken against the accused perpetrating sexual crimes on women... We will provide whatever facilities needed for making the police force efficient. The police force in its khaki dress should contribute to strengthening the Government. You should work in such a manner that people should respect the police force," Uddhav said, adding that the State Government would look into the issues like housing, health issues and duty hours of the police force.

At the meeting, the chief minister interacted with the Police Commissioners of Pune, Thane, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Nashik and Navi Mumbai and Special Inspectors General of police, through video-conferencing.

Uddhav's remarks about Maharashtra having not utilised any money allocated to it under Nirbhaya fund should be seen in the light of the fact that though the State had been allocated ₹ 128.46 crore Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) of the Nirbhaya

fund during 2017-18, it has not utilised any money under this fund.

Similarly, the Centre allocated ₹ 176.6 crore to Maharashtra during 2015-17 under the Central Victim Compensation fund of the Nirbhaya Fund, but the state has not so far utilised any money, according to a note released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) on July 19, 2019.

While Maharashtra was allocated ₹ 45.84 crore Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC) ₹ 45.84 crore during 2017-18, it was allocated a total of ₹ 144.65 crore for a period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under One Stop Centre Scheme. Similarly, it was allocated ₹ 6.27 crore under Universalisation of Women Helpline during 2015-16. Maharashtra has not utilised any money under any of these heads of the Nirbhaya Fund. Under two other heads -

safety city projects in eight cities and strengthening of forensic science laboratories, Maharashtra was allocated ₹ 874.7 crore and ₹ 268.5 crore during 2018-19 respectively.

However, according to the MWCD note, the Centre has not yet received utilisation certificates from Maharashtra.

The Nirbhaya Fund Framework provides for a non-lapsable corpus fund for safety and security of women to be administered by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of India. Further, it provides for an Empowered

Committee (EC) of officers chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) to appraise and recommend proposals to be funded under this framework.

Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) has been funded under the Framework of Nirbhaya Fund to support States and Union Territories (UTs) for their Victim Compensation Scheme. The CVCF is a one-time grant of top-up funds to the States/UTs subsequent to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Funds were released to States/UTs in 2016-17.

# Shops closed in J&K districts due to shutdown called by separatists

**Srinagar:** Most of the shops were shut in Srinagar on Tuesday due to a shutdown called by the separatists on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, officials said.

Shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut in several areas of the city, they added.

The shutdown was intense in the Downtown (old city) areas, the officials said.

Public transport was less, but private cars and auto-rick-



shaws were plying, unhindered they added.

There were reports of shutdown in certain areas of the other districts of the valley, the officials said. The schools in Kashmir were shut after the Government announced the winter vacations from

Tuesday till February 22, 2020.

The hardline Hurriyat Conference, led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, had reportedly called for the shutdown on Monday and asked people to observe a "black day" on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. PTI

# Dozens detained at panchayat members' rally in Jammu

**Jammu:** Dozens of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) members were detained here on Tuesday after they tried to take out a march in support of their various demands, including clearance of ₹ 1,000 crore liabilities under the Centre's flagship MGNREGS scheme.

The AJKPC, a frontline body of elected panchayat members, went on a week-long hunger strike on December 3 to press for their demands. It ended the hunger strike on Tuesday but tried to take out a rally when its members were

detained by police.

"We are ending the hunger strike as per already chalked out programme today (Tuesday)...We have already conveyed all our genuine demands to the director rural development department who visited us during the hunger strike and are hopeful of resolution of our issues," AJKPC president Anil Sharma told reporters before leading the protest march.

However, he threatened to intensify the agitation if the administration failed to resolve their issues. PTI

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE  
Name of the Work: "Allotment of 05 (Five) nos. of Manual Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet Plots."  
License Fees: Rs. 2,29,08,402/-, Wharfage Fees: Rs. 6,02,276/-, Last date & time of submission of bid: 24.12.2019 upto 15.00 hrs., Date & time of opening (technical bid): 26.12.2019 upto 16.00 hrs.  
Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/procure/app.  
Traffic Manager  
PPT/PR/534/19-20, D.09/12/2019

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  
N.I.T. No.: 10/19-20 dated 06.12.2019 1. Name of work with its location: Repair & maintenance work in NRCH Complex near new OPD Block Gynecology, Pharmacy Block Kitchen area and 2nd entry of Hospital in the S/O SSE/Hor./NDLS under ADENI/Hor./NDLS 2. Approx. Cost of work: 42/2909.63 3. Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: -FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/751 dated 31.08.2016) 85500.00 4. Completion period of Work: 12 Months 5. Cost of tender on cash/bid post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: -FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/751 dated 31.08.2016) 3540 6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 31.12.2019 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 31.12.2019 7. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in 123-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 10 Dated: 06.12.2019 3940/19  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 11.12.2019  
BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., Delhi intends to invite tenders from all bidders in two envelope system for following job:-  
NIT No. Brief Item Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening  
CWC/BR/19-20/SVRS/PG/829 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11 KV/IT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK INCLUDING PACKAGE SUBSTATION, RMU, CABLE AND ACCESSORIES ON SINGLE POINT RESPONSIBILITY BASIS IN CONNECTION WITH PROVIDING 5MVA SUPPLY FROM 66KV JAFFERPUR GRID TO DTC DEPOT MUNDHELA KALAN 5.9 Crores 5,90,000/- 01.01.2020 1530 HRS 01/01/2020 1600 HRS  
CWC/BR/19-20/RS/MS/821 ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF NETWORKING ITEMS (LAN) IN BRPL 98 Lacs 1,96,000/- 01.01.2020 1530 HRS 01.01.2020 1600 HRS  
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-  
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc, please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)  
Ragd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40100DL2001PLCH1527  
Telephone No. : +91 11 3999 7235 | E-mail : brpl.auction@retelencasda.com | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  
NIT No. 93186847B  
Name of work and its location Winter Jacket Functional Specification: Jacket with inner lining with/without hood/cap, Orange Colour Superior Quality as per Specification of winter jacket for track Maintainers attached as Annexure-1  
Approx. Cost of work With Approximately cost is Rs. 10000000/-  
Earnest Money Rs. 200000/- (Note: it should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.)  
Quantity 4000 Nos.  
Date and Time for Submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 11.00 hrs on 30.12.2019, Opening of Tender at 11.00 hrs.  
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in  
Sr. DMM/NS/PL/93186847B/2019 Dated: 09.12.2019 3943/19  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM**  
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SR. NO.	LETTER / MEMO NO. & DATE	NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD / CORP. / AUTH	OLD REFEREN / CE / NIT / TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT. / BOARD / CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	Ch-18/CE/HPPC/SE/C&R/J/LTP-III/301/MW/SOLAR dated 14-11-2019	Haryana Power Purchase Centre	82/CE/HPPC/LTP/100/MW/SOLAR	Date extension	www.uhvvn.org.in www.bharat-electricstenders.com	CE/HPPC, Shakti Bhawan Sector -8 Panchkul, Gurgaon cehpc@gvl.com 0172-2586336

RO NO. 79554N Dt. 10-12-2019

**UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM**  
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD / CORP. / AUTH	OLD REFERENCE / NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD / CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	HS&MS, KARNAL	MEMO NO.4465 DT-25.11.2019/REPAIR & WIDENING OF ROAD UPTO SCHOOL IN SHIBGANPUR (ROAD ID: 4035/CH-ANIL-2019/AT THE J&K OF M.S. KARTI BUILDERS + 1 OTHER WORK)	late date of tender/bid submission will be 23.12.2019 (11:00 AM)	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2220664
2	THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED, ROHTAK	2019-BC-108894_1	Re-Scheduled for dated 19.12.2019 at 4.00 P.M. / Opening upto 20.12.2019 12.00 Noon	https://tenders.hry.nic.in www.hryvn.org.in	01363-276302, 277364 vitranshakti@gmail.com 0172-2583789 poc@hvvn.org.in 0172-2581789 poc@hvvn.org.in
3	HVPNL PANCHKULA	06/CE/168/2019-20 DATED: 20.09.2019	The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 20.12.2019	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in https://www.hvvn.org.in	
4	HVPNL PANCHKULA	NFF NO. 5 /AAR/CE/IT WORKS/2019-20 DATED: 19.11.2019/REV EXTENDED NIT NO.215, NRC-10/351-20 DT.09.12.19	No change in the tender, only date of opening is extended upto 24.12.2019 due to non turning up of minimum bidders i.e. minimum 3 bidders	www.hvvn.org.in	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 79515

# RCEP did not address India's concerns: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RCEP did not "adequately" address India's concerns including over issues of non-tariff barriers to trade and opaqueness in subsidy regime in some countries, which forced it to back out from the trade deal, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Besides, the government is also going to review the free trade agreement between India and ASEAN countries by the previous governments saying that it has created trade imbalances, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said in a statement.

According to the minister, imports from these countries have increased much more than exports from India.

However, Goyal, who was replying to members in the Upper House, also assured them that India's Look East policy would continue.

"The government's priority is also to correct the asymmetry in the existing agreements and maximise its export potential to benefit domestic industry and

farmers to promote Prime Minister's vision of Make in India and doubling farmers' income," said Goyal.

The minister also said that India would continue to engage with other countries as "equal partner and on the principle of reciprocity".

"We are working with our existing FTA partners like South Korea and Japan to address our concerns," said Goyal in his statement on trade agreements with RCEP countries.

He further added: "We have also secured an agreement to initiate a review of ASEAN-India Trade and Goods agreement to make the AFTA more user friendly, simple and trade facilitative."

Over RCEP, the minister said that India continued to focus on its core demands - level playing field, fair trade practices, transparency and market access - during the trade negotiations.

"Since, RCEP in its current form did not adequately address our concerns, joining it would be unfair to our interests," he said. During RCEP negotiations,

the government had highlighted India's position as a relatively low per capita GDP as compared to other RCEP countries and its concerns about the livelihood of farmers and employment generation provided by the industrial sector, particularly by the MSMEs.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega free-trade agreement (FTA) which was negotiated by 16 countries, including India and China. On November 4 in Bangkok, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the call of not joining the RCEP agreement as India's concerns were not addressed in the pact.

Taking a dig on the previous governments, the minister said that the previous FTAs done by them had done damage to trade, hence there was no question of any such further trade agreements.

Asked about the consequences of not joining RCEP, the minister said, "The economy of the country would improve and there would be no unwanted imports."

# ₹ rises 12 paise to 1-month high of 70.92 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rose by 12 paise to close at a more than one-month high of 70.92 against the US dollar on Tuesday amid softening crude oil prices and weakening of the greenback vis-a-vis major global currencies.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee gained ground on the back of stable crude oil prices and a weaker dollar index. However, muted domestic equity markets weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 70.98 against the US dollar.

During the day, the domestic unit fluctuated between a high of 70.85 and a low of 71.04 and finally ended the day at 70.92 against the US dollar, the highest closing level since November 5 when it settled at 70.69.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at 71.04 against the

American currency.

"Rupee continued to extend gains despite fall in domestic equities but primarily on back of weakness in the dollar against its major crosses," said Gaurang Somaia, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd.

Somaia, further said that focus will now be on inflation and industrial production number and weaker-than-expected data could curb the gains for the currency.

"We expect the USDINR (Spot) pair to find support close to 70.80 levels and on the higher side resistance is at 71.40 level," he said.

Forex traders said easing crude oil prices and weakness of the US dollar vis-a-vis other currencies overseas supported the rupee.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.13 per cent to 97.51.

# Chinese inflation hits eight-year high as pork prices double

AFP ■ BEIJING

Consumer prices in China accelerated at their fastest pace for almost eight years in November as the African swine fever epidemic caused pork prices to more than double, data showed Tuesday.

The consumer price index (CPI) — a key gauge of retail inflation — came in at 4.5 per cent for November, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, up from 3.8 per cent in October and the highest rate since January 2012.

Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News had forecast an increase of 4.3 per cent.

The widespread outbreak of swine fever since August 2018 has disrupted the pork supply in China, sending the prices of the staple meat up 110.2 per cent last month.

With China's pig herd down by about 40 per cent, authorities last week launched a plan to restore pork production to pre-swine fever levels by 2021.

# Govt told to prevent misuse of input tax credit under GST as collection slows

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary panel on finance on Tuesday observed that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection has slowed down in recent months and asked the government to prevent misuse of input tax credit.

Two years after its launch, the government has begun the review of GST, including a possible resetting of rates along with the slabs, the Standing Committee on Finance headed by Jayant Sinha said in its report tabled in Parliament.

"In this connection, the committee are constrained to observe that GST collections have somewhat slowed down in recent months as compared to the target. The committee would therefore expect the government to resolve all the troubling issues related to GST at the earliest to achieve the desired revenue buoyancy," the panel said.

GST revenue collection crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark after a gap of three months in

November, with the revenue growing by 6 per cent to ₹1.03 lakh crore in the month. The collection stood at ₹95,380 crore in October.

"The committee would also urge the Department of Revenue to remain vigilant so as to prevent misuse of provisions as input tax credit and enhance monitoring of overall compliance," the committee said.

It further asked the revenue department to have systematic reports and conduct feedback surveys from taxpayers to evaluate whether GST is operating smoothly.

On a large amount of tax refunds and the accruing interests on it, the committee said the processes should be revisited to dispense with the "need for raising realistic demands as also payments of disproportionately large advance tax by assesses".

In 2017-18, the direct tax refunds stood at ₹1.52 lakh crore and ₹17,603 crore as interest, which rose to ₹1.61 lakh crore and ₹20,566 crore respectively in 2018-19.

# FCI raises ₹8K cr on BSE BOND platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) garnered Rs 8,000 crore by way of issuance of bonds on private placement basis on BSE's electronic book mechanism platform.

In total, 247 bids for Rs 20,071.2 crore were received on BSE BOND Platform, which is the second highest bids ever received for yield based bidding, the exchange said in a statement.

B S Mohapatra, Executive Director (Finance) at FCI said the platform's convenience, user-friendly feature and support from BSE team smoothened the entire bidding and fund-raising process. "I am delighted that FCI is

able to raise Rs 8,000 crore successfully using BSE BOND platform...BSE firmly believes that Indian bond market is tapping ample potential for sizeable growth and India is parking its domestic savings in the most judicious manner," BSE CEO and MD Ashishkumar Chauhan said.

The platform was launched on July 1, 2016 to facilitate online bidding for private placement of debt securities. Since then, companies have garnered over ₹9 lakh crore through the exchange mechanism.

The platform, which allows all categories of investors to place bids, helps bring in transparency and efficiency in price discovery for private placement of debt securities.

# Flipkart-owned PhonePe receives ₹585 cr infusion from parent firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Flipkart-owned digital payments company PhonePe has received a fund infusion of about ₹585.66 crore from its parent firm in another round, according to regulatory filings.

PhonePe Pvt Ltd, Singapore, (formerly Flipkart Payments Pvt Ltd) was allotted 13,81,278 shares and the total amount paid was ₹585,66,18,720, according to documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler.

The company declined to comment on the fund infusion.

In July this year, PhonePe had received a fund infusion of about ₹698 crore from its parent firm.

The latest fund infusion is expected to provide PhonePe more muscle to compete in the burgeoning payments segment in India. It competes against the likes of Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and others in this space.



Paytm had recently announced a USD 1 billion (around ₹7,173 crore) fund raise led by the US-based asset management firm T Rowe Price. Existing investors Alibaba, Softbank and Discovery Capital had also participated in the funding

round. Digital payments have seen significant growth in India after the government's demonetisation drive in 2016. Players like PhonePe and Paytm have witnessed strong growth in user base as well as transaction value and volumes.

PhonePe has seen its losses mount to ₹1,904.72 crore in 2018-19 from a loss of ₹791.03 crore for the year ended March 2018.

However, its revenue from operations rose manifold to ₹184.22 crore in 2018-19 as against ₹42.79 crore a year ago.

Previously, PhonePe had stated that it had seen 380 million transactions on its platform in August 2019, as compared to 290 million in the month of June.

There have also been reports that Flipkart is looking at hiving off PhonePe into a separate entity, a move that would help the payments company raise funds independently.

# Yes Bank shares plunge nearly 10% amid capital infusion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Yes Bank on Tuesday fell over 10 per cent amid reports about difficulty being faced by the lender over a USD 2-billion fundraising plan.

The stock dived 10.05 per cent to end at ₹50.55 on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 12.27 per cent to ₹50.55.

On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the company's shares tumbled 10.4 per cent to close at Rs 50.40 apiece. During the day, the stock plummeted 13.68 per cent on the NSE.

In terms of the equity volume, 2.29 crore shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 34.5 crore shares changed hands on the NSE during the day.

According to reports, the bank was likely to reject the offer of the proposed capital infusion.

However, the lender after the market hours said it shall continue to evaluate other potential investors to raise capital up to USD 2 billion.

"The board is willing to favourably consider the offer of USD 500 million of Citix Holdings and Citix Investment Group and the final decision regarding allotment to follow in the next board meeting, subject to requisite regulatory approval(s)," it said in a regulatory filing.

The binding offer of USD 1.2 billion submitted by Erwin Singh Braich / SPGP Holdings continues to be under discussion, it further added.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	AMC of CCTV system installed in IRCA building & P.K. Road Railway Officers Colony, New Delhi for three years.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 18,45,106.56 only.
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 2,380 only.
Earnest Money to be deposited (₹)	₹ 36,900 only.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time 08.01.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the N. Ry. website www.irreps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Enrly Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-Tele-AMC-563 Date: 10.12.2019 3936/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

### Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 45 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Grey Colour Inner Only, has been found dead on 29.11.2019 Near Hari Haran Public School, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 21-A Dated 29.11.2019 has been lodged at PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO DP/724/N/19. PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 23968730, 8750870123

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Ram Kumari, D/o: Rajender Singh, R/o: Gali No.- 10, Sanjay colony, Safiabad Road, Narela, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 20.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 497/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 21.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: Name: Ram Kumari, Age: 16 Years 6 Months, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, ID Mark: Mole on left cheek, Wearing: Blue colour frock and sandal in feet. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO DP/820/ON/19 Police Station, Narela, Delhi Ph: 011-27282350, 27285839

# COAL LINKAGE RATIONALISATION LEADS TO ₹3,770CR SAVINGS PER YEAR BY 58 TPPS: CIL

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Tuesday said about 58 thermal power plants (TPPs) in the country are saving around Rs 3,770 crore per annum in coal transportation cost after the miner had implemented the fuel linkage rationalisation.

A total of 63 million tonne of coal movement is currently involved under the rationalisation policy, CIL sources said. "An estimated Rs 3,770 crore is being saved annually by 58 thermal power plants in the country in coal transportation costs after the implementation of linkage rationalisation policy by Coal India Limited since 2015," the miner said.

The linkage rationalisation refers to transfer of coal supply source of a power plant from a far end mine to the nearer one.

This arrangement benefits the power plants in reduction of coal transportation cost and ensures quicker supplies of the fuel and greater availability of railway rakes, the sources said.

# Vishal Sikka joins Oracle's board of directors

Washington: Former Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka, who recently launched his AI startup Vianai Systems, has been nominated to the board of directors of global technology major Oracle. Sikka, 52, is among the world's leading experts in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning and would be helping Oracle in the business value and adapt to change, the company said in a statement. "Vishal is one the world's leading experts in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning," said Oracle chairman and CEO Larry Ellison, announcing Sikka's addition to the Board of Directors. Before starting Vianai, Sikka was a top executive at SAP and the CEO of Infosys.

# SBI reports loan divergence of ₹11,932 cr for FY19



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday reported about Rs 12,000 crore divergence in their bad loans for the last fiscal.

As per the assessment done by the RBI, the gross NPA of the SBI was 11,932 crore more at ₹1,84,682 as against ₹1,72,750 reported by the bank for 2018-19, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Similarly, the net NPA was 77,827 crore as compared to disclosed figure of ₹65,895 crore, reflecting divergence of ₹11,932 crore, it said.

As a result the bank has to make additional provisioning of ₹12,036 crore in the balance sheet and the notional loss would have been at ₹6,968 crore.

SBI had posted a profit of ₹862 crore for 2018-19 in May this year.

It further said after subsequent slippage or upgradation during the current financial year, the remaining impact on the gross NPAs during the third quarter of current fiscal is ₹3,143 crore.

The impact on provisioning during the third quarter

# Next rate cut depends on how less teary-eyed onion leaves RBI

Mumbai: Days after the Reserve Bank stunned the market with a status quo on the policy rates, an American brokerage has said onion prices hold the key to the next rate cut.

Onion prices, considered politically sensitive, have been spiralling for the last few weeks and have breached the ₹200-mark in some markets. The RBI was widely expected to cut interest rates at last week's policy, which would have made it into a sixth consecutive cut in as many policy reviews in 2019 to boost the sagging growth, that has dipped to a six-year low.

"We advise investors to track onion prices to time the next rate cut by RBI," house economists at Bank of America Securities said in a note on Tuesday.

It said onion prices have now jumped 371 percent year-on-year in December, after a 177 percent increase in November. If the prices retreat to ₹60 a kg in December and to ₹40 in January from the present levels, inflation should peak off at 5.9 percent in December and slip to 5.4 percent in January.

But if onion price moderates to ₹60 a kg in January, when bulk of onion imports arrive, inflation will be at 6.1 percent in January, it said.

The note, however, said its base case is for a rate cut at the next policy review in February, when it expects the headline inflation to peak at 6 percent in December or latest by January.

While holding the rates, governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the central bank was still open to cut the rates but chose to wait and watch for evolving data.

The brokerage said if the RBI is not comfortable with a negative real repo rate, which is the repo rate minus the headline inflation, the next rate cut will be in April.

# China plans to launch its own digital currency: Report

PTI ■ BEIJING

China plans to launch its own digital currency to stay ahead of the global competition with its central bank approving proposals to conduct trials in some cities, official media here reported on Tuesday.

China's central bank - the People's Bank of China (PBC) - has stepped up efforts to roll out its Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP) as it seeks to stay ahead of the competition among central banks around the world and help preserve financial sovereignty, state-run Global Times reported.

The bank is set to conduct trials of the digital currency in cities such as tech hub Shenzhen in the country's southern Guangdong Province, it said.

The initial test, set at the end of this month in Shenzhen, will involve some of the largest banks in the country and telecom carriers, the Times reported, quoting the Caijing Financial Magazine.

The test will be expanded to more areas next year, it said. Similar tests are also expected to be conducted in Suzhou, China's eastern Jiangsu Province, the report noted.

Domestic internet giants Alibaba and Tencent will also participate in the trials, it added. The PBC is accelerating the launch as competition heating up among central banks around the world to leap ahead with digital currency, expected to affect a wide range of sectors ranging from financial to retail and trade, the report said.

On Wednesday, Francois Villeroy de Galhau, governor of France's central bank, announced that the bank will conduct a test of a digital currency and launch a call for proposals before the end of the first quarter of 2020.

# Employability of graduates jumps to 47% in 2019 from 33% in 2014: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In some good news to the millions graduates and also to the education system in the country as a whole, where for many years as much as 70 per cent of the professional degree holders were found to be unemployable, a survey has found that nearly half of the fresh pass-outs are employable now.

The survey, however, does not speak about the jobs scenario given the shape of the economy due to the high capacity underutilization prevalent in across most industry segments for many years now.

According to the India Skills Report by Wheebox, People Strong and CII, there is an overall positive trend in talent supply as over 46 percent of the students surveyed are found to be employable or ready to take-up jobs in 2019 against only 33 percent in 2014.

"There is an improvement in the availability of employable talent at around 47% in 2019 up from 33.9% in 2014," Wheebox founder and chief executive Nirmal Singh said.

The most employable candidates are MBA passouts with 54 percent of the being found employable against 40 percent in two years ago, it said, adding BPharma, polytechnic, BCom and BA graduates have also seen an improvement in their employability which has increased by over 15 percent.

However, there has been a decline in the employability those coming out with B.Tech, other engineering streams, MCA, technical and computer-related courses, says the survey. The survey is based on a study by the talent management specialist Wheebox which has conducted the national employability test survey from July-November 2019 with more than 3 lakh participants from 3,500 educational institutions across the country.

# Gunners end barren run

Arsenal relieved as worst winless streak since 1977 ends at West Ham



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, front right, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the match

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg believes a weight has been lifted off his players' shoulders after a three-goal blitz in nine second-half minutes beat West Ham 3-1 on Monday to end the Gunners' worst winless run in 42 years.

Another miserable night for the Swede seemed in store when the visitors trailed at half-time to Angelo Ogbonna's deflected header.

However, Arsenal suddenly sparked into life after Gabriel

Martinelli scored his first Premier League goal as Nicolas Pepe finally started to deliver on his club record of £72 million fee by curling home a brilliant second, before crossing for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to secure all three points.

"It means so much for the players. They have been living under enormous pressure and you see it in their performances," said Ljungberg.

"You can see the players have been a bit low and you see in the dressing room the relief and how happy they are."

A first win in 10 games in all

competitions lifts Arsenal up to ninth and cuts the gap on fourth-placed Chelsea to seven points in the battle for Champions League qualification next season.

Ljungberg reacted to taking just one point from his opening two games in temporary charge against lowly Norwich and Brighton by making five changes with Martinelli and Pepe among those coming into the side.

Pepe's inability to make an impact has been one of the major reasons for Arsenal's struggles, but the Ivorian looked a new player after

curling home his first Premier League goal from open play 24 minutes from time.

"Nicolas is an amazing football player, but it is not easy to come from the French league into the Premier League and adjust straight away," added Ljungberg.

"It was an amazing goal and he'll get better and better."

**'WEST HAM' DOMINATED FOR 60 MINUTES'**

Not much had improved in Ljungberg's first two games since replacing the sacked Unai Emery

and it was the same tame and lifeless Arsenal for the first hour against a West Ham side that have won just once in their last 11 games.

"I think we dominated the game for 60 minutes and after that in 10 minutes we lose the game," said West Ham manager Manuel Pellegrini, who is under increasing pressure as his side sit just one point above the relegation zone.

Another home defeat means the Hammers have taken just one point from their last five games at the London Stadium and the home side were booed off at full-time.

"You understand the boos because the last five games we played here we didn't win," added Pellegrini. "You cannot concede three goals in every game."

In a first half of precious little good football it was fitting the opener arrived in scrappy fashion as Ogbonna's attempted header came off his shoulder and deflected to Martinelli to wrong-foot Bernd Leno in the Arsenal goal.

But one moment changed the course of the game when Sead Kolasinac burst down the left and crossed low for Martinelli to slot home his eighth goal of the season after impressing in the League Cup and Europa League.

Suddenly the confidence which Emery and Ljungberg bemoaned had drained away from their players in recent times was restored, none more so than in Pepe, who cut inside onto his favoured left foot and curled into the top corner.

Pepe then turned provider for Aubameyang to slide in for his 13th goal of the campaign.

"At half-time, Freddie told us to play with a higher tempo," said Aubameyang.

"We have the quality in the squad, and if we believe in ourselves, we can go forward and win games. We will take this second half as an example for the rest of the season."

# Sindhu ready to defend Tour Finals crown



PV Sindhu in action during match BWF

PTI ■ GUANGZHOU

Enduring a rough patch since claiming the world championship gold, ace Indian shuttler P V Sindhu would be eager to turnaround her fortunes when she begins her title defence at the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals here on Wednesday.

Sindhu registered her career's biggest triumph at the World Championship in Basel, Switzerland in August, but since then the Indian looked awfully out of form.

The Olympic Silver medalist, who had reached the finals of Indonesia Open Super 750 tournament in July, made two first-round exits at Korea Open and Fuzhou China Open and went down in the second round in three events — China Open Super 1000, Denmark Open Super 750 and Hong Kong Open Super 500.

Her only quarterfinal finish was at the USD 750,000 French Open.

Only the top 8 on the BWF

Race to Guangzhou Rankings qualifies for the World Tour Finals and Sindhu ended the year at the 15th spot but still made it to the women's singles field by virtue of being the world champion.

Despite the recent dip in form, all eyes will be on Sindhu as she has the reputation of producing her best in major events. The Indian had taken a break after the Hong Kong Open to be in the best shape for the World Finals, where she has twice reached the summit clash in 2017 and 2018.

This time, Sindhu has been placed in group A alongside Chinese duo of Chen Yu Fei and He Bing Jiao and Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, while Group B consists of the rest four shuttlers — Taiwanese Tai Tzu Ying, Thai duo of Ratchanok Intanon and Busanan Ongbamrunghpan and Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

Sindhu will open her campaign against Akane Yamaguchi, who has claimed two titles at Indonesia and Japan before a hip problem saw her make four straight first round exits. However, the Japanese showed signs of regaining her form with semifinal finishes at French Open, Hong Kong Open and Korea Masters.

The world no 6 Indian has a healthy 10-6 head-to-head record against Yamaguchi but she lost to the Japanese in the last two meetings.

Against Chen Yu Fei too, Sindhu enjoys a 6-3 record but the Chinese has been in ram-paging form this season, having won all six of her finals, including the All England Championships.

Sindhu, however, lost nine times to He Bing Jiao with four of them coming in their last four encounters.

The Chinese won the Korea Open, besides finishing runner-ups at India Open and Badminton Asia Championships.

# India end SAG on top

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

India ended its South Asian Games campaign with a best-ever medal haul of 312, continuing its undisputed domination in the regional multi-sporting event by finishing on top for the 13th time in a row here on Tuesday.

India collected 174 Gold, 93 Silver and 45 Bronze after ten days of competitions in the 13th edition to surpass the 309 (189 Gold, 90 Silver and 30 Bronze) it had won in the previous edition in Guwahati and Shillong in 2016.

But the number of Gold India won this time was 15 less than the 2016 edition. India had sent 487 athletes in this edition.

The 2016 edition, however, had 263 medal events and a total of 789 medals on offer while this edition has 338 medal events and 1014 total medals.

Hosts Nepal stood a distant second with 206 medals (51 Gold, 60 Silver and 95 Bronze) while Sri Lanka was third with 251 medals (40 Gold, 83 Silver and 128 Bronze).

India has topped the medal tally of every South Asian Games since its inception in 1984.

On the concluding day on Tuesday, India added 18 medals (15 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze) with the boxers fetching six Gold and 1 Silver.

Indian cagers also fetched both the men's and women's basketball Gold by defeating Sri Lanka (101-62) and hosts Nepal (127-46) in their respective summit clashes.

In squash, India won a Gold and a Silver in the women's and men's team events respectively. The day belonged to the Indian boxers who brought home a rich haul of 12 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Reigning Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Vikas Krishan (men's 69kg) and 2014 Commonwealth Games Bronze medallist Pinki Rani (women's 51kg) guided India to six more Gold medals.

From among men, Sparsh Kumar (52kg), Narendra (+91kg) were the other boxers who bagged the yellow metal while Sonia Lather (57kg) and Manju Baboriya (64kg) contributed to India's Gold medal tally among women.

All the women boxers in action won a gold. Former World Championships Silver medallist Sonia Lather (57kg) hardly broke a sweat and easily dominated her final bout against Sri Lanka's Krismi Ayoma Dulanj Lankapurayalage 5-0 to finish on the top podium.

# Consecutive WC in India make sense: FIH CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The decision to award hosting rights of the men's hockey World Cup to India for the second consecutive time in 2023 was purely based on merit, world body (FIH) CEO Thierry Weil said on Tuesday.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) CEO Thierry Weil said that the decision of giving it to India instead of Malaysia, completely makes sense, considering the financial viability of the sport in a country like India.

"I am coming from another sport which is football, where whenever we organised a World Cup, we have been extremely criticised to have created white elephants," Weil said in a tele-conference with Indian journalists from Lausanne.

"So, in that sense I am extremely happy that we as a sport have decided to re-use venue like Bhubaneswar for the second time because there was a lot of effort and investment went in to build this venue, which currently to my knowledge is the best venue we have," he said.

India will, thus, become the first country to stage four men's Hockey World Cups after having hosted the showpiece in 1982 (Mumbai), 2010 (New Delhi) and 2018 (Bhubaneswar). The Netherlands had hosted three men's tournaments.



Indian players celebrate after end of India's campaign in Olympic qualifiers HI/Twitter

"The bid was an open one. There were quite a lot of good bidders, including Malaysia. Actually it was decided taking into factor India's commercial relevance and high financial contribution. FIH needs financial revenues. India did an extremely good job of putting everything on table," Weil said.

"Some of the countries that bid didn't have infrastructure and needed huge investments. We made the decisions which make complete sense and completely viable for our sport."

Weil said FIH needs revenue to keep its flagship event, the Pro League lasting for a long time and India's introduction in the second edition of the league will be big plus for the sport.

the best of hockey against two top teams.

"I totally believe and it is the mission of the FIH along with participating nations is to sell this product and make people understand it's not just another friendly game but the result of this game can lead a team to be the best team in a year, next to Olympics."

India will make its debut in the Pro League against the Netherlands at Bhubaneswar in January next year.

The FIH CEO also informed their plans of introducing quite a few changes from the second edition of the Pro League, including abolishing the year-end grand finale and also introducing relegation system in future.

"We have done two things. First of all not just because of the Olympics we changed the number of travels but also for the welfare of the players. We have also decided to not have a grand finale at the end of the season and shorten the league."

"This has been done for two reasons - one is to give the national teams 6 to 8 weeks to prepare for the Olympics. But I myself feel there is no better way to prepare than play at the Pro League 6 months ahead of the Olympics," Weil said.

"We should stick to the league system where at the end of the season the team which has collected most points will win the league," Weil said.

# Baby piles on Delhi's miseries

PTI ■ THUMBA (KERALA)

Skipper Sachin Baby grinded a listless Delhi attack to hit 155 as Kerala gained complete control, first by posting a mammoth 525 for 9 and then removing the two opposition openers here on the second day of their Ranji Trophy group A campaign.

Left-hander Baby, carried on the good work done on the opening day by centurion Robin Uthappa and Ponnambalam Rahul (97), as his 274-ball knock had 13 hits to the fence.

His innings was the primary reason that Kerala went past the 500-run mark as a tired Delhi side lost both its openers - Anuj Rawat cleaned by off-spinner Jalaj Saxena and Kunal Chandel (1) edging one to Mohammed Azharuddeen behind stumps



Puducherry left-arm spinner Sagor P Updesh PTI

Delhi will first look at a score of 376 to avoid follow-on and take it from there. However it looks an uphill task at the moment in the manner the match has panned out so far.

After looking pedestrian on opening day, Delhi bowling seemed to have found its mojo back for a brief period when Vishnu Vinod (5) and Azhar (15) were dismissed in quick succession reducing Kerala to 310 for 5.

Just when it seemed Delhi would do well to restrict the hosts under 375, Baby and Salman Nizar (77 off 144 balls) added 156 runs at a decent pace to gain the momentum.

Delhi's specialist — debutant leg-break bowler Tejas Baroka (3/128 in 30 overs), offie Shivam Sharma (2/112 in 34 overs) and orthodox slow left-arm Vikas Mishra (1/107 in 34 overs) had the ignominy of conceding 100 runs each.

Baby had 13 hits to the fence while Nizar hit nine fours and two sixes. Once Nizar was out, Baby shielded the tail beautifully as another 31 invaluable runs were added with Karaparambil Monish (9) which took the score closer to 500.



Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring against Tottenham AP/File Picture

# Bayern look for home comforts Bundesliga giants will aim to create history as Spurs braced for revenge

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich are already through to the Champions League last 16 as group winners, but interim coach Hansi Flick wants his side to beat Tottenham today to boost their confidence after back-to-back defeats.

"We need a win in front of our fans and we want to show them a good performance. That's why tomorrow is an important step for us," said Flick, who has been put in charge as caretaker coach until January.

If Bayern head Jose Mourinho's Tottenham they will become the first German club to win all six Champions League

group-stage matches.

"We'll try all we can to win at home," said Flick, who ruled out resting any of his stars despite the game being a dead rubber with Spurs guaranteed to finish second in Group B behind Bayern. "We're going in the right direction, but we have to be critical with ourselves."

"We haven't made the most of our chances in the last two games."

Flick confirmed French midfielder Corentin Tolisso will miss the game with injury.

While despite scoring 27 goals in 22 games so far this season, Poland striker Robert Lewandowski has failed to score in his last two matches.

# Mulani shines as Mumbai on verge of taking innings lead

PTI ■ VADODARA

Domestic giants Mumbai are on the cusp of getting a first-innings lead after reducing Baroda to 301/9 despite a valiant unbeaten 100 by their opener Kedar Devdhar.

Resuming on their overnight score of 362/8, Mumbai added 69 runs to their tally, as their innings folded up at 431.

For Mumbai, spinner Shams Mulani shone with both the bat and ball, as his 89 helped them cross the 400-run mark.

Mulani, who was unbeaten on 56, added 33 runs to his score and eventually fell at 89. He hammered 11 fours and two sixes in his 141-ball knock. Mulani played responsibly with the tail-enders Shashank Attarde (22) and Tushar Deshpande (18 not out), and was the last man to be dismissed, as he missed what could have been a terrific 100.

For Baroda, opener Kedar Devdhar (154 not out) staged a lone battle as Mulani (5-99) ran through their batting line up.

Devdhar was the cynosure of eyes at the Reliance Stadium here, as he took the Mumbai attack to cleaners on the second day of the four-day game.

Devdhar has struck 20 fours and a six in his 184-ball stay at the crease so far.

It will be an uphill task for Baroda if they want to go past Mumbai's first innings total.

Devdhar got support only from Vishnu Solanki (48) at the top, as the other opener Aditya Waghmode (2), Deepak Hooda (24), skipper Krunal Pandya (1) and Yusuf Pathan (2) fell cheaply.

Wicket-keeper Viraj Bhosale (27) played his part as he supported Devdhar, but the stumper failed to convert his start.

Baby, who scored his sixth first-class hundred, was the eighth batsman out, bowled by all-rounder Lalit Yadav (2/47 in 21 overs) trying to up the ante.

Once the ninth wicket fell, Baby decided to declare, rightfully denying Delhi's shoddy bowling attack of getting the opposition all-out.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India will have to address the many inadequacies laid bare by a resolute West Indies in the second T20 International when the two teams made up of power-hitters square off in what promises to be an enthralling series-finale here today.

The rubber is locked 1-1 after two-time world champions West Indies turned on the style in the second T20 International in Thiruvananthapuram following a Virat Kohli special in the lung-opener in Hyderabad.

For India, the focus will once again be on young guns like off-spinner Washington Sundar and under-fire wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant.

The spotlight on Pant, especially, has been obsessive and it is expected to be no different when the team takes the field at the Wankhede Stadium.

As for Sundar, it would be interesting to see whether the team management persists with him or gives chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav a game.

Sundar has taken only three wickets in the last five T20s that he has played (two against West Indies and three against Bangladesh) and leaked 144 runs in 23 overs that he bowled.

He also ended up wicket-less in the two T20 Internationals against South Africa.

Sundar's fielding is another aspect about which skipper Virat Kohli would be worried. In the last game, he dropped a sitter of Lendl Simmons, whose 45-ball 67 laid the foundation of the West Indies' eight-wicket triumph.

Kuldeep last played a T20 against New Zealand in Hamilton back in February. He warmed the benches in the first two games.

For Pant also things are only getting tougher. The focus on him has been unrelenting and it won't be easy for him to regain the early form that made him seem like Mahendra Singh Dhoni's heir apparent.

Coming in at No.4, Pant made scores of 33 not out, 18, 6, 27, 19, 4 in the last seven T20s that he featured in.

His last T20 fifty came against West Indies in August, in Providence. With the likes of Sanju Samson wait-

# SERIES DECIDER

## India face Windies in winner takes it all contest at Wankhede



Rohit Sharma, top left, Kuldeep Yadav, right, Ravindra Jadeja, front left, Deepak Chahar, right, warmup during a training session

AP/File Picture

India vs Windies  
Live from 7:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

ing in the wings, Pant will have to come good sooner than later.

But in overall analysis, India's batting has never been a problem. Opener Rohit Sharma, who had a rare-twin failure, would be raring to go before his home crowd.

K L Rahul and skipper Kohli are also among the runs. Shivam Dube, who slammed his maiden T20 fifty, showed he can hit towering sixes and he would want to perform before his home crowd and so Shreyas Iyer.

However, bowling is a slight concern. A profligate pace duo of Deepak Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar leaked runs in the first two matches.

Chahar had a memorable series

against Bangladesh but has not managed to repeat the show this time around. With Mohammed Shami around, Chahar will have to step up.

Also, India's fielding was way below par. The dropped catches and several mis-fields prompted Kohli to say if the performance does not improve, no score would be enough.

The hosts are also good chase-masters but will need to learn how to defend targets.

On the other hand, West Indies will also fancy their chances to clinch the series after the terrific comeback.

Their top-order batsmen, particularly Simmons, are in splendid form. Also the likes of Evin Lewis, Nicholas

Pooran and Shimron Hetmyer are among the runs and they will look to continue the form.

Add to it, the firepower of Brandon King, Jason Holder and skipper Kieron Pollard, the West Indies can look unbeatable on their day.

Even their bowlers, including pacer Sheldon Cottrell, are among the wickets. Along with Cottrell, Kescrick Williams, leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr and Holder, will have to bowl in the right areas to stem the flow of runs.

The West Indies also have fond memories of playing T20s at the Wankhede as in the 2016 ICC World Cup semi-final, they defeated India and went on to win the title.

### SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (c), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shami, Sanju Samson.  
West Indies: Kieron Pollard (captain), Fabian Allen, Brandon King, Denesh Ramdin, Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford, Shimron Hetmyer, Khary Pierre, Lendl Simmons, Jason Holder, Hayden Walsh Jr, Keemo Paul, Kescrick Williams.

## 'WC is long way away, let's focus on present'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian team might be treating every bilateral T20 assignment as an audition for next year's World Cup but vice-captain Rohit Sharma prefers to focus on the present instead of losing sleep over a marquee event, which is still 10 months away.

India will lock horns with two-time world T20 champions in the series-deciding third match here even as the efforts to find the right combination for the marquee event continue.

"See, I don't want to keep saying that we are trying to build a squad for the (T20) World Cup. It is still a long, long way ahead. We just need to focus on winning the series and that will keep us in good state, moving forward," Rohit said on Tuesday ahead of the series-finale.

"If we keep winning games, keep doing the right things on the field, the composition of the team will take care (of itself)," Rohit added.

The stylish batsman then gave his rationale for why he wants to take one series at a time.

"We are playing against a quality team and hereafter Sri Lanka is coming, then we go to New Zealand and thereafter there are a lot of T20s to focus on. If we focus on the present, that will help us more than anything else."

"Right now, we need to see what are the mistakes we are making so that when we come out and play every fresh game, we look like a different side."

Talk about chasing, Rohit agreed that India have been better while batting second compared to defending totals as one found out in the first two games in Hyderabad (won while chasing) and Thiruvananthapuram (lost while defending).

"Yes, of late our chasing has been good compared to posting targets. It was a good target that we posted but again it's a new set of guys."

"There are a lot of inexperienced players along with experienced players but that is what every T20 team now has, bit of inexperience, along with that some elements need to come together to form a very composition (composite) side."

He gave West Indies credit for chasing a target of 171 on a slow track.

"When you talk about setting targets, on that pitch (in 2nd T20 Int), a target of 170 plus (171) looked decent. When we started batting, the wicket was on the slower side, the shot-making was not that easy although the West Indies made it look very easy."



## Pollard's IPL experience will benefit WI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

West Indies coach Phil Simmons on Tuesday said the team would be banking heavily on skipper Kieron Pollard in the series-deciding third T20 International against India as his understanding of the pitch due to IPL exposure will be "invaluable" for the bowlers.

Pollard has played a lot at the Wankhede Stadium as he has been part of the Mumbai Indians IPL squad and Simmons said his experience will help the visiting bowlers.

"(Kieron) Pollard has played a lot at this venue, the others have not played that much. I think the experience which they have got from here is invaluable and especially the captain (Pollard), as he has been here for 10 years," Simmons said in the pre-match press conference here.

"He knows things inside out and that will definitely help our bowlers mainly, there are a few youngsters in this format. It will definitely help," he added.

There have been lot of dropped catches from both the sides and Simmons said there should be no excuses for fielding lapses.

"You will not win games if you drop them. The players will have to tell you if it is the lights or whether it is their execution or their position," he said.

"...I do not like excuses. I think if you drop a catch it is your fault. You can blame the lights but I think we just have to keep working hard so we do not drop any," he added.

Pollard replaced Jason Holder as the captain of the ODI team, while he replaced Carlos Brathwaite to become skipper of the T20 side and Simmons said



Pollard looks on during training

he has been doing well in the twin roles. "I didn't have Jason (Holder) a lot in the ODIs when I was there (as a coach) before. Kieron (Pollard) is proactive with all the

## 'Pollard is a smart thinker'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma has seen a capable leader in Kieron Pollard from close quarters and believes that his longtime Mumbai Indians teammate has been responsible for a transformed West Indies side in white ball format.

Rohit termed the West Indies captain as a "smart thinker of the game".

"I know Pollard really well and he has a great knowledge about the game. I know as a leader what he would be expecting from the team. Under his leadership, it is a different team that we are seeing now, so yes, we have to be at our best when

we play them," said Rohit.

"He (Pollard) is a very smart player, smart thinker and he has been the captain of the team. When it comes to Mumbai (Indians), he has always been part of the leadership group and last year when I wasn't available for one game, he captained MI. So, he has always been part of the leadership group and I know how he thinks."

Rohit agreed that the Caribbean are unpredictable as a side.

"They are very unpredictable as a team, you never know what they can come up with on a given day, like we saw the other day," said Rohit.

players. He lets them know exactly what he wants from them. He's been good in the

sense that they know that he'll give everything for the team," Simmons said.

## Don't mess with Mahi



Ravi Shastri and Mahendra Singh Dhoni in a file picture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India coach Ravi Shastri says none can "mess around with" Mahendra Singh Dhoni if he decides to be in contention for next year's T20

World Cup but the enigmatic former captain would "never impose himself" on the team.

In a soon-to-be-telecast interview on 'India Today' channel, Shastri was asked

about the much-speculated future of Dhoni, who has been on a sabbatical ever since India's semifinal exit from the ODI World Cup in England earlier this year.

"That (Dhoni) guy is a legend. The last thing he will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him."

He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL," Shastri said on the show 'The Inspiration'.

Asked if he isn't ruling out a comeback by the 38-year-old, Shastri answered, "The amount of sport he has played... If he puts himself in contention... If he feels after the IPL that 'I am good enough to play for India,' don't mess around with that."

Dhoni, after maintaining a stoic silence on his future plans for months, had recently stated that, "Don't ask anything till January."

## It's an emotional moment: Azhar on return of Test cricket to Pak



Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dimuth Karunaratne pose with trophy before start of Test series PCB

PTI ■ RAWALPINDI

The return of Test cricket to Pakistani soil is an emotional occasion, captain Azhar Ali said on Tuesday but that will not come in the way of his team's efforts to make amends for a disastrous tour of Australia.

Pakistani players will play Test cricket at home after a gap

of 10 years when they take on Sri Lanka in a two-Test series starting here today.

"All the players are very emotional about this Test series. It is great to be back to our home grounds and I just hope that Test cricket returns regularly to Pakistan now," Azhar told a media conference.

Azhar also conceded that Sri Lanka would be a tough side to beat even in home conditions.

"Sri Lanka has always been a tough team because they play disciplined cricket. We also have to play disciplined cricket in every department. Test cricket demands disciplined cricket. You can't win a test in one session but you can lose a test in one session. So one has

to be disciplined to beat Sri Lanka at home or away," he said. "We have to rely on our bowling attack. Yasir Shah didn't do well in Australia but he has won us many matches and I think he will return to his old self in this series. We have confidence in our attack and we are backing them," he added.

There is a forecast of rain here on the second and third days of the match.

## No more int'l cricket at neutral venues

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan will no longer look for neutral venues to stage home international cricket matches.

"The onus will be on the other teams to tell us why they can't play in Pakistan," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Our default position will remain that Pakistan is safe. We play cricket in Pakistan (and if) you want to play against Pakistan you have to come to Pakistan."

"It's only logical that cricket comes home," Mani said.

us. We know how important this series is.

"We need to turn to reverse our results and get back on the winning track as there is a lot of pride in Pakistan cricket and we need to win back the confidence of the fans," he said.

The under-pressure Pakistan skipper also made it clear that Sri Lanka would be a tough side to beat even in home conditions.

"Sri Lanka has always been a tough team because they play disciplined cricket. We also have to play disciplined cricket in every department. Test cricket demands disciplined cricket. You can't win a test in one session but you can lose a test in one session. So one has

## PCB invite CA for Test series

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board is trying to convince Cricket Australia to send its national team for a Test series in Pakistan in 2022, according to its CEO Wasim Khan.

"Cricket Australia has agreed in principle to play three Tests in Pakistan's home series. Obviously, we are doing everything to ensure Australia agrees to play in Pakistan in 2022 and it is an ongoing process," Khan told reporters.

He added that under the new Future Tours Program, whenever Pakistan and Australia play a bilateral series it will include three Tests.

Australia has not toured Pakistan since 1998, forcing the 1992 World Cup champions to conduct their home series' at neutral venues, including Sri Lanka, England, and UAE.

to be disciplined to beat Sri Lanka at home or away," he said.

"We have to rely on our bowling attack. Yasir Shah didn't do well in Australia but he has won us many matches and I think he will return to his old self in this series. We have confidence in our attack and we are backing them," he added.

There is a forecast of rain here on the second and third days of the match.

The PCB official lamented that whoever from the board had agreed to the existing Future Tours Program schedule has not given enough importance to Test matches.

"It is unfortunate that we are among those countries who play the least number of Test matches in a season. Whereas other leading nations play 8 to 14 Tests in a year we don't even get six to seven," he said.

Khan also confirmed that the PCB has dispatched the proposed itinerary of the ICC Test Championship Tests to the Bangladesh Cricket Board to be played in January.

"We have sent the itinerary and are awaiting a response. After Sri Lanka's arrival to play the two Tests we don't foresee any problems in the Bangladesh board agreeing to send their team in January," he said.

He added that under the new Future Tours Program, whenever Pakistan and Australia play a bilateral series it will include three Tests.

Australia has not toured Pakistan since 1998, forcing the 1992 World Cup champions to conduct their home series' at neutral venues, including Sri Lanka, England, and UAE.

Azhar said one can't say for certain how much time is required to rebuild the team.

"We have never kept patience and we don't give the rebuilding process time. I think these players have a lot of potential and they will soon come out of their comfort zone once they play under different conditions. We have to keep patience instead of calling for changes," he asserted.



Micky Arthur explains some batting techniques to Niroshan Dickwell

## Mickey's presence is big advantage: Karunaratne

PTI ■ RAWALPINDI

Sri Lankan Test skipper Dimuth Karunaratne feels the presence of former Pakistan coach Micky Arthur in their camp will be a "big advantage" when his side take on Azhar Ali's men.

"Mickey is with us and previously he was the coach of the Pakistan team as well so it is a positive thing for us that he knows the Pakistan team very closely and that has given us a lot of confidence for this series," he said on the eve of the match.

However, the skipper said the onus will be on the his players to execute plans properly.

"His presence is a big advantage to us as he knows each and every player very closely. How they think. How they prepare.

But we have to do things right in the middle and implement our plans properly."

"Our bowlers have to bowl in the right areas to every batsman and we have to also apply ourselves in batting and fielding. Pakistan has never been an easy side to beat at home. The good thing is we know their game well having played regularly against them in home or UAE," he said.

He added that playing in Pakistan for the first time serves as a motivation for him to do well in the series.

"I am in Pakistan for the first time and that is also a motivation for me to do well as I have played against them at home and in UAE. But this will be a different experience for me and most of our guys who are playing here for the first time," he said.