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SPOT IN ICC RANKINGS

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13 VIVACITY

Pulwama mastermind eliminated

Major among 4 Army men, J&K cop martyred in gunfight; 3 top JeM ultras killed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Three top Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists, including a suspected mastermind of Pulwama suicide bomb attack on a CRPF convoy, were killed, and four Army personnel, including a Major, and a J&K Head Constable attained martyrdom in a fierce gunfight, which lasted about 18 hours, in Pinglena area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday.

One of the top Jaish-e-Mohammad Commander Abdul Rashid Ghazi, alias Kamran, an Afghan war veteran, who infiltrated into Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in 2018, is believed to have been neutralised in the operation, police sources said.

Ghazi is believed to be one of the masterminds of the February 14 suicide attack on the CRPF convoy in Pulwama and had trained the suicide bomber.

Ghazi, a key aide of Jaish-e-Mohammad's Pakistan-based chief Masood Azhar, was responsible for recruiting, radicalising and training terrorists in the Kashmir Valley.

The second terrorist killed in the encounter has been identified as Hilal Ahmed, a local Kashmiri bomb specialist.

At least nine security personnel, including a Brigade Commander, a Lieutenant Colonel, and a Deputy Inspector General of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, were injured in the gun battle which erupted shortly after midnight, about 12 km from where a suicide bomber belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammed drove his explosives laden vehicle into a CRPF bus last week, killing 40 jawans.

One civilian, believed to be the house owner, where these terrorists had taken shelter, was also killed in the day-long operations.

Sporadic incidents of stone pelting were also reported from



Flames rise from the house where the mastermind of Feb 14 Lethpora suicide car bomb attack, along with three other terrorists, were said to be hiding, during an encounter with the security forces in Pinglena area of Pulwama district in south Kashmir on Monday

the area at different intervals.

The martyred army personnel have been identified as Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal, Hawaldar Sheo Ram, Sepoy Hari Singh and Sepoy Ajay Kumar. Major Dhoundiyal, who hailed from Dehradun, had married only last year in April 2018.

Havaldar Ram (36) had joined the Army in 2000 and hailed from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He is survived by his wife and a son.

Sepoy Singh (26) belonged to Rewari in Haryana. He joined the Army in 2011 and is survived by his wife and son.

Sepoy Kumar hailed from village Bastikri in Meerut, UP. The 27-year-old had joined the Army in 2012 and is survived by his wife and a son.

Their mortal remains were flown for the last rites to their native places, where they would be laid to rest with full military honours.

SALIENT POINTS

- The slain Abdul Rashid Ghazi alias Kamran, an Afghan war veteran, is believed to be one of the masterminds of the February 14 attack on CRPF convoy
- He was responsible for recruiting, radicalising and training terrorists in the Kashmir Valley
- The second terrorist killed in the encounter has been identified as Hilal Ahmed, a local Kashmiri bomb specialist
- A Brigade Commander Lieutenant Colonel and a Deputy Inspector General of the J&K Police were hurt in the encounter with the terrorists
- One civilian, believed to be the house owner, where these terrorists had taken shelter, was also killed in the day-long operations
- Sporadic incidents of stone pelting were reported



BJP president Amit Shah flanked by Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis during the announcement of an alliance between the Shiv Sena and the BJP for the Lok Sabha and the Assembly polls, in Mumbai on Monday

For 'ideology' sake, BJP, Sena ink poll pact

BJP to fight on 25 LS seats, Sena on 23; in Assembly election 50:50

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After months of posturing and covert hard bargaining, the ruling BJP and Shiv Sena on Monday night came to a formal undertaking between them on forging an alliance to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls in Maharashtra, after taking into account their "common ideology" and "nationalistic outlook".

Little over a year after it had announced that it would contest both the Lok Sabha and Assembly on its own strength, the Shiv Sena came around to strike a seat-sharing deal with the BJP for both the Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls, in line with its insistence that the seat-sharing for both the polls be linked so that there is no misunderstanding between them in the run-up to the Assembly polls and that the issues raised by it are addressed.

Under the seat-sharing formula arrived at between the two saffron alliance partners, the BJP will contest 25 Lok Sabha seats, while the Shiv Sena will field candidates for the remaining 23 LS seats. In the State Assembly polls, the two parties will — after sparing some seats to other alliance constituents — contest equal number of seats.

At a joint news conference addressing by the leaders of both the parties, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis made a formal announcement about the BJP-Sena seat-sharing pact for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, in the presence of BJP's national president Amit Shah and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray.

"We have been together for over 25 years because of our shared ideologies and spirit of nationalism... In 2014 Assembly polls, owing to certain reasons we had split, but later since the past nearly five years we have been in the ruling alliance in Maharashtra and at the centre," Expressing his happiness over the renewed alliance between the BJP and Sena, Fadnis said.

India exposes Pak's Jadhav trial lies

Harish Salve urges ICJ to annul Jadhav's death sentence as Pak Military court fails to satisfy even minimum standards of due process

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

India on Monday tore through the "opaque proceedings" of Pakistani military courts which try civilians against the international norms, saying the judges, who tried Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, are not required to have judicial or legal training or even a law degree.

India's plea at the International Court of Justice came as the top UN court began a four-day public hearing in the case of Jadhav, 48, who was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on

charges of espionage.

Ex-solicitor general Harish Salve, who represented India, said that a foreign detainee has the right to life, the right to a fair trial and an impartial judiciary.

"However, Pakistan has sentenced 161 civilians to death in their military courts in opaque proceedings in the last two years," Salve said.

International standards require that military courts like all courts must be independent, impartial and competent, and must respect minimum guarantees of fairness, he said.

"Pakistani military courts are not independent and the proceedings before them fall far short of national and international fair trial standards.

"Judges of military courts

are military officers who are part of the executive branch of the government and do not enjoy independence from the military hierarchy," Salve said.

Continued on Page 4



Pakistan's Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan, right, greets Deepak Mittal, the Joint Secretary of India's Foreign Ministry, as he presents oral arguments at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, on Monday

Leopard near city airport triggers panic



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Visuals of the animal entering the compound of a house at Palaspalli were captured in CCTV cameras. The leopard entered the premises of the house after scaling the boundary wall of the airport, said a resident, Bankanidhi Senapati.

"I was talking over phone when the leopard entered our campus at around 11 pm yesterday. I panicked as the wild animal was just a few meters away from where I was standing," said Senapati.

Senapati further stated that it was only after the animal went out he raised an alarm and informed others about the presence of the leopard. "When I narrated the entire incident, others did not believe me. It was only after they saw the CCTV footage, they believed me," he added.

City DFO Ashok Mishra said, "Sighting of leopard in Bhubaneswar is quite unusual. It could have strayed from the Chandaka forest and we are sending a team to the spot."

Latest reports said a 25-member Forest Department team rushed to the spot and launched a search operation in Palaspalli and Bhimatangi trying to trace the animal and capture it.

PULWAMA ATTACK Traders' bandh gets overwhelming response



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Federation of All Odisha Traders' Association's (FAOTA) bandh on Monday protesting the attack on CRPF jawans in Pulwama of Jammu and Kashmir received overwhelming response throughout the State.

Notably, the FAOTA extended its support to the nine-hour countrywide trade bandh called by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) from 7 am to 4 pm as a mark of respect to the 49 martyred CRPF jawans.

Shops and other business establishments in major cities and towns like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Brahmapur, Balangir and other places remained closed due to the bandh.

Petrol pumps and medicine shops were excluded from the ambit of the bandh. However, many petrol pumps also remained closed during the bandh period

In rural areas too, the bandh was successful as traders voluntarily supported the bandh and downed the shutters of their establishments.

However, petrol pumps and medicine shops were excluded from the ambit of the bandh. However, many petrol pumps also remained closed during the bandh period.

FAOTA general secretary Sudhakar Panda said, "We

stand with the Government for unity and security of the nation and the security forces. We had given a bandh call, to which the members responded voluntarily and made it a big success.

The Cuttack Chamber of Commerce has decided to provide an assistance of Rs 50,000 each to the families of two martyred jawans of Odisha Manoj Behera and Prasanna Sahoo.

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'Sambalpuri' and 'Happiness' studies GMU to introduce two new courses in next session

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR
The Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) here would introduce two new courses, 'Sambalpuri' studies and 'Happiness' studies, from the next academic session. The decision was taken in its Syndicate meeting.
Happiness studies would be the first of its kind in Odisha. As there are no specialists for such a course, the task would be entrusted to experts of other States, university sources said. After framing of a syllabus, it would be placed before the Academic Council. After the process is completed before May, it would be placed before the Syndicate in early June. With the Syndicate's approval, the course would start from June, the beginning

Happiness studies would be the first of its kind in Odisha

of the academic session. The Happiness course would help people lead a happy life which is slowly at stake due to several daily stresses and strains.
As for the Sambalpuri studies, the course would include Sambalpuri language, literature, history, culture, rural life, handloom and handicrafts, GMU Deputy Registrar Prof Uma Charan Pati said. It would be a career and job-oriented course which would enable the students to get several opportunities, besides helping the one of the oldest languages, Sambalpuri, get recognition in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, he added.

Sambalpur Govt offices to reopen from today

But courts to remain closed as lawyers to continue stir

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Government offices in Sambalpur which were closed during the agitation by lawyers of the District Bar Association since September 5 last year would open from Tuesday. A decision in this regard was taken at the general council meeting of the bar association on Monday.
"People of Sambalpur have wholeheartedly extended their support to the agitation and closure of Government offices and courts. They recently urged us to lessen the intensity of the strike, for which we have decided to allow functioning of all Government offices in Sambalpur from tomorrow," a member of the association said. However, the bar associa-



Lawyers in Sambalpur have launched their cease-work agitation on September 5 demanding establishment of a High Court bench in western Odisha

tion decided that the courts in the district would continue to remain closed.
Notably, lawyers in Sambalpur have launched their cease-work agitation on

September 5 demanding establishment of a High Court bench in western Odisha. Later, they have resorted to a relay hunger strike which has been continuing for the last 92 days.

Paddy procurement to continue after Feb 28

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The paddy procurement process at mandis across the State would continue even after February 28, which was earlier scheduled as the last date for the purpose. In a letter, the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department has asked the Collectors of 19 districts, including Bhadrak, Cuttack, Ganjam, Gajapati, Baleswar, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Khordha to open the mandis as long as farmers want to sell their produces.
The department further instructed the Primary



Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACSs) to provide tokens to the farmers for paddy procurement. The Collectors have been directed to visit mandis and take action in case of any irregularities found during the paddy procurement.
The department has also warned that action would be taken against millers if they purchase paddy directly from farmers instead of the mandis.

BJP supports NKS bandh on Feb 21

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would extend moral support to the Odisha Bandh call given by the Navnirman Krushak Sangathan (NKS) on February 21.
This was announced by BJP State president Basant Panda on Monday. In a reference to the police foiling the NKS' recent move to hold a rally in the State capital, Panda said that in a democracy, everyone has a fundamental right to present his or her views and protest in a democratic manner.
The farmers' body has

called for a 12-hour State-wide bandh to protest against the alleged gross apathy of the State Government towards the farming community.
Making an announcement about the bandh call, NKS national convener Akshay Kumar said the State Government has deprived the farmers of their right to speech and freedom.

"We have requested political parties, think-tanks, traders' associations and bus and truck owners' associations to support our cause and make the bandh successful," Kumar added.

Making an announcement about the bandh call, NKS national convener Akshay Kumar said the State Government has deprived the farmers of their right to speech and freedom

'Let sports be mandatory subject in varsity'

AIU meet concludes

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 93rd annual meeting of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), which extensively deliberated on autonomy for excellence in higher education, concluded at the SOA University with the panelists emphasising on building a diverse and healthy academic ecosystem.
The speakers stressed that instead of striving for equality, institutions should look at a more diverse and healthy ecosystem where they would have the freedom to define their own excellence.
On the second day of the conference hosted by the SOA,

two technical sessions were also held to discuss 'Promotion of Sports and Sports Culture in Higher Education' and the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution: Challenges for and response of Higher Education'.
Intervening in the deliberation on promotion of sports and sports culture in higher education, the AIU president Prof Sandeep Sancheti said academic institutions in India had not looked at sports in a fulsome fashion.

Prof Sancheti said cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, who attended a recent zonal meeting of AIU, had pointed out that India was a 'sport loving nation, not a sport playing one' while emphasizing that there was a need to introduce sports as a mandatory subject in the curriculum.

Nalco-LV Prasad Eye Hospital opened in Angul

All sections of people to benefit, says Pradhan

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated a state-of-the-art eye care facility, "Nalco-LV Prasad Eye Hospital", at Kulda in Angul district on Monday.
"The 30-bed eye hospital, which has come up at Rs 25 crore will provide treatment to all sections of people. Now, facilities are available for conducting 100 operations a day," said Pradhan.
He expressed happiness that the hospital was completed in time in just three years since Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had laid founda-



tion stone in 2016. The hospital has come up on a 4-acre land with 35,000 sqft, built up area.
The hospital would provide free eye care services to residents of periphery villages of S and P Complex and Utkal D and E Coal block, having identification cards. The treatment will also be free for BPL category families, residing in and around Angul district. A team of eye care specialists will provide comprehensive eye care for uncorrected

refractive error, cataract surgeries, medical care of glaucoma and retinal diseases, diabetic retinopathy and ocular surface disorders, among other diseases, informed an official release.
Former Rajya Sabha Member Rudra Narayan Pani and Nalco CMD Dr Tapan Kumar Chand were present at the inauguration ceremony.
On this occasion, Pradhan distributed aids and assistive devices to senior citizens under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojna.

ECoR gives addl stoppages to 4 trains

Ispat Express to halt at Badmal, Tapaswini at Kalunga on experimental basis

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The East Coast Railway has provided additional stoppage for Howrah-Titilagarh-Howrah Ispat Express at Badmal, Puri-Durg-Puri Express at Muribahal, Puri-Hatia-Puri Tapaswini Express at Kalunga and Rourkela-Koraput-Rourkela Express at Barpali and Rajgangpur on an experimental basis for a period of six months.
The Ispat Express from Howrah will arrive at Badmal at 7.35 pm and leave at 7.36. And in the return directions, it would arrive at Badmal at 5.35 am and leave at 5.36 am.
The Puri-Durg-Puri Express from Puri will arrive at Muribahal at 6.39 am and leave at 6.40 am. In the return directions, it would arrive at Muribahal at 8.34 pm and leave at 8.35 on towards Puri.
The Tapaswini Express from Puri will arrive at Kalunga at 7.11 am and leave at 7.12 am. In the return directions, it will arrive at Kalunga at 7.32 pm and leave at 7.33 pm towards Puri.
The Rourkela-Koraput-Rourkela Express from Rourkela will arrive at Rajgangpur at 6.35 pm and Barpali at 9.45 pm and depart each station after a one-minute stay. In the return directions, the train will arrive at Barpali at 1.54 am and depart each station after a one-minute stay towards Rourkela.
Timings and stoppages for the above trains at other places would remain unchanged, informed an official release.

Youth hacked to death over old enmity in Khordha

Alleged assailant's house set on fire

PNS ■ KHORDHA

Tension prevailed at Deuli village under the Begunia police station in the district after a youth was hacked to death in broad daylight on Monday morning by local miscreants over suspected old enmity.
The deceased was identified as Chinmaya Sahu. Reports said that Chinmaya was attacked on the village road when he was going to the local market by his motorcycle. Sources said the assailants hacked Chinmaya with sharp weapons and he died on the spot. Soon after the incident, irate locals set the house of a



local resident on fire alleging his involvement in the brutal killing.
"My son had left home at around 11 am; and later, one of my relatives informed that he had died in an attack," said Chinmaya's mother.
Another relative said that Chinmaya had some enmity with Niranjana Sahu and Narotam Sahu. "We suspect the involvement of both the siblings in the murder and we want them to be arrested soon," said Brundaban.

On getting information, the Begunia PS IIC along with other staffs rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the incident.
"We have sent the body for postmortem; and preliminary investigation reveals that the youth was murdered over some past rivalry. However, we have started an investigation and are collecting information from the eyewitnesses. The accused involved in the crime, who are now absconding, would be nabbed soon," said the IIC.
Police forces were deployed in the village to prevent the situation from worsening further.

Bandh: Puri wears deserted look

Rallies held

PNS ■ PURI

In the wake of 'Bharat Bandh' called by various business and trade organisations to pay tributes to the 43 brave hearts of CRPF killed in Puluwama terror strike, the pilgrim city observed a dawn to dusk 'shutter off' on Tuesday. Shops and business establishments in Puri remained shut, with people's movement in the city was almost thin.
Hundreds of youngsters with tri-colour flags in hand made a bike rally from the Gundicha temple to the sea beach in protest against the terror strike on CRPF jawans.
Raising 'Vande Mataram' and anti-Pak slogans, they visited the entire street to show off solidarity to the martyrs.
Besides, cycles and two-wheelers, buses and taxis were off road completely in both the Puri-Bhubaneswar and Puri-Satapada national highways. Tourist professionals in Puri and Satapada also observed cease works for the day. All the Government offices, schools and colleges in the city were locked with lawyers of Puri Bar Association refraining from court works.
The Badadanda (holy Grand Road) witnessed a nearly deserted look with movement of few people on the road. The entry of pilgrims into the Jagannath Temple was very thin compared to a normal day that was due to stop of bus services to the city. However, railway services were normal on Puri-Khurda line with all trains scheduled for the day having entered the platform and departed as usual.

Viral video of 'drunken' SCS girls

Old students' body seeks stern action

PNS ■ PURI

Following a viral video on social networking sites showing girl students of the SCS College dancing with wine bottles on Saraswati Puja, the Students' Union of the college of 2017-18 on Monday demanded stern action after a vivid probe in the matter.
In a Press meet, the union denounced the dances of girl students in inebriated condition on a sacred occasion of Saraswati Puja. Terming the incident as most horrific in a most revered campus of the State, the students' body blamed both the college authority and district administration for silence towards an offensive trend in the campus.
"It is most shocking to

Old students' body seeks stern action

look at many girls dancing with wine bottle in hands in the premises of the SCS College on the Saraswati Puja. It has surely lowered the fame and dignity of the famous campus of Odisha," said president of the union Rabi Narayan Nayak.
Nayak also said that they have given complaints to the Principal earlier in the incident but so far no action from the college side has been initiated. He suspected participation of outside students in the incident.
Notably, some girl students of SCS Autonomous College observed the Saraswati Puja dancing and singing with beer bottles in hand. Some students captured the visuals by mobile phone and uploaded the same on social networking sites.

BEd Siksha Sahayaks' stir enters 23rd day

Teachers threaten to boycott elections

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Members of the BEd Siksha Sahayak Sangha continued sitting on a dharna for 23rd day on Monday demanding hike in salary and regularisation of jobs.
On Saturday, the members held a condolence meeting and a candidly rally at dharna site and paid tributes to the CRPF Jawans, who were killed in terrorists' attack in Jama and Kashmir.
Association president Saroj Kumar Panda, secretary



Debendra Nayak and Rupesh Sahoo severely criticised the State Government for not calling in them to the Ministerial-level meeting held on Saturday to hold discussion on their demands.
"Though we had submitted a memorandum to Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera a few days back, it is disappointing that we were not called to the Ministerial meeting held on

Saturday," lamented Panda.
Panda threatened that BEd Siksha Sahayaks and all their family members would boycott the upcoming elections if the Chief Minister doesn't intervene and ensure fulfillment of their demands.
Sangha convener Lalatendu Malal, Duryodhan Das, Sumitra Maharana, Hemasagar Panigrahi, Narayan Paanda, Akshay Prusti, Alok Mohanty, Sanjay Kumar Samal, Bibhas Muduli, Baikuntha Pradhan, Padmalochan Ghadei, Pradeep Kumar Behera and Himanshu Swain were present.

K'put traders back all India bandh

Markets, schools, colleges closed; rallies held

PNS ■ KORAPUT

In a bid to express solidarity with the families of Central Reserve Police Force Jawans martyred in the Pulwama terror attack on February 14, the Jeypore Chamber of Commerce and Industry supported the Confederation of All India Traders' all-India bandh call on Monday.
The commercial markets, besides schools and colleges,



were closed and no business activity took place in the whole of Koraput. The traders were seen voluntarily closing down the shops in support of the bandh and paying tributes to the martyrs.
In the wake of China supporting Pakistan, the Chamber has decided to launch a district level campaign to boycott Chinese goods. The traders

also decided to collect funds for financial assistance to the bereaved soldiers' families. Candle light and bike rallies were carried out by school and college students.

C'garh ultras sneak into Odisha for recruits

Odisha told to seal border with neighbouring States

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With Maoists failing to lure tribal youths to turn as their cadre, a serious move is on to infiltrate Odisha with young cadres from Chhattisgarh. Young cadres from Chhattisgarh are being infiltrated inside the State and they are trying to influence innocent people and whenever any opposition is surfacing, these civilians are killed dubbing them as "police informer", admit officials. Though the Left Wing Extremists (LWE)s are trying hard to enrol young boys and girls from tribal zone, they are not inclined to join cadre, thanks to extensive anti-Maoist operations and awareness on their nefarious activities, which is hitting the citizens. As the Maoists are killing civilians, and the youths in villages are angry and reacting sharply against their merciless killing by the Chhattisgarh

cadres, pointed out a senior officer engaged in anti-Maoist operations.

And with large numbers of cadres from Odisha surrendering to the State police, youths are not joining the ultras, said he.

So the LWE leadership is forced to induct young boys and girls from Chhattisgarh and infiltrating them to neighbouring States like Odisha and Jharkhand.

Under this backdrop, the Union Government has advised the State Government to take up joint operations against the Maoists.

While the joint operations by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh police yielded positive results, similar joint operations are expected by Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh security forces, an official said.

In fact, joint operations by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha police have demoralized the Maoists and now Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border has turned out to be a peaceful zone as ultras are not finding place to set up their feet in these areas. So Andhra-Odisha border zone of Maoists has weakened and there is much less movement in these areas by the ultras.

And with the Gurupriya bridge is open for public, it has enhanced the mobility in the area and the cut-off area is no more disconnected from main land, leading better connectivity.

Looking at the better connectivity, DGP RP Sharma has chalked out separate strategy for these areas and joint operations with Andhra Pradesh Police are being taken up.

Earlier, operations by Special Operation Groups (SOG)s of Odisha police and Grey Hounds of Andhra Pradesh police have paid better results and result was evident.

Similar joint operations are expected in borders of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, said a senior official.

While the State Government is improving its manpower and capabilities in SOG and District Voluntary Force (DVF), deployment of more Central Armed Security Forces is need of the hour, said the officer.

Recently, Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has advised the State Government to seal the border zones adjacent to Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

MP unveils U'kote projects worth ₹ 43L

PNS ■ UMARKOTE

Nabarangpur MP Balabhadra Majhi inaugurated different developmental projects worth ₹43 lakh which were undertaken from MPLAD funds here at Umarkote on Saturday.

Official sources said the projects include compound wall of different schools, PHC building, development of burial ground, construction of class room in Pendraani Mahavidyala and a communi-

ty center at Bar Association Umarkote.

Speaking on the occasion, Majhi said that the BJD Government is committed to do all round development of the area under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Among others, Umarkote MLA Subash Gond, Bar Association president Prasant Kumar Sahu, senior advocate Jaydeb Parida, BJD leader KaluPanda, town BJD president Santhosh Paricha and Ajeet Pradhan were present.



New SMC, SDA building to be ready in December

A replica of the famous Hirakud Dam

SUBHAS PANIGRAHI ■ SAMBALPUR

The construction of a modern building of the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) and the Sambalpur Development Authority (SDA) will be completed on December 31.

The building will be a replica of the famous Hirakud Dam. Kolkata's Architect Consultant Company has designed the building plan. Sambalpur-born Priyadarshini Panigrahi, working as general manager of a multinational company in Dubai, had made the initial design concept on the Hirakud Dam. He presented the idea and sketch to the then district Collector Balwant Singh when there was a discussion on construction of a new building.

"Why should our building look like the famous Hirakud Dam when we have included Burla and Hirakud towns situated near the dam in the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation? It will attract tourists," Panigrahi pleaded. Singh approved the idea and suggested the company to visit the dam and prepare the



design. The company made the design and handed it over to the district administration for consideration. On specific occasions, water will flow from the top of the building as in the Hirakud Dam with a beautiful lighting system enhancing the environmental beauty.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation-stone of the Rs 20-crore project in 2015 during his visit to Sambalpur. The multi-storey building is coming up on the bank of river Mahanadi near the National Highway on a five-acre land. The building will have both SMC and SDA offices so that people can complete their works in one place.

In the first phase, the building will come up with an expenditure of Rs 14.89 crore. After completion of the build-

ing, tender would be floated for boundary walls, drains, gardens and parking slots, SMC Deputy Commissioner Sudhanshu Bhoi said.

The more-than-a-century-old municipal body is now functioning in an old building, which is not adequate to cater to the increasing needs of the officials. Besides, the SDA is temporarily functioning a building originally constructed for the residence of the SDA Secretary.

The Sambalpur Municipality was formed in 1867 and on November 15, 2013. The Municipal Corporation was formed some years ago by including Burla and Hirakud towns and 51 villages of 12 gram panchayats. The corporation has 41 wards covering 80,000 families.

Parala Princess enters palace amid rituals

Residents welcome her with delight

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Paralakhemundi Princes Kalyani Devi entered the royal palace here amid conduct of traditional rituals on Sunday. A state of eagerness to welcome her was marked amongst residents across the town.

Kalyani Devi's entry has now ended all speculations about her for long since Maharaja was taken out of the palace over a year back. Sequence of incidents like people's protests over the alleged negligence by caretakers in providing treatment to the king and mass suicide of caretaker siblings had put resi-



dents in doubt whether the palace would reopen or not.

A yajna was conducted for entry of Kalyani Devi. Thousands of people attended

a grand feast organised for the purpose. The traffic on the main road in front of the palace was jammed till afternoon. Locals have started talking

whether the princess, like her father Gopinath Gajapati, would enter politics and the fate of Paralakhemundi would get brighter ahead.

B'pur ex-Mayor's wife to make political debut

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Asha Das, wife of former Brahmapur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) Mayor Siba Shankar Das will make her political debut soon. On Sunday, Asha gave the green signal as she along with hundreds of women supporters went in a procession from her residence at Gosani Nuagaon here and participated in the BJP's "Mo Parivar BJP Parivar" programme.

She alleged that the ruling BJD is getting her husband entangled in false cases and harassing her family. Besides, police are sending Siba Shankar to jail repeatedly on the instructions of BJD, she said. She said that her husband during his



tenure as city Mayor carried out many developmental works. As the city residents have willingly acknowledged this, she has decided to serve them. However, it is yet to be decided for which post Asha will contest, but it is certain that she will contest the elections under the BJP banner.

INBRIEF

PARADIP TRADERS PAY TRIBUTES TO JAWANS

Paradip: The Paradip Port Bank Sangha organised a candlelight rally and a silent prayer on Sunday evening for the Jawans martyred at Pulwama. The candle rally started from the Bank Sangha office after lighting of the candles at the Maa Durga temple. It was led by Sangha president Santosh Kumar Pattnaik and secretary Niranjana Mohanty, assistant secretary Dehabrata Sahoo, Khirrod Swain, Chandra Sekhar Mohapatra, Ayaskanta Samal, Prabodh Kumar Dash, Jibananda Mohanty, Pramod Mohapatra, Dibakar Baisakh, Kalu Babu, Jania Babu and Bijayananda Nayak. The rally concluded at the Sangha office, where a two-minute silent prayer was held.

TRADERS' BANDH TOTAL IN JAGATSIINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: Responding to the All Odisha Traders' Association's call, a dawn-to-dusk bandh was observed by local traders and entrepreneurs in the Jagatsinghpur town on Monday as a mark of respect to the martyred CRPF Jawans. While shops were closed, Government offices, banks and insurance offices, schools and colleges were open. Traffic movement on roads was unhampered. The bandh was also observed in other parts of the district.

2 BIKES COLLIDE IN KHORDHA; 1 DIES, 2 HURT

Khordha: In a tragic mishap, a person was killed and three others were injured as two motorcycles collided head-on at Jaguleipatna on the National Highway-56 under the Khordha Model police station on Monday. The deceased was identified as Manoj Samal (28), a resident under the Dhenkanal Sadar police station. One of the three injured was identified as a co-villager of Manoj. All the injured were undergoing treatment at the Khordha District Headquarters Hospital.

GANJA WORTH ₹16L SEIZED; 4 ARRESTED

Paralakhemundi: Busting a major ganja smuggling racket, the Adaba police of Gajapati district on Monday arrested four persons near Renu village and seized around 82 kg of cannabis from their possession. Acting on a tipoff, the police conducted a raid and nabbed the ganja traders while they were waiting for a vehicle near the village to transport the contraband. The cops later seized four sacks containing ganja worth Rs 16 lakh. The arrested were Satam Khan, Mijam Khan, Sahangir Sheikh and Musarat Khan, all residents of Brahmapur Gate Bazaar, said a police officer.

FAKE TOBACCO UNIT BUSTED IN BHADRAK

Bhadrak: Police busted a fake tobacco manufacturing unit and seized packets of materials carrying the logos of reputed brands and machinery worth lakhs of rupees during a raid here on Monday. However, the prime accused managed to flee from the spot. On getting information about operation of the manufacturing unit under the Purunabazar police limits, police conducted the raid in morning. A probe was initiated to nab the culprits involved.

BYJD HOLDS BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Paralakhemundi: A blood donation camp was organised by the Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD), Gajapati, under the leadership of its district president Pinninti Krishna here on Monday. Former MLA K Narayan Rao inaugurated the camp. A total of 52 units of blood were collected.

Pregnant woman carried on sling

PNS ■ KORAPUT

Lack of proper road forced relatives of a pregnant woman of Bagribeda village under Dashmantpur block in Koraput district to carry her on a sling for 5 km as the ambulance service failed to reach the village.

According to sources, the woman identified as Laxmi Muduli complained of labour pain, after which her family members called the 108 ambulance service. But the ambulance driver expressed his inability to reach the pickup point due to the poor road connectivity. With no options left, the woman's family members, with the help of an ASHA

Worker, carried Laxmi on a sling to the main road, where the emergency vehicle was stationed. While travelling in the ambulance, Laxmi gave birth to a baby girl in the vehicle itself. Later, she was admitted to the Koraput District Headquarters Hospital.

Martyrs paid tributes at Dhenkanal ashram

Brahma yangya held

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

The yearly Brahma Jangya of Sri Guru Anant Ashram Jatiya Sarvodaya Samiti was performed at its State level center at Banasingh in Dhenkanal district. More than 1,000 disciples from hundreds of Ashrams from all over the State participated.

They performed Nagar Kirtan in Banasing, Sankapur, Bhuinpur, Muliapur and Madhabolua and created awareness among the public against untouchability and drug abuse. State's chief advisor Er Debashisha Hota presided over a general body



meeting where tributes were paid to the Pulwama martyrs. Singer Ganesh Mishra and artists of Sangeet Malhar performed patriotic songs and Sri Guru Anant Bhajans. Then a 5-colour flag was hoisted and Brahma Jangya started. The whole night

became spiritual due to Guru Nam and Bhajan Kirtan. Chief manager of Guru Gadi Govind Mallick, his assistant Kamakhya Prasad Hota, State president Basant Patayati, Jaladhar Rout, Dillip Samal and Kalandi Behera, among others were present.

Youth killed by friends over mobile in Bargarh

Accused nabbed, forwarded to court

PNS ■ BARGARH

Police on Monday arrested two youths for allegedly killing their friend at Bandutikra village in the district after he failed to return a mobile phone he had taken from them.

The deceased was identified as Inesh Tandi, son of one Sadananda Tandi of the village. Later, both the accused Asish Bhoi and Bikash Bhoi were forwarded to court.

Sources said Inesh had reportedly taken a mobile phone from Asish. However, when Asish asked him to return his phone, Inesh didn't. On February 15, the accused called Inesh to a secluded place and allegedly slit his throat with a knife and stabbed him with a scissor, added sources.

SOURCES SAID INESH HAD REPORTEDLY TAKEN A MOBILE PHONE FROM ASISH

Still finding him alive, the accused then took Inesh on a motorcycle and threw him off the PC Bridge in Sambalpur and fled the spot.

Based on the complaint lodged by Inesh's mother, police launched a manhunt and nabbed the accused from Sambalpur. Police also seized a knife, scissor and a motorcycle from the accused duos possession.

"Investigation has revealed that the accused Asish and Bikash killed Inesh for not returning a mobile phone he had taken from them," said Bargarh SDPO Khirasagar Nayak.

Crores gulped in Malkangiri labour kits distribution

Labourers allege kits to be of below par, seek probe

NISHAN PATTANAİK ■ KORAPUT

The beneficiaries of Malkangiri district have alleged misappropriation in the supply of working tools, mason kit, carpenter kit, painter kit and safety kit alleging that the kit made for distribution is of low quality and substandard and threatened to go for stir if soon the culprits behind the scam were not arrested.

As per reports, the kits were distributed among the beneficiaries in seven blocks of Malkangiri such as Malkangiri, Mathili, Khairput, Chittrakonda, Korkunda, Kalimela and Podia blocks.

AS PER REPORTS, THE KITS WERE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES IN SEVEN BLOCKS OF MALKANGIRI SUCH AS MALKANGIRI, MATHILI, KHAIRPUT, CHITRAKONDA, KORKUNDA, KALIMELA AND PODIA BLOCKS

Govind Khora of Mathili block said the kits are of very low standard and cheap quality. Everything in the kit distributed to us by the administration is of no use. The kit which may be costing nearly Rs 1,000 to Rs1,500 is said to be costing Rs 5,000 each. Khora demanded an inquiry into the scam.

According to sources the administration has distributed working tools among the labourers. The tender which was earlier published in the website of Malkangiri district portal has a lot of irregularities and the administration has also violated certain rules and

regulations in awarding the tender to a particular vendor. Earlier in a notification by the Labour Commissioner, it was strictly directed to all the district labour officers (DLOs) to procure the supply items from reputed wholesaler/ distributor at district level.

But this was violated. The bidders were also asked to purchase the ISO mark products but not a single product is of the ISO mark.

The beneficiaries also alleged as there is election and fearing the code of conduct the administration has distributed the items to the beneficiaries in a hurry clearly compromising with their quality.

Brahmpuar traders' bandh successful

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Ganjam District Traders' Association and other bazaar associations observed a 12-hour bandh here on Monday in response to a call given by the Odisha Traders' Association and paid tributes to martyred CRPF Jawans. Retail traders, big showrooms and wholesalers voluntarily closed their shops and establishments. Traders holding national flags moved through the city and shouted slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jay"



and "Pakistan Murdabad". The Manav Adhikar Suraksha Abhiyan postponed its 82 nd Ghant Yatra and supported the bandh. On Sunday evening, the BJP led by Ganjam district president Ganjam Charan Pati had organised a massive bike rally in the city, protesting against the attack on the Jawans. The activists vowed to work for protection of the nation's integrity. Among others, Rama Kumar Patro, Sisir Padhy, Sunil Kumar Sahu, Madhu Sudan Sahu, Siva Adhikari, Pravat Kiran Sadangi, Kiran Kumar Sahu and U M A Panda were present.

IN BOUDH, GANJAM CM opens, lays stones for array of projects

PNS ■ BOUDH/ BRAHMAPUR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday visited Boudh and Ganjam districts where he inaugurated a number of developmental projects and laid foundation-stones of several others.

In Boudh, inaugurated 45 welfare projects, including four high-level bridges in Kantamal block, six road projects and four girls' hostels with 100 beds each worth Rs 116 crore.

He also laid foundation-stones of two bridges in Boudh and Kantamal blocks, six piped water supply projects, a road project and a 100-bedded hostel for ST and ST girl students worth Rs 310.59 crore.

The Chief Minister distributed assistance to the beneficiaries under various schemes and also addressed a huge public gathering at Ghantapda High School ground.



From Kantamal, he left for the district headquarters, where he inaugurated 47 welfare projects worth Rs 76 crore, including four bridges between Boudh and Harabhang, three road projects and 12 hostels. He also laid the foundation stone of 28 projects worth Rs 467 crore, including five

bridges, 13 road projects and five rural piped water supply projects. Later, he will address a public meeting and provide financial assistance to the beneficiaries.

He also distributed assistance to the beneficiaries under various schemes and also addressed a public gathering there.

Later, he flew to Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district and inaugurated three projects worth Rs 21.26 crore which includes the new Bhanjanagar bus stand, special sub-jail and town hall.

Patnaik also laid foundation-stones for 12 road projects in Bhanjanagar sub-division, shelter home for the urban homeless, three bridges and also addressed a public meeting.

Vendors protest e-stamping in Nimapara

PNS ■ NIMAPARA

The stamp vendors in the Nimapara area went on an indefinite strike from Monday opposing the State Government's e-stamping system at the call of the All Odisha Vendors' Association.

Vendors of Nimapara, Gop, Konark, Astarang and Kakatpur are on the strike at the Nimapara tehsil gate. The registration work in the Sub-Registrar office, all types of affidavit works, income and residence certificates, I-bonds of banks and other stamp paper-related works have stopped.

The association demands that the Government implement the e-stamping system for use of stamps of Rs 2 lakh and



above, identity card for every vendor, a 10-per cent commission system, etc. Association president Debadatta Mohanty, vice-president Krishna Chandra Parida, secretary Bishnuprasad Mishra, assistant secretary Debaraj Dixit, treasurer Gangadhar Parida, Kailash Ojha and Arjun Sahoo are leading the strike.

Meet on tribal aqua farmers begins at CIFA



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A national workshop on "Aquaculture as a Livelihood Option for Tribal Farmers of India" began at the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) here. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal inaugurated the programme, besides an exhibition, as the chief guest. The Governor

remembered the sacrifice and contribution of tribal community for building the nation.

Deputy Director General (Fisheries and Animal Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr JK Jena highlighted the role of ICAR for development of strategies, schemes and policies for development of agriculture including aquaculture for livelihood improvement and nutritional security of tribal population of the country.

Director, ICAR-CIFA Dr Bindu R Pillai gave the welcome address.

Principal Scientist and Chairman, Tribal Sub Plan Programme of ICAR-CIFA, Dr BC Mohapatra highlighted the contributions of the institute for last three decades for qual-

200 participants from 15 States join

ity seed production, fish culture development and training to tribal farmers.

Director, Department of Fisheries PK Senapati appreciated the role of ICAR-CIFA in expansion of freshwater aquaculture technologies.

Two publications namely, a book "Aquaculture as a tool for empowering SC/ST farmers of India: three decades of ICAR-CIFA's contribution" and e-publication "Souvenir and Extended Abstracts" were released.

Around 200 participants from 15 States such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Assam, Odisha, Manipur, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are taking part.

MCL Golf Cup tourney: Trophies given away

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR/ BHUBANESWAR

The trophies for the achievers at Mahanadi Coalfields Invitational Golf Cup tournament was held at the Bhubaneswar Golf Club.

The open individual tournament on stroke play format, sponsored by coal major Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), was a three-day event witnessing 127 golfers participating in the categories of seniors, ladies and amateurs from various golf clubs of eastern parts of the country.

The awards were presented by Development Commissioner Asit Kumar



Tripathy and Director (Finance) (Personnel), MCL KR Vasudevan along with General Manager (Finance) N Rajasekhar and secretary, BGC, Tapan Kumar Mohanty.

The event was conducted by Captain of BGC Dalbir Singh, who also won the championship prize.

While Pradeep Barik from Gevera Golf Club (CG) won

Sandeep Arora awarded in Prayagraj

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Swaraj Viklang Samiti has awarded the state president of Devbhoomi Badhr Association, Sandeep Arora, in Prayagraj during the ongoing Kumbh Mela in recognition of his contribution to the cause of the specially abled people of the society. He was felicitated by Justice B Amit Sthelkar and the Uttar Pradesh Minister Swati Singh. The organisation had selected six Divyangs from the country and one social worker from Canada for the felicitation with awards. Sandeep Arora was awarded for his contribution in bringing the Divyangs into the mainstream of the society and making their voices heard by the State Government while demanding a separate commission.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that our client, **M/s. Muthoo Finance Ltd. (GSTIN 32AABCT0343B1Z7)**, Registered Office: 2nd Floor, Muthoo Chambers, Banerji Road, Kochi - 682018, Kerala, India CIN: L65910KL1997PLC011300, Ph: +91 484-2396478, 2394712, Fax: +91 484-2396506, mails@muthoogroup.com, www.muthoofinance.com is conducting Auction of ornaments (NPA accounts for the period up to 31.12.2017), pledged in its favour, by the defaulting Borrowers, as detailed hereunder. All those interested may participate.

Date of Auction: 01.03.2019

Cuttack: MAL-915, 1030, 1176, 1229, MBL-3183, MSL-317599, MUL-138, 177, 360, 364, 388, 403, 428, 443, 451, 454, 458, 517, 529, 552, 568, 571, 583, 584, 586, 588, 589, 591, 592, 644, 661, 662, 675, 677, 685, 690, 706, 707, 732, 742, 744, 745, 749, 768, 774, 789, 791, 794, 802, 803, 804, 805, 814, 819, 832, 842, 852, 856, 857, 867, 887, 888, 907, 910, 916, 921, 924, 926, 936, 942, 943, 959, 978, 984, 986, 1014, 1028, 1032, 1033, 1038, 1043, 1048, 1051, 1055, 1064, 1067, 1068, 1070, 1077, 1085, 1089, 1100, 1103, 1113, 1117, 1118, 1132, 1171, 1180, 1189, 1205, 1216, 1218, 1232, 1265, 1266, 1276, 1286, 1299, 1321, 1330, 1341, 1342, 1360, 1372, 1376, 1377, 1380, 1389, 1392, 1410, 1434, 1455, 1484, 1490, 1493, 1510, 1630, 1631, 1662, 1689, 1707, 1725, 1743, 1757, 1794, 1795, **Cuttack - Chowdhury Bazar:** MAL-349, 423, 502, 523, MOL-29, MSL-9077, 9160, 9181, 9188, 9265, MUL-41, 42, 144, 164, 168, 197, 222, 250, 279, 291, 315, 318, 319, 329, 341, 355, 368, 374, 382, 402, 434, 445, 453, 463, 464, 481, 488, 497, 509, 545, 569, 601, 620, 627, 641, 646, **Cuttack - Link Road:** MAL-1016, 1210, 1228, 1238, 1301, 1353, 1395, MBL-2529, 2545, 2580, 2587, 2610, 2622, 2750, 2764, MGL-2493, 3711, MSL-18282, 18330, 18424, 18530, 18578, 18620, 18628, 18674, 18675, MGL-95, 105, 106, 107, 393, 394, 419, 428, 429, 441, 449, 462, 468, 471, 478, 489, 491, 492, 493, 523, 549, 572, 592, 607, 608, 609, 643, 647, 651, 652, 662, 672, 673, 674, 680, 703, 712, 722, 733, 740, 747, 748, 751, 759, 767, 770, 811, 813, 818, 824, 827, 829, 831, 832, 845, 851, 870, 873, 875, 884, 918, 926, 927, 946, 955, 961, 975, 976, 978, 979, 980, 996, 1001, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1026, 1031, 1037, 1047, 1053, 1061, 1069, 1088, 1089, 1094, 1096, 1100, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1115, 1116, 1123, 1125, 1130, 1131, 1159, 1165, 1171, 1177, 1178, 1181, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1192, 1205, 1222, 1225, 1234, 1239, 1254, 1255, 1276, 1281, 1285, 1287, 1290, 1292, 1308, 1319, 1321, 1322, 1330, 1332, 1343, 1368, 1379, 1384, 1398, 1407, 1419, 1421, 1438, 1456, 1460, 1462, 1472, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1503, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1518, 1519, 1553, 1564, 1565, 1581, 1598, 1603, 1621, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1637, 1639, 1694, 1701, 1738, 1739, 1744, 1773, 1781, 1796, 1808, 1818, **CDA Cuttack (OR):** MGL-469, 476, 523, 724, 858, 916, 952, 1004, 1169, 1170, 1219, 1226, 1228, 1282, 1373, 1466, 1494, 1510, 1514, 1559, 1847, MSL-4518, 6030, 6035, 6037, 6042, 6044, 6050, 6064, 6066, 6069, 6078, 6124, 6210, 6376, 6396, 6400, 6441, MUL-12, 24, 25, 56, 112, 133, 163, 170, 174, 216, 239, 273, 281, 290, 313, 351, 356, 361, 379, 380, 402, 409, 410, 412, 421, 432, 434, 443, 471, 517, 523, 531, 532, 536, 541, 562, 574, 575, 581, 589, 594, 601, 603, 605, 616, 628, 643, 648, 656, 659, 661, 663, 664, 667, 673, 707, 730, 738, 795, 816, 817, 822, **Cuttack - Nua Bazar:** MGL-1960, MSL-7545, 7610, 7611, 7616, MUL-53, 61, 196, 211, 219, 230, 266, 273, 308, 322, 332, 337, 341, 347, 349, 357, 359, 360, 396, 399, 423, 454, 461, 472, 474, 502, 519, 536, 541, 544, 556, 563, 577, 596, 601, 609, 618, 622, 642, 694, 696, 699, 703, 714, 728, 734, 751, 775, 788, 797, 804, 806, 808, 813, 825, 829, 862, 886, 898, 901, 920, 959, **Cuttack - Mahanadi Vihar:** MSL-5625, 5786, 5787, 5791, 5808, 5815, 5820, MUL-34, 52, 169, 170, 171, 174, 175, 180, 184, 185, 187, 188, 227, 230, 238, 249, 273, 320, 321, 350, 351, 357, 397, 409, 413, 442, 444, 446, 447, 449, 456, 459, 463, 464, 468, 475, 500, 503, 504, 507, 514, 515, 526, 535, 547, 573, 574, 580, 587, 588, 606, 616, 624, 629, 641, 642, 655

Auction of Spurious/Low purity ornaments, (Accounts for the period up to 30.06.2018)

Date of Auction: 01.03.2019

Cuttack - Chowdhury Bazar: MUL-435, 610, **CDA Cuttack (OR):** MUL-827, **Cuttack - Mahanadi Vihar:** MUL-450, 462

The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.

However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date(s), then in that event the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted/continued on 02.03.2019 respectively at First Floor, S.B Mansion, Link Road, Opposite LIC Guest House, Cuttack - 735 012 and further in case the said ornaments are still not successfully auctioned on these dates then such auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be issued in this respect.

Date of Auction: 26.02.2019

Bolangir Town (OR): MAL-917, 987, 1007, 1111, MGL-683, 750, 1010, 1018, 1051, 1057, 1070, 1191, 1192, 1253, 1333, 1436, 1458, 1517, 1540, 1582, 1605, 1658, 1662, 1720, 1766, 1768, 1769, 1789, 1791, 1801, 1925, 1961, 1990, 2002, 2062, 2075, 2084, 2104, 2137, 2174, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2202, 2212, 2352, 2453, 2469, 2474, 2484, 2500, 2503, 2506, 2532, 2571, 2590, 2594, 2623, 2640, 2689, 2694, 2712, 2715, 2722, 2731, MOL-10, 47, MSL-6994, 6997, 7045, 7061, 7081, 7132, 7134, 7247, 7252, 7270, 7271, 7278, 7279, 7316, 7324, 7345, 7347, 7349, 7359, 7456, 7482, 7485, 7512, 7527, 7560, 7662, 7567, 7569, 7573, 7589, 7608, 7618, 7620, 7631, 7638, 7645, 7651, 7655, 7674, 7683, 7699, 7762, 7834, 7844, 7876, MUL-3, 8, 34, 43, 46, 91, 107, 113, 124, 139, 142, 144, 156, 166, 172, 180, 190, 210, 218, 220, 227, 238, 273, 276, 306, 309, 328, 334, 338, 354, 368, 374, 376, 392, 394, 409, 411, 423, 424, 434, 436, 450, 484, 494, 495, 496, 505, 518, 522, 529, 535, 544, 547, 553, 570, 584, 603, 623, 249, 273, 320, 321, 350, 351, 357, 397, 409, 413, 442, 444, 446, 447, 449, 456, 459, 463, 464, 468, 475, 500, 503, 504, 507, 514, 515, 526, 535, 547, 573, 574, 580, 587, 588, 606, 616, 624, 629, 641, 642, 655

Date of Auction: 28.02.2019

Odisha - Kesinga Town: MAL-505, 949, 981, 1218, 1284, 1814, MGL-16, 38, 84, 94, 95, 147, 237, 238, 239, 279, 380, 476, 485, 550, 676, 722, 895, 917, 1060, 1332, 1409, 1414, 1611, 1638, 1644, 1716, MSL-3273, 3586, 3679, 4336, 4381, 4396, 4434, 4460, 4477, 4550, 4554, 4562, 4580, 4591, 4636, 4666, 4683, 4701, 4721, 4762, 4764, 4771, 4822, 4934, 4967, 4976, 4990, 5023, 5041, 5117, 5124, 5138, 5139, 5158, 5206, 5292, 5301, 5320, 5337, 5347, 5353, 5375, 5396, 5488, 5499, 5503, 5533, 5546, 5558, 5559, 5593, 5655, 5707, 5808, 5853, 5867, 5897, 6002, 6052, 6102, 6144, 6190, 6282, 6348, 6405, 6449, 6466, 6552, 6647, 6676, 6782, 6802, 6859, 6895, 6989, 7053, 7079, 7081, 7144, 7238, 7254, 7266, 7278, 7367, 7375, 7419, 7444, 7493, 7517, 7535, 7577, 7636, 7648, 7798, 7813, MUL-4, 40, 105, 127, 128, 146, 175, 244, 272, 313, 316, 320, 321, 334, 338, 363, 365, 373, 388, 416, 442, 485, 517, 520, 526, 538, 573, 574, 600, 634, 657, 663, 668, 669, 711, 716, 748, 760, 768, 798, 838, 848, 867, 870, 895, 933, 943, 944, 968, 992, 999, 1023, 1057, 1063, 1141, 1142

Date of Auction: 28.02.2019

Dhenkanal (OR): MAL-695, 789, 856, 1012, 1101, MBL-1723, 1855, 2391, MGL-632, 635, 835, 1551, 1979, 2186, 2278, 2293, 2476, 2477, 2624, 2635, 2639, 2641, 2646, 2650, 2683, 2691, 2732, 2870, 2919, 2943, 2948, 2973, 3046, 3069, 3084, 3145, 3147, 3170, 3175, 3226, 3228, 3230, 3244, 3259, 3333, 3346, 3414, 3452, 3481, 3542, 3543, 3563, 3579, 3599, 3621, 3680, 3770, 3829, 3839, 3858, 3860, 3861, 3866, 3882, 3899, 3903, 3926, 3940, 3968, MLS-58, MSL-14045, 14135, 14303, 14376, 14377, 14490, 14491, 14492, 14530, 14538, 14549, 14575, 14588, 14590, 14754, 14797, 14884, 14927, 14985, 15003, 15043, MUL-4, 12, 28, 77, 84, 92, 96, 102, 105, 106, 107, 120, 136, 192, 251, 252, 270, 271, 289, 295, 330, 342, 366, 387, 447, 456, 467, 469, 492, 508, 512, 518, 527, 528, 536, 551, 552, 576, 590, 592, 606, 607, 612, 622, 635, 648, 650, 651, 658, 662, 663, 694, 701, 712, 722, 734, 762, 769, 773, 778, 786, 792, 793, 816, 823, 854, 875, 898, 907, 948, 950, 962, 964, 972, 1005, 1015, 1021, 1027, 1043, 1057, 1068, 1091, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1163, 1165, 1173, 1199, 1211, 1212, 1227, 1236, 1248, 1251, 1265, 1270, 1281, 1284, 1302, 1311, 1323, 1327, 1329, 1339, 1342, 1343, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1353, 1358, 1383, 1384, 1389, 1396, 1397, 1402, 1405, 1433, 1436, 1445, 1454, 1467, 1469, 1488, 1492, 1505, 1506, 1520, 1525, 1529, 1534, 1535, 1546, 1561, 1614, 1615, 1646, 1664, 1667, 1709, 1731, 1736, 1739, 1745, 1769, 1794, 1797, 1810, 1815, 1866, 1867, 1872, 1902, 1925, 1945, 1971

Date of Auction: 01.03.2019

Jagatpur (OR): MAL-197, 308, 326, 447, 470, 539, MGL-126, 133, 181, 234, 286, 297, 373, 409, 417, 420, 456, 478, 585, 593, 598, 621, 645, 662, 667, 670, 680, 698, 715, 732, 733, 737, 757, 774, 789, 810, 852, 855, 872, 899, 928, 945, 975, 991, 1001, 1004, 1025, 1033, 1034, 1063, 1064, 1067, 1124, 1129, 1130, 1133, 1137, 1140, 1156, 1173, 1181, 1183, 1197, 1213, 1219, 1260, 1275, 1291, 1298, 1301, 1314, 1320, 1332, 1376, 1379, 1386, 1419, 1429, 1480, 1495, 1532, 1536, 1587, MSL-3315, 3495, 3645, 3700, 3766, 3804, 3808, 3810, 3812, 3850, 3960, 3982, 4025, 4026, 4031, 4082, 4125, 4191, 4229, 4259, 4299, 4307, 4364, 4365, 4378, 4431, 4496, 4513, 4521, 4541, 4558, 4599, 4630, 4665, 4674, MUL-23, 27, 30, 34, 60, 63, 80, 84, 85, 93, 99, 107, 109, 176, 191, 222, 224, 226, 245, 247, 256, 266, 274, 276, 277, 278, 282, 285, 292, 295, 302, 320, 322, 333, 336, 347, 358, 359, 362, 365, 375, 378, 387, 396, 398, 399, 400, 405, 411, 416, 428, 440, 448, 453, 457, 472, 475, 476, 491, 492, 495, 499, 502, 504, 511, 512, 514, 517, 519, 530, 552, 569, 590, 593, 608, 618, 620, 643, 648, 662, 672, 676, 679, 682, 683, 691, 692, 693, 699, 702, 710, 715, 719, 743, 761, 769, 770, 777, 783, 785, 793, 826, 828, 829, 851, 859

The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.

However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date then the auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be issued in this respect.

Kohli & Sobti, Advocates, A 59A, First Floor, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi - 110024

Note: Customers can release their pledged ornaments before the scheduled auction date, against payment of dues of our client. Customer can also contact Email ID: auciondelim@muthoogroup.com or Call at 7834886464, 7994452461.

3-day XAVION concludes at XIMB



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The X-SEED, Entrepreneurship Cell of XIMB, recently concluded its flagship event, XAVION'19, which was a global entrepreneurship summit.

The event was spread over three days, with a plethora of keynote sessions, workshops, panel discussion, webinars and competitions. The event saw participants from all over

Odisha and also from several renowned MBA students from across the country.

A number of notable speakers such as Aakarsh Naidu, Founder, Startpreneur, Prasanta Biswal, evangelist, Startup Odisha, Subratkar, co-founder, Vidooly Media Tech, Sukriti Patnaik, founder, Indulge, Annada Prasad Padhy, owner and MD, AuroIN, Sumona Karjee, founder, Prantae Solutions, Satish Kataria, founder and MD, Catapool and Siddhartha Sthitapragyan, founder of Max Solutions and many more graced the summit.

The speakers shared the experiences of their respective entrepreneurial journeys, discussed the opportunities in the present start-up world, discussed the oft feared topic of funding and how to secure it and motivated the students to chase their dreams.

Various workshops were conducted by TIE Bhubaneswar and Startup Odisha which saw enthusiastic participation from a huge turnout of attendees.

The final day of XAVION'19 saw the most awaited event of the E-Summit, I-Pitch, the National Level Pitching Competition. Students from IMI Delhi bagged the coveted prize with their innovative Pill Smart idea.

Time for talks over: Modi

All nations should unite against terror, says PM during India-Argentina joint statement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the time for talks has passed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called on world leaders for united action against terrorism and its supporters. The comments came as part of the joint statement between India and Argentina during the ongoing three-day visit of Argentine President Mauricio Macri here. Macri is the first international leader to visit India after the Pulwama attack that claimed lives of 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel in Kashmir last week.

"I and President Macri agree with the view that terrorism is a serious danger to world's peace and stability. The cruel attack in Pulwama shows that the time for talks has passed," Modi said in a Press statement in presence of Macri. "Now it is required that the world unites against terrorism and those who support it. Hesitation to take action against terrorism and those who support it is a kin to encouraging terrorism," Modi said, without naming Pakistan.

Being a part of G20 countries, it's also important that we implement 11 point agenda of Hamburg Leaders Statement.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Argentina's President Mauricio Macri during their joint Press conference at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday

India and Argentina will issue a special declaration on terrorism today," he further stated.

President Macri, while condemning the attack, extended Argentina's support to India in the fight against terrorism. "I would like to convey my condolences to the victims of the cruel attack (Pulwama) perpe-

trated just a few days ago. We condemn every kind of terrorist attack. I am truly pleased to be able to work together to fight this scourge on mankind," Macri also said.

In a joint special declaration to fight terrorism, both leaders agreed that terrorism poses a grave threat to global peace and stability and noted

the need for concerted action by the global community against terrorism.

They stressed, particularly emphasising the 'scourge of cross-border terrorism', that there could be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever. "They reiterated their commitment to combat terrorism in all its

forms and manifestations, and asserted that strong measures should be taken against terrorists, terror organisations, their networks and all those who encourage, support, finance and provide safe haven to terrorists and terror groups," the special declaration said.

The two leaders also underscored the need to ensure that terrorist organisations do not get access to any Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) or technologies or finances and committed to cooperate in the specialised multilateral fora. The leaders stressed that terrorism is a "global scourge" that must be fought and terrorist safe havens rooted out in every part of the world.

The international community has united in its condemnation of terrorism following the Pulwama attack, with the USA telling Pakistan to stop providing a safe haven and support to terrorist organisations. India had earlier called its High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ajay Bisaria, to Delhi for consultations after the attack. Pakistan has since rejected all allegations, going as far as calling Mahmood back to Islamabad "for consultations" on February 18.

I don't have magic wand: Priyanka tells partymen

'Strengthen party at booth level'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In her first meeting at the party's war room in Delhi, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra conveyed to party leaders hailing from Uttar Pradesh that the forthcoming polls should be made to appear as a direct fight between the ruling BJP and the Congress.

At the same time, at the backdrop of high expectations from her, she said that she doesn't have any magic wand and that only the full cooperation of party workers will bring the desired results.

She also warned party workers that anyone found indulging in anti-party activities will be shown the door. "I cannot do a miracle from the top level, the workers need to strengthen the party at the booth level and I need your support for strengthening the party in the State," said a leader quoting Priyanka as saying during the meeting.

During the meeting, held at the Congress' war room at 15 Gurudwara Rakabganj Road, Priyanka reviewed the booth-



level organisation of the party. She asked the Congress workers to strengthen the booth-level organisation of the party.

Priyanka said she was still learning about the organisation and comprehending what needs to be changed to strengthen Congress in UP. She had conducted marathon meetings with people from almost 41 constituencies in Lucknow last week after her maiden visit as the grand old party's office bearers.

Priyanka's UP East campaign is eagerly awaited by party workers and the people, sources in the Congress said, adding she will be visiting the families of CRPF jawans from the state killed in the Pulwama

terror attack. Party is also planning scheduling her visits to families of those who died in the hooch tragedy.

She is likely to start campaign by visiting the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj later this week and then visit Modi's Lok Sabha constituency as part of her four-day tour this month to assess the ground situation in the region under her charge.

Anand Bhawan, the ancestral house of Priyanka Gandhi, has been decked up for her visit and preparations are also in full swing at the Sewa Dal camp in Kumbh. Post Prayagraj, Priyanka Gandhi might visit Varanasi for three to four days. She is also expected to be in Ahmedabad on February 28 to participate in the Congress Workers Committee meeting.

Her Varanasi itinerary also includes a visit to the Kashi Vishwanath temple and roadshow in the holy city is also on the cards. Priyanka along with her brother Rahul Gandhi and her counterpart for UP West Jyotiraditya Scindia held a roadshow on February 11 in Lucknow. While Priyanka has been assigned 41 constituencies including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Varanasi, Scindia has 39 constituencies for the upcoming 2019 Lok Sabha Polls.

IN SHORT

SC JUNKS PIL SEEKING BAN ON ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday junked a PIL seeking ban on animal slaughter for meat exports alleging violation of rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna dismissed the petition saying it was not inclined to entertain the plea.

SC STAYS PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TTV IN FERA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the proceedings of a Chennai court relating to the 1996 Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) case lodged against AMMK leader TV Dhinakaran. A Bench headed by Chief Justice issued notice to Dhinakaran and sought his reply on the petition filed by ED challenging the Madras High Court order of June 25, 2018.

SC TO CONSIDER PLEA FOR HEARING ON ARTICLE 370

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said that it would look into the plea seeking urgent hearing of a PIL challenging the constitutional validity of Article 370 of the Constitution, which grants special status to Jammu & Kashmir and limits Parliament's power to make laws for the State.

RAJ ASKS GOOGLE TO TAKE DOWN HATE VIDEOS

New Delhi: The Rajasthan Government on Monday told the Supreme Court that it has written to online search engine Google to take down hate videos uploaded by Shambhu Lal Raigar accused of hacking and burning alive a Muslim labourer in the State in December 2017.

Chit fund: WB Chief Secy, DGP, Kolkata CP refute CBI charge of obstruction in probe in SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal Government and its police refuted CBI allegations in the Supreme Court Monday that they obstructed investigation into the Saradha chit fund scam cases, with the State cops asserting the Central agency forcefully tried to enter the Kolkata Police Commissioner's residence on February 3 without valid papers.

Chief Secretary Malay Kumar De, DGP Virendera Kumar and Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar filed separate affidavits in the apex court on the contempt petition moved by the CBI in connection with the scam and tendered "unconditional and unambiguous apology" alleged disobedience of the court.

The trio maintained however that the West Bengal Government and the State police at no point of time obstructed investigation nor any official denied cooperation to CBI.

The officers opposed the contempt petition against them in which the CBI alleged that they were tampering with evidence and not complying with the apex court's various orders relating to the probe by asserting that there was a need for directions to CBI not to make any vague allegations without substantial and cogent evi-

dence.

Referring to the February 3 incident, Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar said in his affidavit that CBI forcibly tried to enter his house without valid papers. The contention has been supported by the DGP in his affidavit. They have also claimed that no police officials went to 'dharna manch' where West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sat to protest the CBI action.

Kumar, against whom CBI has alleged tampering of electronic evidence including call detail records, said he was never in direct possession of evidence, material or documents.

They responded to the notices issued on February 5 by the apex court which had asked them to clarify their stand on the allegation that evidence was tampered with and the state police was not cooperating with the Central Bureau of Investigation.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had said that after perusing the affidavits, a decision will be taken whether they would require to make personal appearance before it on February 20.

It said the Secretary General of the apex court will inform the trio on Feb 19 whether they are required to be present on February 20.

SC rejects plea challenging Centre's circular against use of term 'Dalit'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a petition challenging Centre's notification advising the media to not use the term "Dalit" to describe members of Scheduled Castes.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna said it was not interested in entertaining a petition that challenged the 2018 advisory of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry asking private satellite television channels to use Scheduled Caste instead of Dalit.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for petitioner VA Ramesh Nathan, questioned the legality of the circular and said, "How can the Government of India issue such a circular questioning my identity?"

The bench remained unimpressed and said, "At this stage, we are not interested in entertaining this petition. Dismissed."

The Ministry, in its August 7, 2018 circular, had advised that the media should refrain from using the word "Dalit" for members belonging to Scheduled Castes and had directed that 'Scheduled Caste' should alone be used for all official transaction, matters, dealings, certificates for denoting the persons belonging to the community.

Apex court refuses to allow reopening of Sterlite plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday refused to allow reopening of Vedanta's Sterlite plant in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin, which was at the centre of massive protests over pollution concerns, but granted the company liberty to approach the High Court.

A Bench headed by Justice RF Nariman allowed Tamil Nadu's appeal against the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order only on grounds of maintainability and said the tribunal has no jurisdiction to order reopening of the plant.

The court was hearing a plea by Vedanta group seeking a direction to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to implement the NGT order which had set aside the Government's decision to close the plant.

On January 8, the apex

The court was hearing a plea by Vedanta group seeking a direction to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to implement the NGT order which had set aside the Govt's decision to close plant

court had paved the way to reopen the plant by refusing to stay the tribunal's order.

It had also stayed the last year's December 21 decision of the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court which had ordered status quo with respect to re-opening the plant.

The state had moved the top court, saying the NGT had "erroneously" set aside various orders passed by the TNPCB last year with regard to the Sterlite plant.

Kirti Azad joins Congress, calls it 'ghar wapsi'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Darbanga MP Kirti Azad, who was suspended by the ruling BJP for anti-party activities, joined the Congress on Monday in the presence of party chief Rahul Gandhi. Terming it his "ghar wapsi" (homecoming), Azad slammed BJP for its alleged lack of internal democracy and for peddling in rhetoric.

Addressing a press conference after finally being inducted in the party once represented by his father and veteran leader late Bhagwat Jha Azad, Kirti said he served the BJP selflessly for 26 years, but under the Modi Government he realised that the "real face behind the mask had started to become evident".

"I felt bad when I heard jumlas, I saw corruption...I felt that the place where my father started his political career and served, I should also do ghar wapsi and serve there. I have made a ghar wapsi," he said. Bhagwat Jha Azad also served as Bihar Chief Minister for a brief period.

"Today in front of Rahul Gandhi I joined the Congress, I felicitated him in traditional Mithila style," Azad tweeted, along with photographs of him with the Congress president. AICC general secretary Bihar-in-charge Shakti Singh Gohil welcomed Azad into the party and said that it was not possible for any person with self-respect to stay in the BJP under Modi and party chief Amit Shah.

RGI refuses to incorporate patient data in Census

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing space constraints in Census questionnaires and increase in workload of already-overworked enumerators with data related works, the Registrar General of India has turned down the proposal of the Indian Organisation for Rare Diseases (I-ORD), to incorporate patient data collection in the Census 2021 programme.

"By just placing a column on rare disease in the Census 2021 questionnaire, we can identify patients across the country and their demographics easily. This opportunity will not come for another decade if we miss capitalising it this time. The data acquired from this census will result in a huge revolution in RD research, orphan drug development and treatment as India has huge numbers, or one-thirds of global rare disease patients," I-ORD president Dr Ramaiah Muthyala explained.

He lamented that though 6-8 per cent of Indians, or approximately 9-10 crore people, suffer from one of the 7,000-plus identified rare diseases, the country does not have any empirical evidence for estimating disease burden or



- In India around 70 Million are affected by rare diseases
- According to the WHO, there are estimated 5,000-8,000 rare diseases, conditions that are primarily chronic and life-threatening
- By including the data in the census would help in getting to know their actual number and hence adequate attention to policies

developing affordable orphan drugs. India does not even have a proper policy on rare diseases as the Union Health Ministry is still working to revise its promise of an initial corpus fund of ₹100 crore for the treatment of patients with rare genetic diseases, many of them children.

By including the data in the census would help in getting to know their actual number and hence adequate attention to

policies. However, sources said that the RGI has refused to include the column on rare diseases stating that the questionnaire was already quite exhaustive and it was not feasible to overload the enumerators with more works.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are estimated 5,000-8,000 rare diseases, conditions that are primarily chronic and life-threatening. Most of these are

genetic in nature, with the majority manifesting in childhood. In fact, recognising the importance of data to treat rare disease sufferers, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had two years back announced the creation of the Indian Rare Disease Registry, but the project is yet to take off.

"As the diagnosis of such cases is difficult and not available at all levels of facility it will not reflect the burden of disease. The ICMR is going to initiate soon Indian Rare Diseases Registry to address unmet needs of people with rare diseases," as per the ICMR.

"In fact, the council had announced the creation of registries in April 2017. The intent of placing the column in Census 2021 is neither to duplicate nor to replace the efforts of the ICMR. We seek to work with the council," Muthyala said.

In India around 70 Million are affected by rare diseases. RDs include inherited cancers, autoimmune disorders, congenital malformations, and infectious diseases amongst others include Hemangiomas, Hirschsprung disease, Gaucher disease, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophies and Lysosomal Storage Disorders.

16 crore people consume alcohol in India: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kids as young as 10 and Kelders as old as 75 years are in the grip of alcohol in the country. Overall, 16 crore people across the States are consuming liquor with Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa having the highest prevalence of its usage, as per a Government survey.

Conducted by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the survey titled "Prevalence and Extent of Substance Use in India" covered all 36 states and Union territories.

The study which was led by Dr Atul Ambekar, principal investigator of the survey, also professor at National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS said, that alcohol consumption is 17 times higher among men than women.

Among those dependent on alcohol, one in 38 reported some form of treatment, while one in 180 reported getting inpatient treatment or hospitalisation.



2,00,111 households were visited in 186 districts and a total of 4,73,569 individuals were interviewed, the report stated. After alcohol, cannabis, and opioids are the next commonly-used substances in the country, the survey has found.

About 2.8 per cent of Indians (around 3.1 crores) reported having used some cannabis product in the last 12 months.

At the national level, the most commonly used opioid is the heroine (used by 1.14 per cent of the people surveyed), followed by pharmaceutical opioids (used by 0.96 per cent of the people surveyed) and opium (used by 0.52 per cent of the people surveyed).

ED summons Vadra to appear today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday summoned Robert Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, to appear before it on Tuesday for questioning in connection with a money laundering case relating to acquisition of assets abroad.

Earlier this month, Vadra was questioned by the ED in the case for three days in the national capital. Vadra was also quizzed by the agency last week in Jaipur in the Bikaner land scam case.

On Saturday, a designated court here had extended the interim bail of Vadra till March 2.

The case relates to allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property at 12, Bryanston Square worth 1.9 million pounds. The agency suspects this flat is owned by Vadra.

The ED attached assets worth ₹4.62 crore after the probe revealed these assets as having been created from the "proceeds of crime".

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Centre tapping my telephone, says Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has brought a serious charge against the Central Government accusing it of tapping her telephones in order to get information about her.

The Bengal Chief Minister on Monday told media that the Narendra Modi Government was misusing the various central agencies and illegally tapping her phones and getting information about her.

"I have full evidence to prove that the centre is using the agencies to tap my phone, which was unethical and undemocratic she said.

The Mamta Banerjee — led Trinomool Congress had been locked in a bitter turf war in Bengal which has only accel-

erated two — three months ahead on the General Elections. "The BJP and the RSS are trying to fan communal tension in Bengal, "in which they will never succeed.

Banerjee also accused the Prime Minister of playing politics on sensitive issues. Her remarks came after Modi made similar remarks against her.

Mamata writes to Modi, seeks probe into IL&FS crisis

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to initiate a high-level probe into financial impropriety and possible misappropriation of savings of common people due to the debt crisis in Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) Ltd.

The crisis has put to peril "lakhs and lakhs of employees" of private and public sector enterprises who had put their hard-earned money into the company, she said.

In her letter to Modi, Banerjee said the crisis in IL&FS calls into question the role of LIC and the SBI, along with that of major credit rating institutions of the country.

Both LIC and SBI are stakeholders in the infrastructure conglomerate.

The Chief Minister wrote, "These grave financial irregularities, which have continued unabated under the Union Government, have placed financial security of the people in even graver danger.

Demonetisation and hasty and unplanned implementation of the GST took away livelihood of common people. Now IL&FS' financial debacle is taking away their savings."

"I would, therefore, urge you to kindly initiate a high-level impartial and independent probe into the sordid affairs of financial impropriety and possible misappropriation of the life savings of the common people due to the IL&FS fiasco," she said.

"Such a probe and its findings must lead to the punishment of those guilty of defrauding the people and will also ensure that hard-earned savings of our common people are not further jeopardised," she added. The crisis had surfaced in October last year when IL&FS defaulted on payments to lenders, triggering panic in the markets.

The IL&FS group of companies is estimated to have outstanding loans of about ₹60,000 crore to banks and financial institutions, while the total debt is over ₹91,000 crore. PTI

STERLITE COPPER PLANT

'SC order has brought relief to kin who lost relatives in protests'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Welcoming the Supreme Court order, setting aside the NGT directive to reopen the Sterlite plant, an activist of the movement against the copper unit said it has brought 'relief and solace' to people in Tuticorin.

Those in favour of the company being reopened however said they would collectively move the Madras High Court as per the avenues made

available by the top court. Anti-Sterlite movement activist Fathima Babu said people were relieved on hearing about the apex court decision.

"It is a big relief and solace for the people and family members of those people who lost their lives during the agitation. I saw quite a lot of enthusiasm among the people of Tuticorin. We welcome the Supreme Court's decision," she said.

Fathima Babu said the state Government had stood its ground during the movement and should now bring the matter to its logical conclusion.

"It has to initiate criminal proceedings against the company, besides making them clean up the entire place and provide compensation to all those affected," she said.

Thoothukudi Contractors Association President S Thiagarajan said it was an

"unexpected decision".

"We are all locals and have not experienced anything like what has been alleged. There are townships in the vicinity. If there was an issue, do you think people would reside there? None expected such a decision. We will collectively approach Madras High Court," he said.

Tamil Nadu State Stevedore RPT Stevedore Association Vice President Peer Mohammed said industry was essential for any state or coun-

try for development.

"We expected a favourable judgement. The company should have initially approached the High Court, instead of directly going to the Supreme Court. Now we will move the High Court as per the directions," he said.

Mohammed, who is involved in logistics and transportation of copper, rock phosphate and coal to the Sterlite plant, said those dependent on the plant have suffered a lot.

The Apex Court Monday refused to allow reopening of Vedanta's Sterlite plant, which was at the centre of massive protests over pollution concerns, but granted it liberty to approach the high court against the state government's order to shut it down.

It allowed Tamil Nadu's appeal against the NGT order only on grounds of maintainability and said the tribunal has no jurisdiction to order reopening of the plant.

BSF hands over Bangladeshi national to BGB

Shillong: A Bangladesh national, who was caught by BSF trying to cross the International border in Meghalayas East Jaintia Hills district, was on Monday handed over to the BGB as a goodwill gesture, officials said.

The BSF troops deployed at Lajjuri area in East Jaintia Hills district apprehended one Bangladeshi national Saidul Islam — while trying to sneak into Indian territory.

After preliminary questioning, the 35 year-old man hailing from Utholigram village under Chouranga district was handed over to Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) in presence of local police as a goodwill gesture, a BSF spokesperson said in a statement.

He said the BSF troops has also seized 266 cattle and contraband items worth over Rs 57 lakh while being smuggled out from India to Bangladesh on the International Border along Meghalaya since in the past one week.

These cattle and items were seized from Tukyia, Nayabazar, Lyngkhat, Umsyiem, Rynku, Mukamchera and Shella in East Khasi Hills district, Muktapur in West Jaintia Hills district, Gumaghat in South West Khasi Hills and Baghmara in South Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, the statement said.

The apprehension and the seizure of cattle and items were made following the BSF stepping up their special drive against the illegal intruders and intensified operations on the Indo-Bangladesh Border to prevent trans border criminals from carrying out anti-national activities, it said. Meghalaya Frontier of the BSF is in charge of guarding the 443 km-long Indo-Bangladesh border, most parts of which are unfenced, hilly and difficult to man. PTI



Uttar Pradesh Towards New Heights of Development

Dedication to the Nation/ Inauguration of projects worth more than 1289 Crore

- ### Dedication to the Nation of

 - 2 Escalators & 1 Lift on Platform no. 8/9 at Varanasi Junction
 - Augmented Passenger Amenities on Platform no. 1, 6/7 & 8/9 at Varanasi Junction
 - 1 MWp Solar Power Plant at Varanasi Junction
 - Doubling of Lohta-Bhadohi (39 Kms.) & Bhadohi-Janghai (31 kms.) Rail Section
 - Doubling of Sarnath-Manduadih Rail Section
 - Electrification of Varanasi-Allahabad Rail section

Laying of Foundation Stone of

 - 3rd Additional 10m. wide Foot Over Bridge with modern facilities including Escalators & Lifts on each platform at Varanasi Junction
 - Chord line for arrival/departure of trains at Lohta & Bypass line for goods trains at Shivpur side

Inauguration of

 - Integrated Running Room Complex for Loco Pilots & Guards at Varanasi Junction
 - Second Entry at Manduadih Railway Station

By

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

Tuesday, 19th February, 2019 | Time: 10:00 A.M.
Venue: Village - Audhe, Varanasi

August Presence

Ram Naik

Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Manoj Sinha

Minister of State for Railways & Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications, Government of India

Anupriya Patel

Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Suresh Kumar Khanna

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Urban Development, Overall Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Uttar Pradesh

Assam Govt: No information on deported people returning to State

Guwahati: Assam Government on Monday informed the Assembly that it did not have any data whether any of the 29,800 "foreigners" deported to Bangladesh between 2016 and 2018 had returned to the State.

From May 2016, when the BJP led Government came to power in the State, and August 2018, a total of 29,800 people were declared foreigners living in Assam illegally and were deported, Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said.

He was replying on behalf of CM Sonowal who holds the Home portfolio, to starred questions of Ramendra Narayan Kalita of AGP and Nurul Huda of Congress. Asked if those who had been deported to Bangladesh came back to Assam, the Minister said there is no data immediately available on this matter. PTI

Citizen Bill : Congress appeals to people of NE to vote against BJP

Aizawl: The Congress on Monday appealed to the people of Mizoram and the north eastern region to vote against the BJP and its allies in the coming Lok Sabha polls as it is determined to legislate the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill.

BJP national president Amit Shah told a rally at Lakhimpur in Assam on Sunday that if the the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government returns to power in the coming Lok Sabha elections, it would ensure the passage of the Bill.

It had been passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8, it was not tabled in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill is now set to lapse on June 3, when the tenure of the present Lok Sabha ends.

"As BJP is hell bent on the passage of the proposed amendment bill, the people of Mizoram



as well as the north eastern states should unite against the BJP and its allies for the defeat of the proposed legislation," the statement said.

The Congress said that the fact that Shah "dared" to express on the soil of the north east BJP's determination to pass the proposed amendment bill showed that he has no respect for the people of the region and their wishes. The North East Students Organisation (NESO), which spearheaded the movement against the Bill, also issued a press statement condemning the speeches of Shah.

"We are against the illegal Bangladeshis and we do not differentiate them on the basis of their religion. An illegal Bangladeshi is an illegal Bangladeshi, irrespective of whether the person is a Hindu or a Muslim," it said. The body further stated that the students of the north east region will never accept the 'draconian bill' and called upon all the indigenous peoples of the region to thwart the "evil designs" for the survival of the race, identity, culture, language and future generations.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides for according Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after seven years of residence in India instead of 12 years, which is the norm currently, even if they do not possess any document.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/TT/Maths Activity Book II to VIII/477/2018/6729 Date: 18.02.2019

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Siksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web/Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of Activity Book on Maths for Class IV, V and VI.

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

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

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

PULWAMA ATTACK AFTERMATH

J&K ex-CMs appeal for safety of Kashmiris

Omar, Mehbooba appeal to maintain communal harmony

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Monday issued a joint appeal for maintaining communal harmony across the country and urged the Centre to ensure safety and security of Kashmiris in other States.

The appeal came against the backdrop of reports of attacks on Kashmiris in some parts of the country following the terror incident, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed on Thursday. The two leaders underscored the need to maintain communal harmony across the country.

By "attacking, terrorising, intimidating Kashmiris, the



youngsters of Kashmir are implicitly being told that they have no future outside of the valley," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said.

"Intimidating" Kashmiris was aimed at creating a wedge between different communities in India, they said.

"We should not allow terror to divide us. By using such incidents to divide us, we fall into the trap of those behind the attack on CRPF soldiers; we are wittingly or unwittingly

playing to the tunes of our enemies," they said in the appeal.

They asserted that attacking the innocent because of their ethnicity or religion was "no way to honour the sacrifice of the CRPF men."

"Kashmiri Muslims or the Muslims of Jammu didn't attack our CRPF jawans the other day, terrorists did. This violence is a convenient tool by some to shift the blame. Let us unite against terror, let's not allow terror to divide us," the NC and PDP leaders said.

Bloodshed will only stop when Centre overhauls its approach to J&K: Mehbooba

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday expressed condolences to the families of soldiers killed in the Pulwama encounter, saying the bloodshed will only stop when the Centre overhauls its approach to Jammu & Kashmir.

"Deepest condolences to the families. This bloodshed will only stop when GoI (Government of India) overhauls its approach (rather lack of it) towards J&K," the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said in a tweet.

She expressed the need to "stop the obsession with Pakistan" and "set our own house in order."

"Let's drop the obsession with Pakistan and get our own house in order. The current attitude will only worsen the situation & polarise the nation (sic)," she added.

Two Jaish terrorists, including a Pakistani commander of the group being investigated for his role in the February 14 CRPF bombing.

Guv discusses issues related to law and order

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Monday discussed with his advisors issues relating to effective maintenance of law and order and directed that no anti-social element be allowed to disturb peace in the State.

K Vijay Kumar and KK Sharma, advisers to the Governor, met him at the Raj Bhavan on Monday evening and briefed the Governor about the prevailing law and order situation in the aftermath of the recent terror attack in Pulwama district, a Raj Bhavan spokesman said.

He said the Governor discussed with advisers issues relating to effective maintenance of law and order and directed them that no anti-social element should be allowed to disturb peace and harmony in the State.

He also directed that avail-

ability of essential commodities and medicines be ensured by the administration. PTI

Hurriyat leader asks J&K Govt to withdraw security personnel from his residence

Srinagar: Senior Hurriyat Conference leader Maulana Abbas Ansari on Monday asked the Jammu & Kashmir Government to withdraw security personnel posted at his residence.

His statement comes a day after security cover of six separatist leaders, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, was withdrawn, a decision that comes in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror strike in which 44 CRPF personnel were killed.

PTI

Sajad Lone: Can't support decision to withdraw security to separatists in Kashmir

Jammu: Chairman of Peoples Conference and former Minister Sajad Lone on Monday said he "cannot support" the decision to withdraw security to separatists in Kashmir, noting his father was killed months after his security was "lowered".

The security cover of six separatist leaders, including Sajad Lone's elder brother Bilal Lone, was withdrawn on Sunday, a decision that comes in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror strike in which 44 CRPF personnel were killed.

"It is their (Government's) decision (withdrawing security to separatists) but personally as far as I am concerned, I have lost my father and I cannot support it because I will never support violence of any sort against anyone," Sajad Lone, son of politician-turned-separatist leader Abdul Gani Lone, said.

The elder Lone, a prominent Hurriyat leader, was assassinated in 2002 during a rally to mark the death anniversary of former Mirwaiz of Kashmir Moulvi Mohammad Farooq in

Srinagar. Moulvi Farooq, father of Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, was assassinated in 1990.

"The security of my father was lowered in 2002 and after a few months, I received his body at home. I am not in a position to defend this decision (withdrawing of security)," the separatist-turned politician said, adding that "had I not been provided security, I would not have fought the elections because I would not have been alive then."

Besides Bilal, security cover of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Abdul Gani Bhat, Hashim Qureshi, Fazal Haq Qureshi and Shabir Shah has been withdrawn. Replying to a question that the Hurriyat leaders are toeing the Pakistan line, Sajad Lone said it was also been said about him sometime back.

"Today I am being projected as an example... And give this example that had he not been given security, he should not have been alive today," he said.

Sajad Lone was a Minister in erstwhile PDP-BJP coalition Government in the State. His party is an ally of the BJP. PTI

Two held for 'anti-India' remarks in UP

Shahjahanpur/Bhadohi: Two youths, one of them charged with sedition, were arrested in Shahjahanpur and Bhadohi districts of Uttar Pradesh on Monday for allegedly posting "anti-India" remarks on social media, police said.

A youth, identified as Farhan, was arrested in Shahjahanpur for allegedly posting the picture of a burning tricolour with a slogan denouncing India on social networking site Facebook, SP (City) Dinesh Tripathi said.

Members of a right-wing group lodged a complaint in this regard, following which Farhan was arrested, police said. In Bhadohi, Zeeshan Khan was arrested for allegedly posting an objectionable Facebook comment on February 15.

The post went viral after which a sedition case was lodged against Khan and he was arrested, police said. PTI

Probe against NC, PDP leaders for alleged anti-India statements: BJP

Jammu: Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Monday called for a probe against NC and PDP leaders for allegedly making anti-India statements.

"The BJP criticises the role of mainstream political parties which are giving anti-India statements and mislead the innocent Kashmiri people. The role of all such leaders from the National Conference and the PDP should be thoroughly examined and the culprits should be put behind the bars," Gupta said in a statement here.

His statement came a day after NC president Farooq Abdullah said the Kashmiris are not responsible for Pulwama attack, but such type of incidents will continue till the "Kashmir issue is resolved politically". Gupta said there is a need to formulate policy to check role of all those elements who were providing any type of assistance to "anti-national elements". PTI

Worried about husband's safety, jawan's wife kills self

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The wife of an Army jawan allegedly committed suicide in Gujarat's Devbhoomi Dwarka district as she had become anxious about his safety, police said on Monday.

Meenakshi Jethwa (22) had become worried about her husband Bhupendrasinh's safety especially in the wake of the attack on a CRPF convoy earlier last week, they said.

She was found to have hanged herself from the ceiling of her house in Khambhaliya town on Saturday.

Her husband, posted at Gulmarg in Jammu & Kashmir, was visiting home on leave when the incident took place. The couple had got married only two years ago.

Meenakshi did not want him to return to Kashmir, said a local police official.

Jethwa had told his wife about how he once narrowly



Her husband, posted at Gulmarg in Jammu & Kashmir, was visiting home on leave when the incident took place. The couple had got married only two years ago. Meenakshi did not want him to return to Kashmir, said a local police official

escaped an avalanche while on duty. This, in addition to the February 14 attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed, made her all the more apprehensive, the police official said.

"As the date of his departure neared, she got depressed and hanged herself," a police official said, adding that further probe was underway. PTI

Sikkim CM: Govt ready to sponsor education of martyrs' children

PTI ■ GANGTOK

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling on Monday said the State Government would like to sponsor education of the children of 44 CRPF personnel martyred in the terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama district last week.

However, this will be possible only if the Central Government agrees to the proposal, Chamling said in the Assembly, without elaborating. The Chief Minister said his Government has also announced an ex-gratia of ₹3 lakh each to the next of kin of the CRPF personnel killed in the attack on February 14.

Members of the Sikkim Assembly also paid tribute to the martyrs and observed two-minute silence as a mark of respect to them.

Mamata raises question on timing of Pulwama attack

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday questioned the timing of the Pulwama terror attack, asking whether the Government wanted to go to war when Lok Sabha elections were round the corner.

She also accused the BJP and the RSS of fomenting communal tension in the wake of the terror assault that claimed the lives of 44 CRPF troopers.

"When elections are knocking on the door you are trying to stage a war... A shadow war. Amit Shah and Narendra Modi are delivering political speeches. Even after such a big mishap you do not resign taking responsibility and are instead delivering political speeches," she told a Press conference.

The TMC supremo also wanted to know why a large convoy of CRPF personnel was allowed to move on the highway despite the Government having Intelligence inputs about a possible terror strike. PTI

Why plebiscite was not held in J&K earlier, asks Kamal Haasan

Chennai: Makkal Needhi Maiam chief Kamal Haasan has said a plebiscite could have been an option in Jammu & Kashmir earlier to foster peace and disagreed with calls for an immediate surgical strike to avenge the Pulwama killings.

Sharing some of his random thoughts on the Kashmir issue at an event here largely attended by students Sunday, the actor-cum-politician deprecated 'jehadis' being glorified in Pakistan.

He also indicated casualties can be avoided if the leadership of India and Pakistan "behaved properly".

"Why plebiscite — to get to know everyone's view — was not held there. Why it was not done? what is their fear? The country was ripped apart into

two (India and Pakistan). Why don't you ask them (people of J & K) again, they (political leadership) won't do it."

On the recent killing of 40 CRPF jawans at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, he said: "If there is bleeding, the first job is to stop it... To talk immediately of surgery (indicating surgical strike was not an option) is... (pauses for a moment)."

In the same breath, he said, "...Surgery should also be arranged... Okay but when there is blood loss, place cloth or ice to ensure coagulation, so that there is no further loss (of blood). 'I mourn this day,' he said and recalled that years ago when he ran a magazine he had predicted "exactly," that such things would happen in J&K. PTI

MNS asks private FM channels not to play songs of Pak artists

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) on Monday asked private FM channels in Mumbai not to play songs of Pakistani artists in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack in which 44 CRPF personnel were killed.

A leader of the Raj Thackeray-led party also asked international apparel brands not to sell clothes made in Pakistan.

MNS general secretary Shalini Thackeray said the party took the step in view of the terror strike.

"If music of Pakistani

artists is not stopped by these FM channels, then they should be ready to face the music," she said.

MNS leader Akhil Chitre wrote to some international apparel brands, asking them not to sell any clothes that were completely or partially made in Pakistan.

"We don't need to buy clothes made in Pakistan. I have written e-mails to several international apparel brands asking them to stop selling their merchandise here. If they don't follow it, they will face the consequences," he said. PTI

Bihar: 1 more held for objectionable comment on Pulwama attack

Samastipur: Police on Monday arrested another person in Bihar for posting a controversial message on social media about the CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror strike.

The man was held from Rahimabad village under the jurisdiction of Tajpur police station area of the district, following complaints about the social media message, Superintendent of Police, Samastipur, Harpreet Kaur, said.

"The accused has been booked under sections of the IPC relating to sedition and disturbing communal peace, besides the IT Act," Kaur said. PTI

Engineering student in judicial custody for post related to Pulwama attack

Suri (West Bengal): A Birbhum district court on Monday remanded an engineering student, who had uploaded a controversial post on social media over the Pulwama terror attack, to three days' judicial custody.

The court of additional chief judicial magistrate Rampurhat remanded the youth to judicial custody after he was arrested on Sunday following a complaint against him.

The student belonged to Nalhati area in the district. He had uploaded the post on the

Pulwama terror attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead on February 14 and it raised a hue and cry in the locality.

The Facebook post is not available now. Instead, the student of an engineering college in Kolkata had uploaded another post on Saturday tendering unconditional apology to all who might have been hurt by his earlier post.

He was charged under IPC Sections 505/1A (circulating statement with intent to cause defence personnel to mutiny) and 505/1B (circulating statement with intent to cause fear or alarm to the public).

Another person, who was also booked for similar kind of offence, is absconding. PTI

While condemning terror attack, BJP, Cong needle each other

Gandhinagar: The ruling BJP and the main Opposition Congress traded barbs in the Gujarat Assembly on Monday as they condemned the February 14 terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Jammu & Kashmir.

While the BJP claimed the "unresolved" Kashmir issue was the root cause of today's situation, the opposition party raked up the release of terrorist Maulana Masood Azhar.

Legislators cutting across the party lines condemned the terror attack in Pulwama last week in which 44 CRPF jawans were killed.

The Gujarat Government has called a five-day session of the Assembly from Monday to present a vote-on-account instead of a full budget due to the coming Lok Sabha polls.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the Prime

Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government was taking all necessary steps to wipe out terrorism.

"This House, in one voice, condemns the terror attack on our jawans. All the political parties have come together to fight terrorism. Every citizen of this country is with our soldiers. People want a fight-to-finish to wipe out terrorists completely," he said.

Leader of Opposition Paresh Dhanani said while people extended unconditional support to the Centre to fight terrorism, several attacks have taken place on the armed forces in Kashmir in the last couple of years.

"There are many other means to acquire power. But when someone tries to break our unity, we all must resolve

to give a befitting reply to such elements. Mere talks will not serve any purpose. We have to take decisive steps to eliminate terrorism," said the Congress leader.

Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said the root cause of the current situation was the unresolved Kashmir issue.

"If Congress leaders had allowed (then Union home minister) Sardar Patel to handle the Kashmir issue... We may not have been facing this problem today," he said.

Responding to him, Congress' Amit Chavda said Congress leaders have committed several sacrifices to maintain India's unity and integrity. Referring to Modi, Chavda said people are now demanding decisive action, not just assurances. PTI

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. SSA/MIS/Support-materials/OD/336/2006/PI/6733 Date : 18.02.2019
The tenders invited vide No. SSA/Misc/Support Materials/OD/336/2006/5891 Dated 01.02.2019 for Laptop, Desktop Computer, UPS, Scanner and Printer is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Sd/- Executive Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. SSA/MIS/CT-Elementary/452/2018/ 6731 Date: 18.02.2019
The tenders invited vide No. SSA/MIS/CT-Elementary/452/2018/5886 Dated 01.02.2019 for procurement of Educational Services and Supply and Maintenance of ICT Hardware & Accessories in Government schools in Assam is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Sd/- Executive Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender
No. SSA/MIS/CT-Elementary/452/2018/6732 Date: 18.02.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from Reputed Organization for procurement of Educational Services and Supply and Maintenance of ICT Hardware & Accessories in Government schools in Assam.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/- Executive Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender
No. SSA/MIS/Support-materials/452/2018/6733 Date : 18.02.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from Reputed Organization for supply and installation of Laptop, Desktop Computer, UPS, Scanner and Printer.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/- Executive Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण
(ISO 9001:2015 एवं ISO 14001:2015 प्रमाणित संस्था)
विकास पथ, गाजियाबाद

पत्रांक 137/4/ई0ई0जोन-3/2018-19 दिनांक 18.02.2019

निविदा संशोधन सूचना

दिनांक 16.02.2019 को राष्ट्रीय सहारा एवं दा पायनियर समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 131/4/ई0ई0जोन-3/2018-19 दिनांक 15.02.2019 के क्रमांक 1 पर वर्णित कार्य "दिलशाद गार्डन (दिल्ली) से न्यू बस अड्डा (गाजियाबाद) तक मेट्रो रेल विस्तारीकरण कार्य के लोकार्पण हेतु मंच, पण्डाल आदि की व्यवस्था का कार्य" पर अंकित कार्य की निविदा विक्रय अवधि 19.02.2019 तक निर्धारित थी। दिनांक 19.02.2019 को राज्य सरकार द्वारा सार्वजनिक अवकाश घोषित करने के कारण प्रश्नगत कार्य की निविदा विक्रय तिथि 20.02.2019 तक एवं निविदा आमंत्रण तिथि दिनांक 21.02.2019 निर्धारित की जाती है। उक्त के अतिरिक्त "निविदा प्रपत्र प्राधिकरण मुख्यालय में स्थित विजया बैंक जी.डी.ए. परिसर एवं प्राधिकरण बैंकसाइट से पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक कार्य के सम्मुख अंकित दिनांक तक कार्य दिवस में क्रय किये जा सकेंगे।" के स्थान पर "निविदा प्रपत्र प्राधिकरण मुख्यालय में स्थित विजया बैंक जी0डी0ए0 परिसर से पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक कार्य के सम्मुख अंकित दिनांक तक कार्य दिवस में क्रय किये जा सकेंगे।" शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

मुख्य अभियन्ता

ई-मेल: helpinegda@gmail.com, @gdagzb, @gdagzb
हेल्पलाइन: 0120-3342433 / कार्सर्व: 9818988807, वेबसाइट: www.gdaghaziabad.com

एक सुन्दर शहर..... हमारा संकल्प

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIX QUANTITY CONTRACT OF PVC PIPE FOR THE YEAR 2019

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering of Fix Quantity contract for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Ring Fit PVC pipes (63 to 315mm Dia) with ISI Mark 2950.13 MT Estimated amt. Rs. 2524.21 Lacs (without GST), from approved vendor of GWSSB only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the tender documents free of cost from web site. https://www.nprocure.com The last date of submission of online tender is 25.02.2019.

NO/INF/VPN/2018/G/2979

WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPTT. NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ROOM NO. 231, SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH PLACE, NEW DELHI

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_168733_1
Name of Work: MLALAD Fund
Sub Head : Laying of New hydrant pipe line for 23 water hydrants in NDMC area New Delhi.
Estimate Cost : Rs. 12,18,628.00
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 14.02.2019
Last date / time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 22.02.2019 upto 3.00 PM
Further details can be seen at http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
Notes: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system. Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WIS)

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

Cricket as power tool

There are appeals to BCCI that India not play Pak at World Cup but why should we give a walkover?



With tempers still on the boil over the Pulwama terrorist attacks, carried out by Jaish-e-Mohammad under the protectorate of Pakistan, discussion boards are awash with opinions on how to punish the rogue nation, diplomatically, economically and culturally. Now the strategy to isolate Pakistan has spilt over into sports and the only discipline which is religion on both sides and has been used to settle many sub-continental duels — cricket. Especially after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, a cricketing legend himself, forgot the values of the game and is yet to comment on the latest Pulwama attack. Now the Cricket Club of India (CCI), an affiliate of the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), has demanded that India not play Pakistan at the ICC World Cup this summer. It even blacked out pictures of Pakistani cricketers from its premises in Mohali. Fans too are demanding that we not play Pakistan and in fact, cede two points to that team, as a walkover. While the fragility of Indo-Pak relations is being tested on a taut and thin thread that cannot be elasticised any further, the larger theory of sports being an apolitical space which must actually transcend borders is not holding. Rather, the larger sports economy, in this case the cricket economy, is being used as a coercive tool to isolate Pakistan and bring it down to its knees on supporting Jaish and its chief Masood Azhar. As it is, IMG-Reliance almost overnight pulled out of broadcast contracts to provide satellite feed of Pakistan Cricket League (PCL) matches. The logic being applied here too is much the same. With India a big booming market for spectatorship, which holds the barometer of the much-loved TRPs, and us owning much of the rights of the distribution feed, ICC sure cannot afford to alienate India. But can it stop it from keeping Pakistan in the championship? Unlikely. Though it makes for good optics internationally, fact is nobody else will be invested as deeply in India's hurt or a bilateral issue in a multi-lateral championship. Besides, we have stopped playing Pakistan since 26/11 except at multi-nation championships. And this is the World Cup, so we would want our boys to win on their talent and steam and crush the Pakistanis instead of giving them a walkover.

A far more effective way of choking a financially-strapped Pakistan now would be to appeal to the global finance task force and build a case for World Bank and IMF to not grant loans. And now that Imran Khan is crowing how Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad-bin Salman cannot let down Pakistan and will fund it generously, we need to tell the prince when he visits here that investments can't be easy without mutual gains and concessions. Besides, as we have mentioned before, we need to make this point with China too, which values our market more than anything else. Meanwhile, cricket itself can become one of the soft tools of outreach to the Valley, where youth engagement and their participation in local matters have been completely sidelined with the obviously prioritised security imperatives. But if Pulwama has shown anything, it is that it is time to arrest the drift and mount a social reconnect programme to counter the Jaish propaganda, especially in the time of fake news and the high consumption of digital platforms in the Valley. Parvez Rasool has made it to the national side while Qamran Iqbal (17) has made it to the under-19 national side. More stars are shining through in the IPL. In the end, this will be the greatest game that we will win against Pakistan.

To detain or not to

The debate about holding children back in a class is one with passionate arguments on either side



The constant flip-flop on the 'no detention' till Class VIII policy passed by the Union Cabinet in 2017 is best exemplified by Delhi's Education Minister Manish Sisodia, who has both criticised and praised it at different times. But Sisodia is not alone, even educationists are deeply divided on whether the policy is good or bad. At the fundamental level, holding a child back in a lower class could detrimentally impact his/her self-confidence and lead to low-esteem later in life but passing a child, who is fundamentally weak in basic literacy such as reading, mathematics and analytical skills, will mean sending someone up the chain who will be too weak to join the job market whenever he/she graduates. However, Sisodia's main contention is valid, and that is that most Indian schools are ill-prepared to have a 'no detention' policy in place right now with low teacher accountability for results. And while the policy is a good one, it is currently too utopian. Thus, the Delhi Government has proposed staggered detentions for the time being, with children possibly being held back in Classes III, V and VIII. And on this, Sisodia is correct because at a very basic level, one has to understand that every child is unique and has different learning abilities, which may or may not be associated with their upbringing. But until a child's mental abilities are properly assessed, such a policy is detrimental for India's future workforce. India, for example, has very few special learning schools for children with slower mental development, for instance, almost none in the Government sector and very few in the private sector. The Indian education system, that is geared towards quantity given the scale of young people in this country, is deeply unprepared to deal with children who fall off the bandwagon for whatever reason.

While a 'no detention' policy is perfect in a world where teacher-student ratios are ideal and teachers can give more time to those children, who demand more time to develop, India really needs to ramp up its investment in educational institutions that help young children catch up, a 'no child left behind' policy in a manner of speaking. Even then, given the scale of the problem, that is the sheer volume of children in India, we cannot continue advocating a 'one size fits all' solution over here. Yes, the problem about low self-esteem in later life if a child is held back must be a concern but pushing a child forward when he/she is deeply unprepared for the real world that they will one day have to face, is possibly worse unless India is willing to deal with millions of 'Studied till Class VIII' written on job applications. The education system in India is thoroughly broken and while urgent reform is needed across the board, the most urgent fixes are needed at the primary level. It would be wise for more people across India, especially those in education, to listen to Sisodia and his solutions.

Shattering national stupor

The Centre has to think carefully about how to punish nuclear-armed Pakistan. But before any action in or against Islamabad, there is much to fix at home



SANDHYA JAIN

As the Government unravels the conspiracy behind the horrendous car bomb attack on February 14, 2019, that has taken the lives of 49 Central Reserve Police Force jawans, it must consider civilian supporters of terrorists, especially stone-pelters, who hurt the forces, as accomplices. Pulwama has shaken India's soul; we can no longer tolerate human rights violations while losing worthy citizens. In a little noticed episode on February 13, 2019, an explosion at a private school in Narbal, Pulwama, injured 16 students. Yet, the police team that arrived to investigate the incident was pelted with stones. Apparently, a student of class X was carrying explosives in his bag, which exploded after others fiddled with it.

This message should also be strongly conveyed to the Supreme Court, whose judges last year ordered that FIRs be filed against soldiers when civilian casualties occur, and who dismissed a petition by over 300 serving soldiers asking the court to define where their duty ends and crime begins in their operations against anti-national forces. The petition was an appeal to the apex court not to act as protector of the human rights industry; sadly, it fell on deaf ears and the PIL business continues to flourish.

It was a mistake to ask Northern Army commander, Lt Gen DS Hooda (of Uri surgical strikes fame) to publicly apologise when jawans at a check post fired upon a civilian, who refused to stop for a routine security check, smashed through two check posts and was moving through the third when stopped by a bullet (April 2016). The provocation was to the jawans, not the other way round, but the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), infatuated with its alliance with the People's Democratic Party (PDP), humiliated the men in uniform.

Fortunately, the Government stood by Major Leetul Gogoi when, during the violence in Ultigam (Srinagar bypoll) in May 2017, he grabbed an alleged ringleader of stone-pelters and used him as a human shield to save the lives of Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel. In the violence that day, petrol bombs were hurled and boulders thrown from rooftops. It follows that while finalising its policy on Pakistan, the Government must enunciate a policy regarding civilian perpetrators of violence (those not officially affiliated with a terror outfit) in Jammu & Kashmir. There has been enough charity; now zero tolerance must begin at home.

We must also speak some harsh truths to the nation, and particularly to Jammu & Kashmir. What is the purpose of inane dialogues to integrate Kashmir with India? Does the nation know that Maharaja Hari Singh repeatedly offered to accede to India prior to 1947 but was rebuffed by Jawaharlal Nehru, who insisted that power be handed over to Sheikh Abdullah as a condition for accepting the sensitive border State? That Mountbatten knew of the Pakistani aggression but withheld aid for



four critical days? That after 1947, Central funds allotted for the entire State were cornered by the Kashmir Valley to the detriment of Jammu and Ladakh?

The myth of artificial alienation of the Valley has to stop somewhere. Four lakh Kashmiri Pandits were terrorised, brutalised and forced out of the State in the biting winter of 1989-90, and the Lutyens fraternity shamelessly blamed Governor Jagmohan when he had barely entered the State. Now, as Pulwama shatters the national stupor, false stories of Kashmiri students being terrorised in some places are flooding the social media. Has any Kashmiri politician or human rights activist wondered about the careers of non-Kashmiri students of the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, who objected to Kashmiri students celebrating India's loss against West Indies in World T20 series (March 31, 2016); they were thrashed by Kashmir police for chanting nationalist slogans and waving the tricolour and left the State in fear of their lives.

The Centre has to think carefully about how to punish nuclear-armed Pakistan, which has also developed tactical (small, easily deployable) nuclear weapons. An Uri-like action may not be feasible; perhaps terror kingpins like Saeed Hafiz and Azhar Masood can have a "bad accident".

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THE STATE FLAG MUST GO WITHOUT FURTHER ADD; URDU (OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN, WHICH LED TO ITS BREAK-UP) MUST NO LONGER BE THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF A STATE WITH A RICH CIVILISATIONAL HERITAGE AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGE, KASHMIRI
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But before any action in or against Pakistan, there is much to fix at home: Repeal Article 370 through Presidential Order; the President alone has the power. Repeal Article 35-A that was smuggled into the Constitution by Presidential Order in 1954 at the insistence of Jawaharlal Nehru, despite Dr Rajendra Prasad's objections.

The State flag must go without further ado; Urdu (official language of Pakistan, which led to its break-up) must no longer be the official language of a State with a rich civilisational heritage and classical language, Kashmiri. Jammu and Ladakh must be allowed to adopt Dogri and Bhoti (Bodhi) as language of education. It is true that the Centre has granted Ladakh a Central University and Divisional status, but the long-neglected Jammu and Ladakh regions now deserve attention and national resources.

Major world capitals and neighbouring countries condemned the Pulwama attack and stood by India. In a significant statement, Washington, which needs Islamabad to extricate itself from Afghanistan, said: "US condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack today on an Indian CRPF convoy in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir". This is the first time the US has unequivocally called Jammu & Kashmir an "Indian State".

Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, which was behind

the attack on the Indian Parliament (2001) and Pathankot air base (2016), has claimed responsibility for Pulwama. But what deserves attention is the timing and purpose of the attack. Iran has accused Pakistan of supporting Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) terrorists who are behind a suicide bombing that killed 27 troops on February 13, 2019. Revolutionary Guards Commander, Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, has threatened retaliation if Islamabad does not punish the culprits and warned that the action would not be 'limited to its borders'. He blamed two other Middle Eastern nations for complicity in the attack.

Pulwama continues a series of Pakistani provocations against the Indian armed forces: Pathankot (January 2016); Uri (September 2016); Nagrota (November 2016); Sunjwan (February 2018). But what could be the reason for Islamabad — which has always feared a two-front war — opening hostilities on two borders at the same time? Its greatest backer, China, does not want to alienate Tehran or New Delhi, even if Beijing is not supporting India in having Azhar Masood declared a 'global terrorist' at the United Nations.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Diplomatic road is very important. It should be pursued aggressively to get across a message to Pakistan.

Former R&AW chief —AS Dulat



I felt that the place where my father started his political career and served, I should also do ghar wapsi and serve there.

Cricketer-turned-politician —Kirti Azad



It's extremely important to be emotionally strong and be focused. Do it your own way. Don't be afraid of making mistakes.

Actor —Deepika Padukone



Who released those involved in the 1999 Kandahar incident? Whose responsibility is it? Our fight is against them. Why should a soldier die?

Congress leader —Navjot Singh Sidhu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teach Pakistan a lesson

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Pulwama offensive" (February 18). The Pulwama car suicide attack on a Central Reserve Police Force convoy, that claimed over 45 lives of our soldiers, should be taken as the last straw on the camel's back. India should urge all other nations, including the US, to declare Pakistan as a "rogue state for terrorists" and isolate it from the mainstream.

India can no longer remain a witness to the dastardly killings of its forces by militants based in Pakistan, who are aided and abetted by the Government and the Army over there. Even when new rulers took charge of the administration in Islamabad, it has been amply proved by now that they have been incapable to rein in the terror groups.

While India has revoked the Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan and imposed customs duty on imports, in order to make it toe the line, efforts must be made to choke the nation with sanctions.

VS Jayaraman
 Chennai

Valley needs a semblance of normality

This refers to the editorial, "Pulwama offensive" (February 18). Thankfully, the Modi Government acted in a well-calculated manner in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack. Despite intense anger and anguish among the people, it did not act in haste to give a 'swift bloody nose' to Pakistan. There is no guarantee that military action will prove efficacious and not futile in curbing militant attacks. It is simplistic to see the vexed Kashmir question as a mere 'law and order' problem. The intractable territorial dispute is not amenable to a military solution. It is essentially a geo-political problem that involves religious and cultural identities and requires a political solution through dialogue.

It must be conceded that militancy is rooted in political grievances of the disaffected and alienated Kashmiri people. Such is the environment in the Valley that local youth are easily radicalised and inducted into militant groups. The sad truth in the Valley is that security per-



sonnel and militants lose their lives in the fight between them. Violence and counter-violence and killings and counter-killings get us nowhere. Statesmanship and sagacity, as against jingoism and belligerency, is what is needed to bring about a semblance of normality and peace in the border State.

G David Milton
 Maruthancode

Take stern action

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Pulwama offensive" (February 18). The suicide car bomb attack upon a Central Reserve Police Force convoy in Pulwama orchestrated by Jaish-e-Mohammed is really numbing. It deserves not only national condemnation but the international community

must stand by India in its hour of crisis.

Meanwhile, India is completely justified in its decision to withdraw the Most Favoured Nation status that it accorded to Pakistan. It's good that the armed forces have been given a free hand to take pin-pointed retaliation. It is an undisputed fact that newly-inducted local young militants have an underhand in the

dastardly act of cruelty and barbarity. An in-depth search operation in vulnerable districts of Kashmir must be carried out to hunt down the militants and their cohorts hidden in different places. Separatist leaders, who extend unstinting support to Pakistan, must also dealt with sternly.

Nimai Charan Swain
 Bhubaneswar

Welcome step

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Pulwama offensive" (February 18). In the first place, separatists in Jammu & Kashmir, who wage war against the nation in connivance with Pakistan, do not deserve any security cover. One fails to understand on what basis the Government of India provided security to the separatists at a huge cost to the ex-chequer? It is disturbing that the Government squandered the hard earned taxpayers' money running to hundreds of crores for the past 10 years on six separatists, who have been acting against the interests of the nation by brainwashing Kashmiri youths to take to guns.

Colossal waste of money for men, who have been the architect of violence and killings of civilians and forces conniving with terror outfits, is a blunder. At last wisdom dawned late than never and the Government has withdrawn security cover to them. This is a step in the right direction.

KR Srinivasan
 Secunderabad

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Towards building a digital future

While India has legitimate questions about how companies handle data, to protect trade, Governments must address harmful data policies



JOSH KALLMER

Top officials of the United States and India joined leading CEOs last week to discuss trade, investment and the business climate between the two nations at the India-US Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum in New Delhi. Despite a robust dialogue, the meeting was a missed opportunity for officials from both nations to address a series of new measures regulating the flow and storage of data in India that threatens to undermine this critical trade relationship. India and the US must continue to engage and address these problematic data policies before they cause further harm to the economic growth of both countries.

From payments to e-commerce to retail to farming, digital data is the lifeblood of any modern economy. The ability to seamlessly move, store and process data at locations scattered across the world drives the growth of digital services and reduces production costs, leading to the expansion and prosperity of businesses globally. As a sign of this success, thousands of Indian companies — of all sizes and sectors, especially in the tech industry — have been launched over the last decade. Further, growth and vitality of India's international market has attracted countless American companies that now offer digital services to invest in the local economy and Indian employees.

However, India's recent regulations, requiring businesses to store data on Indian soil and restricting the transfer of data outside the country, jeopardise progress of not only our country but American business partners, too. Worrisome actions by India include: Its proposed privacy law, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data localisation directive and new data localisation measures for e-commerce, cloud computing and other sectors — all of which force companies to store their data locally in India. In some instances, they restrict businesses from moving copies of certain types of data across borders. For example, the RBI's directive requires all Indian payment data to be stored only in India, cutting off the Indian market from global data analytics, cyber threat assessments and payment products.

The digital relationship between the US and India is significant. Latest data shows that 61 per cent of India's software services exports — \$66 billion — goes to the US. Moreover, India runs a \$16.5 billion trade surplus in IT services with the US — more than any other country. India's new restrictions on data will curtail success. Collectively, the measures will impose millions of dollars in compliance costs for companies in India and increase costs and limit services for Indian consumers. Recent research also shows data localisation regulations can increase a company's computing costs by up to 60 per cent and reduce the regulating country's Gross Domestic Product by 0.8 per cent.

India raises legitimate questions about how companies handle data. The Indian Government has every right to ensure that citizens' data is appropriately protected and that law enforcement agencies can review data that companies hold when needed. However, there are ways to protect privacy or assist law enforcement investigations without imposing burdensome regulations that hurt Indian businesses and consumers.

Governments across the world share India's concerns and the international community is working to find solutions. For example, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum has created the Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR), an international, interoperable system that lays on top of national privacy laws to protect the privacy of citizen data as it travels across borders. In addition, the US has passed the CLOUD Act, which creates a framework for countries to negotiate agreements through which they may gain timely access to data across borders.

Neither India nor the US wants to reverse the shared prosperity the two have enjoyed over the last decade. Given the billions of dollars that flow between both countries and the countless exabytes of data stored in India and the US, it is incumbent upon officials to reach a compromise that promotes strong digital relationship and rolls back data localisation requirements while respecting India's sovereignty. We believe they can achieve this balance and encourage both nations to build a digital future together.

(The writer is, executive vice president, Information Technology Industry Council)

JOBLESS GROWTH HAS SLIPPED INTO JOB-LOSS GROWTH. THIS TOGETHER WITH RURAL INDEBTEDNESS AND URBAN CHAOS HAS MADE YOUTH RESTLESS.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER
MANMOHAN SINGH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



SINGH'S CHARGE IS FACTUALLY WRONG AS HE HAS PERHAPS REFERRED TO NSSO DATA, WHICH SIMPLY IS A SURVEY, NOT REAL DATA LIKE EPFO.

—BJP MP
RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Trapped in a blind alley

With its economy in the doldrums and given its failed inter-provincial relationship, Pakistan has no alternative but to spill out, and India is the only destination



PRAFULL GORADIA

Every week, news comes in that Pakistan is moving towards bankruptcy. True, several countries like China and Saudi Arabia have shown sympathies and given financial aid. However, if Karl Marx were around today, he might have said that loans are the opium of the classes. What could be true of the classes would be true of countries, too. It is too early yet to forget that in 1990, the Reserve Bank of India was sending gold to banks in London as pledge for loans in foreign exchange. The Pakistani crisis is far more serious because not only is there a financial paucity but also an impending economic collapse. The country is still essentially agrarian and feudal, and there has been little development since the British departed in 1947. In the meantime, the population has multiplied to reach nearly 180 million. Moreover, Islam commands a great deal of devotion from its followers but in turn, it does not encourage economic attention in contrast to the Protestant work ethic.

Since the advent of the Baghdad Pact in 1955 and SEATO in 1954, Pakistan has been the beneficiary of American military and other such aid, which helped the economy in general and imports in particular. That aid is drying up because of the country's active association with terrorism, the Taliban and others. Cereals and other basic food items are not a problem yet, but Pakistan has run out of red meat. Way back in the days of Field Marshal Ayub Khan's presidency, it could be foreseen that the supply of beef would become a problem. He had, during his time in the mid-sixties, declared one-day a week meatless. Now with the shortage of foreign exchange, how can imports be sustained? All these developments and more are a concern for India, too, not merely out of human sympathy but also on account of self-interest. How? We must anticipate this to plan ahead.

Another grave weakness of Pakistan is its inter-provincial relationship. All the three other Provinces, namely Balochistan, North-West Frontier Province and Sind, resent Punjab, which holds two-third of the population. Punjab dominates, if not monopolises the Army and the bureaucracy. There have been separatist movements in all three smaller Provinces. The Pathans or Paktoons look to the Afghans as their brothers. Jio Sindh is not active at present but sentiments are alive. Balochs openly say they want to separate and killings take place frequently. Disunity does not augur well for Pakistan. Hence, Islamabad tries to divert everyone's attention by stoking Kashmir as a daily issue.

India was partitioned in 1947 on demand of most Muslims of the sub-continent, who aspired that their new homeland would become a New Medina. The old Medina was the first Islamic state, founded by Prophet Muhammad in 622 CE after his hijrat or migration from Mecca. When he ascended to heaven, his representatives or Caliphs took over one by one. They were conceptually the spiritual as well as temporal heads of all Islam, effectively the Sunnis, who comprise 90 per cent of the world community, called the *ummah*. In 1924,

“ WHAT BANGLADESHIS DID TO INDIA IN YESTERYEARS, PAKISTAN COULD DO IN THE YEARS TO COME. TO BE DECEIVED ONCE IS IGNORANCE BUT TO BE DECEIVED AGAIN IS LUNACY. FENCING ONE'S BORDER IS A WISE MEASURE ”



Mustafa Kamal Ataturk, the new unquestioned head of Turkey, abolished the Caliphate and exiled the incumbent. That was the end of the symbolic head of all Islam. Muslims everywhere would like that institution to be recreated. The dream of the pre-1947 Muslims of India was that Pakistan would be the cradle of this recreated Medina.

The same sentiment in Arabia is reflected in the Islamic State (IS), which fought in Iraq against Baghdad and against the Syrian Government in the ghastly civil war that has just ended. Sentiment was so strong and widespread in India that Pakistan became a reality even with its two wings, 1,600 kilometres apart. Bangladesh broke away in 1971 and exploded the myth that Islam alone can bind any country together.

The same fissiparousness spread inside the western wing of Pakistan to emphasise that Islam cannot alone be the binding factor of any country or its parts. Followers have been too ambitious to expect religion to be a total prescription for life and not merely a spiritual path to connect man and God.

There must be leaders in Pakistan, who now realise this truth as well as recognise that but unfortunately, no other ideology or political basis has been allowed to sprout and grow. In short, Pakistan has allowed itself to get trapped in a blind alley.

The only way out is to explode and that holds a grave danger for India. If the people have no alternative but to spill out, India is the only destination. What Bangladeshis did to India in yesteryears, Pakistan could do in the years to come. To be deceived once is ignorance but to be deceived again is lunacy. Fencing one's border is a wise measure. US President Donald Trump is building a wall across the southern border of America against the wishes of the Congress, which refuses to grant him a big enough budget. But how can one fence the sea shores?

Migrations by boat people are legendary, whether in Asia out of Vietnam, into Europe via sea or America from Haiti.

Over and above, to fence the land borders, there has to be alert by internal security who must be helped by watch towers on the entire border, sea or land. The Aadhaar card is alright as a negative check but all adult citizens must be issued domestic passports to be okayed only after strict inquiries, much stricter than before giving out passports to travel abroad. With a passport, a person can settle in permanently. With India's diversity, there would be no alternative but comprehensive vigil. Sooner or later, surreptitious infiltration is inevitable in large, medium or small measure.

Hence, above all, supreme deterrence is needed. Remember, Pakistanis would have friends and relatives who

have been in India since time immemorial. Very few Bangladeshis had this advantage; their allies were politicians with their eyes on building vote banks.

Further help to the agonised and otherwise helpless people of Sindh, as well as Balochistan, should be contemplated. Remember, Sindhi locals hardly played any part in driving out the Hindus. That unfortunate role was played by the *Mohajirs* after they landed in Karachi and had to either live in camps or sleep on the streets. In fact, Sindhis were nowhere near the forefront of the demand for Pakistan, and their leadership had wondered as to how their economy could function efficiently without Hindu Amil officials and Bhaiband businessmen.

Balochistan, until late in 1948, had an Embassy in Karachi, which clearly showed that in terms of British tradition, the region had a distinct status and did not need an accession to either dominion, India or Pakistan. Nevertheless, the Khan of Kalat came to Delhi and officially called on Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and requested for Balochistan to be taken over as a part of India. Nehru politely declined. If either or both of these Provinces can release themselves from Islamabad's clutches and become autonomous again, they can be of much help to New Delhi.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

This head cannot lie uneasy

While the CBI has had spectacular successes, its role has also come under severe criticism from time to time. The enactments and amendments to the Act have been unable to address inherent problems. It's time we re-think the CBI chief's selection process



KK PAUL

Despite recommendations of the National Police Commission in 1980 for legislation on a Model Police Act, the Indian Police Act of 1861 has continued to be in vogue for over 130 years before any serious amendments were even contemplated. On the other hand, the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, has been already amended twice during the last 20 years. The Act was created initially to conduct inquiries and investigations into post-war anti-corruption matters.

This was reorganised on professional lines in 1963, when the scope of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was enlarged and cases of national-level importance and those having inter-state ramifications were

brought into its ambit.

The focus once again shifted in 2009, when the National Investigating Agency (NIA) was especially created to investigate bomb explosions and terrorism-related cases. While the CBI needed the concurrence of the State Government before taking up any matter, the NIA does not have any handicap of this nature.

While the CBI has had spectacular successes, its role has also come under severe criticism from time to time. One such matter, popularly known as the Jain Hawala case, came under sharp gaze of the Supreme Court. Despite the fact that the CBI had failed in its pursuit of investigating allegations of corruption in high places in this case, the judgement from Chief Justice JS Verma was path-breaking and historic. The apex court had, for the first time, given concrete suggestions in the nature of directions to strengthen the organs of the state involved in fighting corruption.

The first change took place when under the directions of the top court,

the supervision and administration of the Delhi Special Police Establishment got vested in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). This had the effect of taking away the CBI out of the direct control of the Department of Personnel, Government of India. The Ordinances issued for this purpose for the CBI and the CVC were replaced by Acts of Parliament in 2003.

Later, after the enactment of the Lok Pal Act, the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, was again amended and a new clause at 4A, constituting the committee for appointment of Director, was added by a notification on January, 16, 2014. The committee stipulated in the provision comprised (a) the Prime Minister as Chairperson, (b) Leader of Opposition or Leader of single largest opposition party in the House as member, (c) the Chief Justice of India or judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him as a member.

The inclusion of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) in this high-powered committee, in all probability, would have been done at the draft Bill stage,

only after due consultations. But at that point of time, perhaps, the possibility of certain eventualities cropping up later had got overlooked.

First, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition party, not being in agreement, the casting vote and the final stamp of approval would always be with the CJI. In the event of a petition or a hearing against the Director, CBI, in whose selection the CJI had a major role, the latter would, in all probability, have to recuse himself.

On the other hand, even with the case assigned to another bench, the fact that the person had been cleared by none other than the CJI himself, would always remain on record. The point is whether Section 4A of the Act should have only mentioned the words, a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the CJI.

Second, according to clause 4A (3) of the Act, the Committee shall recommend a panel of officers on the basis of seniority, integrity and experience in the investigation of anti-corruption cases and which has to be

chosen from among the officers belonging to the Indian Police Service. It can, thus, be simply inferred that the entire process would involve scrutiny of the records of IPS officers, sifting through the background material and career profile summary of each officer in contention and based on these making an assessment on their relative suitability. Even as most of this part of due diligence would have been done at the Secretariat level, it may still be a point of debate as *prima facie*, this process, far from being a judicial one, appears to be an executive function of the Government.

On the Doctrine of the basic structure of the Constitution, Justice (Retd) VR Krishna Iyer had stated, "While infallibility is no attribute of a Constitution, its fundamental character and basic structure cannot be overlooked." Chief Justice SM Sikri, Shelat and Grover, JJ had for the first time in the Kesavananda Bharati case illustrated separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary as one of the essen-

tials of the basic structure of the Constitution. Since then, this doctrine of basic structure has been referred to in numerous matters by the apex court. Accordingly, it may also be seen whether the participation of the CJI in an executive function of the Government, howsoever positive and well-meaning it may be, would have the Constitutional back up of the separation of powers and the basic structure doctrine.

While the CBI Act was being amended in 2014, these issues had not figured explicitly in public domain, nor were they fully debated, nevertheless, the Supreme Court will always have the last word on the interpretation of the Constitution and the law. At the same time, we have to be conscious of the fact that these enactments and amendments have been unable to address the inherent problems as manifest in the events of the last few months.

(The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Governor of Uttarakhand and Meghalaya)



FOREIGN EYE



A DUTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

If public health campaigns were run with half the ruthless ingenuity displayed by betting companies, we might be better off. But not everything can be left to governments and large companies. Parents who care about their own children's health must be prepared to take the argument to the playgrounds and on to social media as well. (The Guardian editorial)

RBI to pay ₹28K crore as interim dividend to Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank will pay an interim dividend of ₹28,000 crore to the Government, a move that will help the Centre keep fiscal deficit in check.

The announcement on Monday came after the bank's Central Board meeting, which was addressed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

This is the second successive year when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be transferring an interim surplus.

This is in addition to ₹50,000 crore surplus transfer announced by RBI in August 2018 for 2017-18 (RBI follows July-June financial year). Of this, ₹10,000 crore was given as interim dividend to the Government on March 27, 2018.

"Based on a limited audit review and after applying the extant economic capital framework, the Board decided to transfer an interim surplus of



₹280 billion to the Central Government for the half-year ended December 31, 2018," the central bank said in a statement.

RBI had given ₹30,663 crore as dividend to the Government in 2017-18. In his address to the Board, Jaitley outlined various reforms and policy measures taken by the government over the last four years and the effects thereof. The central bank transfers its surplus amount to the Government, under Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934.

Section 47 of the Act says: "After making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contri-

bution to staff and superannuation fund and for all matters for which provision is to be made by or under the Act or which are usually provided by bankers, the balance of the profits shall be paid to the central Government."

As per the Budget document, the Government expects ₹82,911.56 crore as dividend/surplus of RBI, nationalised banks and financial institutions during 2019-20.

The statement further said the Central Board, chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, also observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect for the security personnel killed in the terror attack at Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir.

Fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is expected to be slightly higher at 3.4 per cent of the GDP on account of ₹20,000 crore budgeted for income support to farmers. For 2019-20 too, the government has retained the fiscal deficit at 3.4 per cent.

Sensex sinks 311 pts; Nifty drops below 10,700-mark

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks wilted under selling pressure for the eight straight session Monday as risk appetite remained subdued amid sustained foreign outflows and geo-political concerns.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 310.51 points, or 0.87 per cent to finish at 35,498.44, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 83.45 points, or 0.78 per cent, to 10,640.95. FMCG, banking, IT, auto and pharma stocks bore the brunt of heavy selling.

Banking shares weakened after Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said he will meet heads of public and private sector banks this week to discuss transmission of interest rate cuts to borrowers. Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank cut the benchmark interest rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.25 per cent. However, only a handful of banks, including SBI, have reduced their rates, that too by just 0.05 per cent. Top losers in the Sensex pack included TCS, Yes Bank, ITC, Sun Pharma, Reliance, Coal India, Asian Paints, SBI, Maruti, HUL, HCL Tech and ICICI Bank, falling up

to 2.91 per cent. However, ONGC, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Vedanta, NTPC, IndusInd Bank and HDFC gained up to 1.48 per cent. "Market remained on a selling spree as reducing foreign inflows due to fear of escalation of tensions at the border impacted the sentiment.

"Rupee weakened, 10-year yield inched up and rising oil prices are expected to weaken domestic macros. Volatility in the market to continue due to lack of domestic triggers and investors are likely to remain cautious. Global market stands positive supported by hope in US-China trade deals," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE bankex, auto, FMCG, healthcare, metal and tech indices declined up to 1.36 per cent. Only telecom and realty ended in the green, gaining up to 0.88 per cent. Broader indices ended lower, with the BSE Midcap and Smallcap losing up to 1.04 per cent. The rupee, meanwhile, depreciated 21 paise to 71.44 against the US dollar (intra-day). PTI

IOC signs \$1.5 bn deal to buy US crude oil

New Delhi: In the first-ever deal by an Indian company, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) Monday said it has signed an annual deal worth USD 1.5 billion to import 3 million tonnes of crude oil in the fiscal year beginning April 1.

This is the first time any Indian refiner has signed an annual contract since the country in 2017 began importing crude oil from the US.

"IOC has finalised a term contract for import of up to 3 million tonnes of crude oil of US origin grades as a part of its strategy to diversify term crude sources," the company said in a statement.

The contract was finalised on February 15.

The term contract follows IOC signing up to buy crude oil from the US through a term-tender deal in August last year.

It had at that time bought about 6 million barrels of US crude oil under single tender for delivery between November 2018 and January 2019. PTI

Business Corner

SAIL HOLDS CRICKET MATCH FOR STEEL INDUSTRY

New Delhi: Hon'ble Union Minister of Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh inaugurated a cricket match organized by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the entire domestic Steel Industry at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, in New Delhi today. This cricket match was a part of Diamond Jubilee celebrations by SAIL to commemorate its sixty years of production.



BJP'S MANIFESTO WILL BE COMMITTED TO "NEW INDIA"

Lucknow: Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that the BJP's "Sankalp Patra" (Manifesto) will be the first manifesto of any party to be prepared with the help, suggestions and participation of crores of people. Shri Naqvi said that the BJP's "Sankalp Patra" will be committed to "New India". The BJP's "Sankalp Patra" will be a "Blue Print" of happiness and transformation in the lives of every section of the society.

32ND GARDEN TOURISM FEST ENDS ON HIGH NOTE

New Delhi: The 32nd Garden Tourism Festival succeeded in attracting thousands of visitors to the venue of Garden of Five Senses. People not only bought numerous varieties of plants but also were spell bound by the beauty of Garden of Five Senses as they spent quality time with their friends and family in the lush green gardens. The festival enlightened the visitors on the importance of gardening and how small efforts can make a difference towards a greener Delhi.



CANDLE LIGHT MARCH HELD FOR MARTYRS

New Delhi: A candle light march was organised by the CRPF Family Welfare Association (CWA) and member of civil society from Connaught place to Jantar Mantar New Delhi. Thousands of the members of CRPF family welfare association, ladies, children and general public from neighboring locality gathered to express their solidarity with the martyrs and their families. The participants were dressed in black holding placards and national flags in their hands and shouting slogan "Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jawano Ka Yah Balidhan Nahi Bhulega Hindusthan" and condemned dastardly militant attack.



NLC HOLDS MINI MARATHON FOR MARTYRED JAWANS

The Mini Marathon for the cause of "Promoting Good Health and Fitness" was held in the Neyveli township on the 17th of February 2019. The marathon was flagged off by the Chairman cum Managing Director, NLCIL, Shri. Rakesh Kumar from Bharathi Stadium. Homage was paid to the martyrs of the recent terror strike in Pulwama before the start and the run was dedicated to them. Salient points of speech of Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi while chairing meeting of newly constituted Central Waqf Council (CWC) in New Delhi today:



CIC pulls up RBI for non-disclosure of demonetisation records

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission has pulled up the Reserve Bank of India for "perfunctory handling" of an RTI application seeking records of its board meetings where the issue of demonetisation was deliberated, and issued a show-cause notice to its Central Public Information Officer.

Activist Venkatesh Nayak had sought records of all meetings of the RBI Central Board of Directors along with the papers, presentations or other documents placed before it, which led to the decision of demonetisation announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November

8, 2016.

Not getting any information from the RBI, which cited an exemption clause to deny the records, Nayak approached the commission, the highest adjudicating body in matters pertaining to the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced on November 8, 2016 that ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes, which constituted about 86 per cent of total currency in circulation then, would cease to be legal tender.

They were replaced by new ₹2,000 and ₹500 notes. Several restrictions were also placed on the withdrawal of currency notes from banks during demonetisation.

GoM favours uniform tax on lottery, GST Council to decide rate on February 20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: A State ministerial panel set up to review tax rate on lottery Monday favoured a uniform GST rate of either 18 per cent or 28 per cent -- a final call on which would be taken by the GST Council at its meeting on February 20.

Currently, a State-organised lottery attracts 12 per cent GST while a State-organised lottery attracts 28 per cent tax.

The eight-member Group of Ministers under Maharashtra Finance Minister

Sudhir Mungantiwar favoured hiking GST rate on the state-organised lottery to either 18 per cent or 28 per cent. While the GST rate on state-organised lottery would be retained at 28 per cent or brought down to 18 per cent. "The GoM favoured a uniform GST rate for both State-organised and state-organised lotteries. A final call on whether that rate should be 18 per cent or 28 per cent would be taken by the GST Council on Wednesday," an

official said.

The other members of the committee are West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, Goa Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho, Karnataka Finance Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Arunachal Tax and Excise Minister Jarkar Gamlin. PTI

बिहार सरकार

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना
(बिहार राज्य का उपक्रम)

अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति का आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-139/2018-19

पुरातात्विक स्थल चिरांद (सारण) में प्रागैतिहासिक संस्कृति के विकास के विभिन्न चरणों को प्रदर्शित किए जाने हेतु पुरातात्विक स्थल पर नवनिर्मित भवन एवं पुरातात्विक स्थल के संरक्षण एवं विकास कार्य हेतु विस्तृत योजना प्रतियोगिता (DPR) तैयार करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय/अंतर राष्ट्रीय ख्याति प्राप्त फार्म से मुहरबंद प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

प्रस्ताव अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में दिनांक:-25.03.2019 के अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जायेंगे। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए महाप्रबंधक (परामर्शी सेवा) के कार्यालय अवधि में संपर्क किया जा सकता है अथवा बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना के वेबसाइट www.bsbcl.bih.nic.in/www.prdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक
बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना

PR.17296 (Ni.Ni) 2018-19

आओ सब मिलकर बात करें, बंद हो दहेज, शुरुआत करें।

Infosys settles case with Sebi, pays ₹34 lakh towards settlement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT major Infosys has settled with Sebi a case of alleged disclosure lapses regarding severance payment made to its former chief financial officer Rajiv Bansal.

The company paid ₹34.35 lakh to settle the case with the markets regulator, according to an order. The watchdog had issued a notice seeking to initiate adjudication proceedings against the company in November 2017.

The notice related to Sebi examining the scrip of Infosys during which the issues pertaining to severance payment to Bansal was also looked into. Bansal resigned from the company on October 11, 2015, according to the order.

During the examination, prima facie, it was found that the severance payment was made without prior approval of audit committee as well as nomination and remuneration committee.

These were violations of various listing norms. In December 2017, Infosys filed an application under the settlement mechanism. PTI

Modi Govt reappoints AK Sharma as IOC Director (Finance)

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Government has reappointed A K Sharma as the Director (Finance) of Indian Oil Corp (IOC) - a first under Prime Minister Narendra Modi when a PSU director has been reemployed in the same position after retirement.

Sharma, who superannuated as Director (Finance) of IOC on January 31, has been appointed for three months in the same position, IOC said in a regulatory filing.

The reappointment is with effect from February 18, the company said without giving reasons for the reemployment. Officials said Sharma, who as the finance head of IOC was also in charge of pricing of petrol, diesel and other fuels, has been reemployed keeping in mind the impending general elections. PTI

Reliance Group shares in demand; zoom up to 11.3%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Stocks of Reliance Group companies Monday zoomed up to 11.3 per cent after the Anil Ambani-led Group reached a 'standstill agreement' with more than 90 per cent of its lenders under which they will not sell any of the shares pledged by promoters till September.

Shares of Reliance Power zoomed 11.27 per cent and Reliance Communications advanced by 10.91 per cent.

Reliance Infrastructure jumped 7.40 per cent while Reliance Home Finance gained 6.71 per cent. Reliance Naval and Engineering soared 5.15 per cent on BSE.

Reliance Capital gained 2.86 per cent and Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management 2.64 per cent.

Under the pact, the Group will pay the principal and interest amounts to the lenders as per the scheduled due dates.

It has also appointed investment bankers for part placement of the group's direct 30 per cent stake in Reliance Power to institutional investors.

When contacted, a Reliance Group spokesperson said: "We are grateful to our lenders for believing in the intrinsic and fundamental value of our companies, and granting their in-principle approval to standstill arrangements." PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY WITH HER DAUGHTER



Archeda
Face, Thin Built has been missing/ kidnapped from Near Ganda Nala, Nangli Poona Village, Delhi since 30.01.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 34-A dated 31.01.19 has been lodged at PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about these missing lady and with her daughter may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 27811415, 27811738
DP/55/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



wearing Yellow colour Saree with Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped along with her daughter namely Janvi, D/o Jitender, Age: 01 year, Height: 2', Complexion: Fair, from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi since 21.01.2019. In this regard a DD No. 11-A, dated 23.01.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in PS: Alipur, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-27202290, 27202265
DP/53/ON/19

PARIJAT PAPER MILLS LIMITED
CIN : L21012UP1989PLC010589
Regd. Office: Vill: Jat Mujhera 10.6 km Stone Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar - 251 308 (U.P.)
Ph: 0131-2468591, Email: parijatpapermills@yahoo.com

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE

Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 & 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Company has on Monday, February 18, 2019 completed the dispatch of the postal ballot notice, along with the postal ballot form through electronic mail to the members whose email IDs are registered in the records of depository participants as on Friday, February 08, 2019 and through physical mode, along with a postage prepaid self-addressed Business reply envelope to the other members (whose email IDs are not registered) for seeking approval of the shareholders of the Company by postal ballot, including remote e-voting by electronic means or, for the following matter:

Item No. Description of the Special Resolution

- To appoint Mr. Amrish Kumar (DIN : 05243828) as Whole Time Director of the Company
- To approve increase in remuneration of Mr. Amrish Kumar, Whole Time Director (DIN: 05243828) of the Company
- To approve increase in remuneration of Mr. Amit Mittal, Whole Time Director (DIN: 00754471) of the Company
- To approve increase in remuneration of Mr. Neeraj Jain, Whole Time Director (DIN: 00389539) of the Company
- To approve increase in remuneration of Mr. Himanshu Gupta, Whole Time Director (DIN: 08067691) of the Company

The Company has engaged the services of Link Intime India Private Limited (LIPL) for the purpose of providing e-voting facility to all its members. Members are requested to note that the voting through postal ballot shall commence from Tuesday, 19th February, 2019 and shall end on Thursday, March 21, 2019 (05:00 PM) and for electronic mode voting shall commence from Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019 (9:00A.M) and shall end on Wednesday, 20th March, 2019 (05:00 P.M.).

The Board of Directors has appointed M/s Vikas Verma & Associates, Company Secretaries as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot/e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. Members are requested to note that duly completed and signed postal ballot form should reach the Scrutinizer not later than 05:00 PM on Thursday, March 21, 2019. All members may kindly note that voting on the aforesaid resolution done through e-voting/postal ballot forms after the aforesaid date shall not be considered valid. Any member who does not receive the Postal Ballot form may either send an email to or may apply to the registrar and Share transfer Agent of the Company/Company and obtain a duplicate postal ballot form. The notice of postal ballot has also been placed on the website of the company (i.e. www.parijatpapermills.com). The result of the voting by postal ballot will be announced on or before Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the registered office of the Company. The result will be displayed at the registered office and on the website of the company and intimate stock exchange on which the shares of the company are listed.

In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, shareholders are requested to contact, Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. at C-101, 1st Floor, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Vikhroli (West) Mumbai-400083, email: insta.vote@linkintime.co.in

By order of the Board
Amit Mittal (Whole Time Director)
Date: 18.02.2019
Place: Muzaffarnagar

Sd/-
Amit Mittal (Whole Time Director)
DIN: 00754471

ABBAS NAQVI PRAISES MODI GOVT

New Delhi: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that for the first time since the Independence, the Central Government has been providing 100 per cent financial help to utilise Waqf properties across the country for educational empowerment and job-oriented skill development of the needy sections of the society. While chairing a meeting of newly constituted Central Waqf Council (CWC) in New Delhi, Shri Naqvi said that the Modi Government has provided basic amenities to ensure educational empowerment and job-oriented skill development of Minorities, especially girls, in those backward areas of the country which were deprived of these facilities since the Independence.

STEEL MIN DEDICATES SAIL-BETTIAH UNIT TO NATION

Bettiah, Bihar / New Delhi: Union Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh and Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan dedicated SAIL's Steel Processing Unit situated at Bettiah in West Champaran, Bihar to the Nation today. High quality steel tubes and pipes will be produced by this Unit.

JASSOLA FIRE STATION FOUNDATION STONE LAID

New Delhi: Foundation Stone laying ceremony of Fire Station at Jassola, Jassola District Centre, New Delhi was held on 18.02.2019 at 11:30 AM at Jassola, Jassola District Centre, New Delhi. Hon'ble Home Minister of Delhi Sh. Satyender Jain was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The programme was graced by MLA, Sh. Amanatullah Khan.

PRCI FELICITATES MUKESH KUMAR WITH JURY AWARD

New Delhi: Mukesh Kumar Sinha gets the PRCI Chanakya Award 2019 Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) conferred its signature Chanakya Award for "Jury Special Award-Corporate Communication-Internal 2019" on Mukesh Kumar Sinha, Sr. Dy.GM (CC) of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. for his outstanding contribution to the Profession, Industry & Society.



HARYANA SHEHARI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN
E-mail: www.hsvp.org.in / www.huda@hry.nic.in

Sub: Advertisement for maintenance of Roundabout of Sector-26, Panchkula.

Applications are invited from interested Government Departments or reputed private organizations or industries or individuals who are interested for maintaining the following HSPV rotary as per the terms and conditions hosted on the HSPV Website www.hsvp.org.in / www.huda@hry.nic.in. The maintenance shall be out-sourced initially for a period of three years which may further be extend for another three years, if the maintenance is found to be in conformity with the HSPV norms. It is further notified that HSPV reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason. The applications from the interested parties should reach in the office of undersigned before 5th March-2019:-

1) Maintenance of Rotary/Roundabout Sector-26, Panchkula.

(Vinay Kumar Lohan),
Executive Engineer,
HSPV, Hort. Division,
Panchkula.

RO NO. 75530 Di. 18-02-2019

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites e-Tender as per details given as follows.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. Cost of Work ₹	EMD ₹	Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
1	BCT/18-19/582 dtd. 14.02.2019	Valsad - Divisional Engineering Depot - Transporting, loading & unloading of P.Way material from various depot such as Nagda, Derol, Sabarmati, Rajkot etc to Mumbai Division in connection with sanction Track work of Mumbai Division.	93,01,864.36	1,86,000/-	On 18.03.2019 till 15.00 hrs.	On 18.03.2019 at 15.30 hrs.
2	BCT/18-19/583 dtd. 14.02.2019	Ancheri - Proposed 6.00 m wide new FOB towards north side.	10,92,84,467.6	1,69,64,000/-	On 22.03.2019 till 15.00 hrs.	On 22.03.2019 at 15.00 hrs.
3	BCT/18-19/584 dtd. 14.02.2019	Naigaon:- Proposed 6.00 m wide new FOB towards north side	3,76,67,127.28	3,38,300/-	On 22.03.2019 till 15.00 hrs.	On 22.03.2019 at 15.00 hrs.
4	BCT/18-19/585 dtd. 14.02.2019	Virar - Proposed 6.00 m wide new FOB towards north side.	7,53,26,329.87	5,26,600/-	On 22.03.2019 till 15.00 hrs.	On 22.03.2019 at 15.00 hrs.

Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) follows us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

HEALTH

StopAgeing

Researchers from the University of Texas Medical Branch have developed a new drug that can delay ageing. A protein called Nicotinamide N-methyltransferase in muscle stem cells that appears to be responsible for the age-related dysfunction



PUNCH ON ANTIBIOTICS

Increased use of antibiotics makes them less effective, says DR APARNA KOTEKAR

The abuse of the class of drugs antibiotics, which once had revolutionised treatment of bacterial infections and caused a significant reduction in morbidity and mortality, has today become a grave healthcare challenge. In 2010, India was reported to be the world's largest consumer of antibiotics.

A 2018 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported that the antibiotic consumption in India had more than doubled from 2000 to 2015. Thus, ironically, better access to antibiotics has resulted in its overuse and misuse, leading to increased cases of antibiotic resistance. Therefore, it is important that there is mass awareness on the growing threat of the condition.

The reasons for increasing antibiotic resistance in India are manifold. They include inappropriate use of antibiotics, widespread availability of antibiotics without prescription resulting in self-medication, empirical antibiotic treatment rather than evidence-based treatment, low healthcare spending, prevalence of counterfeit antibiotics resulting in sub-optimal dosing, high frequency of incomplete antibiotic course especially among the lower income group where antibiotics are used for symptomatic relief instead of microbial eradication

Reasons: Bacteria become resistant when they are exposed to antibiotics. Drug resistance develops either by acquisition of genes that are responsible for inactivating antibiotic molecules or by target gene mutation. The former is especially dangerous as it can spread quickly by horizontal gene transfer. Thus, antimicrobials become ineffective leading to persistent infections, and ultimately result in the spread of these resistant microbes in the community.

As per the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) "Antimicrobial Resistance — Global Report on Surveillance" of 2014, the incidence of resistance in common pathogens like E. coli, K. pneumoniae and S. aureus was about 50 per cent. This is quite alarming considering that no new antibiotics have been developed in the last four decades. Thus, AMR has become a global health crisis which could render even common infections untreatable with existing antibiotics.

Prevention: Studies have shown that around 50-60 per cent of antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary. That is, antibiotics are prescribed even when the cause of infection is unknown. For example, antibiotics may be prescribed when the patient has a viral infection or the wrong antibiotic may be prescribed in the absence of identification of the infecting bacteria.

Evidence-based use of antibiotics can go a long way in stemming the spread of AMR. For this, detection of the pathogen and antibiotic resistance patterns is absolutely critical. Currently, this is done by microbial culture and sensitivity which can easily take around 72 hours for bacteria and longer for fungi.

Besides, microbiological methods show false negativity in patients pre-treated with antimicrobials, and have low sensitivity for slow growing, intracellular and fastidious microbes. In the time taken to diagnosis, empirical broad-spectrum antimicrobial therapy is administered, especially if the patient is critical, favoring selection and spread of resistant pathogens, and increased invasive fungal infections.

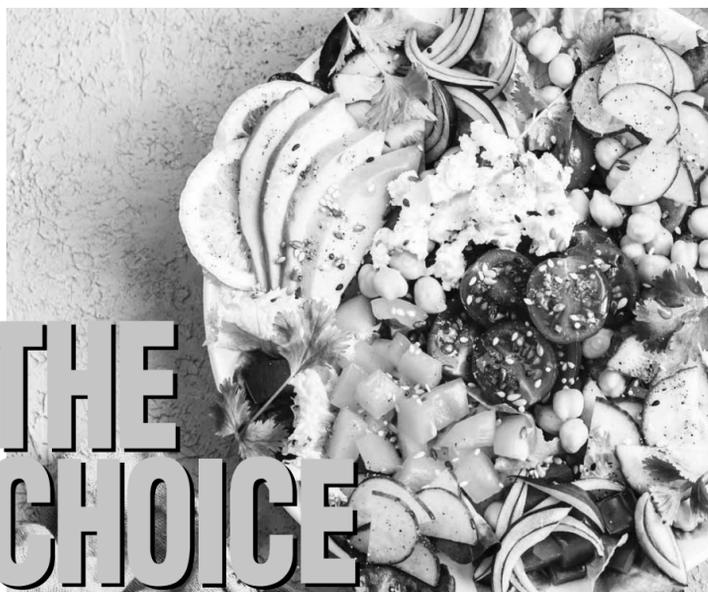
Molecular methods can overcome the limitations of microbiological methods, reducing the time to results in identifying pathogens and antibiotic resistance. As a result, it can serve to reduce the spread of antibiotic resistance, reduce healthcare costs by reducing consumption of expensive 3rd-line drugs, reduce ICU/hospital stay and result in better patient outcomes.

The writer is HOD, Molecular Department, Genetic Diagnostics

With many diet plans that one can follow for weight loss, it is important to find out which one will work.

Lifestyle coach, DR SUJATA VARALWAR shares tips on how to find the correct one

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE



We are all looking for a size zero figure and to achieve that we go on diets. But the question is which one to follow and how does it work? Last year, it was Keto diet that had caught the imagination of all those who wanted to lose weight. But the diet comes with its share of ups and downs.

MYTHS

Ketogenic diet is not about avocado roses or peeling apples for real. While people want to jump start with keto or already in a flow with the diet are not meeting the fit and healthy results due to myths listed below.

- Keto diet is the only effective therapy for weight loss
- Fruits and Veggies contains high carbs, thus cannot be eaten
- Diet is applicable to all
- It's all about eating butter and bacon
- Keto-diet plans are high in protein
- There should be only one keto-diet plan followed by all.

HOW IT WORKS

Initially, the ketogenic diet consist of high fat, low carbohydrate, controlled protein diet was originally developed in 1920s for the treatment of patients with refractory epilepsy not responding to anti — convulsant. At least half the children with epilepsy were benefited with this with reduction in the frequency of seizures.

It's basically a food with very low carbohydrates, and with macros in a ratio of 4:1 ratio of fat, as to protein and carbohydrates.

A ketogenic diet as it is very low in carbs as low as 5 per cent, and since body uses sugars as fuel, when the sugars are very low, body uses fat as fuel as ketones, which are the by-products of fat metabolism and that's why it's called a ketogenic diet.

There is a lot of interest and debate about keto diet and its effect in diabetes control. For some people with diabetes are keen to follow ketogenic diet, is an effective approach to reduce weight and control the blood sugar level. It has been shown to be beneficial in patients of Type 2 diabetes, has shown to provide good glycaemic control, with reduced HbA1c values. It's a good diet to achieve diabetic control and possibly reduce medication, for a limited period of four to five months. A typical keto meal consists of 75 per cent of fat, 20 per cent protein and 5 per cent carbs. However, there is not enough evidence

of the long term effects of this diet.

It is not advised to follow this diet in pregnant women, lactating mothers, people having eating disorders or suffering from kidney diseases.

It's a very restricted diet, difficult to sustain for long. Many patients find it difficult to follow after some time. It may cause some fogging, headaches and potential danger of diabetic ketoacidosis.

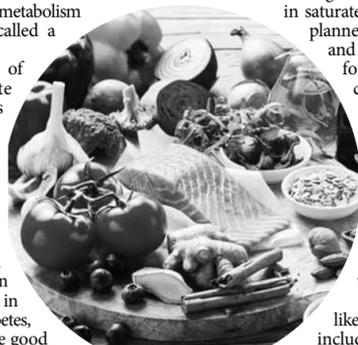
The diets can include eggs, chicken, poultry, cheese, eggs, salads, no starch vegetables, olives, butter etc. One has to avoid starchy vegetables, breads, rice, cakes, pastries and sweets while on this diet. Since it restricts intake of fruits and many vegetables, there may be deficiency of vitamins, minerals etc. Also since the protein intake is very low, muscle mass may be affected. And in patients with coexisting cardio vascular disorders it may be harmful.

RECOMMENDATION

Though the keto diet has been found to be useful, it is an extreme diet and difficult to sustain on it for a long time. It is advisable to follow a more balanced, practical diet planning, depending on the individuals, based on lifestyle, metabolic state, cultural background and individual preferences. A more sustainable, subtle energy deficit with some fresh fruit while avoiding high glycaemic index foods is a good way to achieve long term results.

Whole grain, high fibre foods, low in saturated fat, when carefully planned at regular intervals and timings is important for a long sustaining control over diabetes. Healthy habits and combined with physical activity, to build muscle and a healthy lifestyle, combined with stress management and a positive outlook contribute a lot to a healthy life.

There is nothing like a life style change that includes a good exercise regimen, consumption of whole foods, vegetables and healthy habits, combined with a personalised and supervised diet program, which aims at a long term and long lasting benefits. Thus a keto diet should be tried only when there are few other alternatives.



Mediterranean diet, the term originally reflects 'way of life, regimen, dwelling.' The word diet derived from ancient Greek word Diata and Mediterranean is the region along the Mediterranean Sea between Europe, Asia and Africa. This region is full of olive trees, climate favorable for fruits in all the seasons, and had fishing as an important occupation. Local herbs are a part of the cooking and also used as medicines. It is the oldest form of diet system in the world, said to be more than 3,000 years old.

It is not just diet or food habits programmed for weight loss but to promote mindfulness and healthy lifestyle and treat your body as whole. It's a traditional practice and lifestyle which includes — healthy food habits, work schedule, physical activities, place of living and social environment and it passed on for generation to generation.

There are plenty of good things about Mediterranean diet, and it is considered as the healthiest way of life.

THE DIET CONTAINS

Vegetable oils, mainly olive oil, rich in unsaturated fatty acids, reduce HDL cholesterol, which is good for the heart, vessels brain and skin too.

Vegetables: Fresh vegetables of except starchy ones, advised in all meals as they provide minerals, vitamins, plenty of fibre and anti-oxidants, essential for good functioning of heart, bowel health and overall metabolism.

Fish: Fish such as salmon, sardines and mackerel and advised which are rich in omega 3 fatty acids, vitamins such as A,D, E and K, necessary for bone health, heart health and in fighting inflammation (zero to two times a day)

Fruits and nuts: Fresh fruits and nuts provide vitamins, essential fatty acids and protein for muscle. (two to three servings of fruit /day)

Other essentials: Whole grains, Legumes - Rich in fiber, contain vitamins and protein

Dairy Products: Milk, and yoghurt, provide calcium and vitamins.

Lean meat — predominantly from poultry

Eggs: Protein rich, zero to two times a day.

Plenty of water: Not to forget two to three liters of water.

AVOID

Processed foods, polished grains, white bread, white pasta, soda, sweets, additives, packaged foods. Small amount of alcohol, limited to red wine is allowed.

DISADVANTAGES

This is clean diet and is ideal, but calorie counting, portion control, control of red wine need attention. For vegetarians protein may be an issue and sensitivity to natural foods has to keep in mind. A bit of planning and modification based on individual requirements has to be done.

The writer is health and lifestyle coach and nutrition consultant

DadiKaKehna

Did you know that your nails can say a lot about how healthy you are? They are also the charm of your hand. ROSHANI DEVI shares remedies on how to keep them beautiful and shiny



Keep of healthy nails can be problematic if we don't take care of them. The most common complaints about nails are that they have chipped, or developed an infection around them. However, one doesn't have to go for a manicure everytime. Here are home remedies to keep them healthy.

Use olive oil. Clean the nails thoroughly. Warm a small bowl of olive oil and dip the fingers for 15 minutes. Wipe clean with a towel and repeat the process daily.

Use lemon. it is a great cleanser and to help get rid of discolouration. Take a bowl, mix a teaspoon of baking soda in water. Add a tablespoon of lemon juice. Soak the nails for about 10 minutes. Gently scrub the nails and then wash.

Use coconut oil. The fat in oil is very nourishing and can

prevent nail infection. Warm coconut oil and apply it on each nail. Massage gently for five minutes.

Use apple cider vinegar. Mix equal amounts of apple cider vinegar and water in a bowl. Soak nails in this for a few minutes. Gently push down the cuticles. Do this once daily for stronger nails.



Use sea salt. Mix two tablespoons of fine grain sea salt with two drops each of wheat germ oil, loban tel and lemon essential oils. Soak nails for 10-15 minutes. Rinse, pat dry and apply a hand cream.

TIPTOP

Fasting can boost the body's metabolism and help protect against age-related diseases, a study has found. The circadian clock operates within the body and its organs as intrinsic time-keeping machinery to preserve homeostasis in response to the changing environment. Optimal fasting in a timed manner would be strategic to positively affect cellular functions and ultimately benefiting health and protecting against ageing-associated diseases.

Intermittent fasting can help in improving a person's blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and insulin sensitivity. It has also been found that longer periods of fasting (two to four days) aids in rebooting the immune system, clearing out old immune cells, and regenerating new ones.

Ever since people have stopped observing weekly fasts, the incidence on high blood pressure, diabetes and heart attack has increased. Scientifically, it is now known that eating carbohydrates everyday increases the chances of heart attack. Dr Aggarwal, who is the Group Editor-in-Chief of IJCP, said: "My rough formula of three for fasting is that one cannot live for three minutes without air, three days without water and three weeks without food. However, this formula is for healthy muscular and fatty people. When you fast, you can stay healthy for long if you have good muscles and have good fat content."

Diabetes, commonly described as a lifestyle disease, can contribute to infertility in both women and men, warn health experts. "Diabetes can cause infertility in both men and women. Both sexes are at equal risk of infertility," S.K. Wangnoo, endocrinologist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said.

Infertility affects up to 15 per cent of reproductive-aged couples worldwide. According to an estimate by the World Health Organization, the overall prevalence of

primary infertility in India is between 3.9 per cent to 16.8 per cent. Diabetes in men damages DNA of the sperm and leads to reduced number of sperms and reduced motility of sperms which leads to infertility. Although having diabetes does not necessarily make men infertile, it could make them less fertile.

On the other hand, Diabetes in women is associated with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and other autoimmune diseases that can lead to infertility.

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STUDYCENTRE

Studies indicate that high salt intake can have detrimental effects on blood pressure. Over time, this can lead to hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. To lower the risk of developing a heart disease by 25 per cent and that of mortality due to this by 20 per cent, it is imperative to restrict dietary intake of salt.

As per recent figures by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), salt intake among Indian adult Indians is high. It exceeds the levels recommended by the WHO. In Delhi and Haryana, it is 9.5 g per day and 10.4 g per day in Andhra Pradesh. This can be a risk factor especially in those with a family history of high blood pressure or heart disease.

Some recommendations from Heart Care Foundation of India: Reduce salt intake as much as possible, lower the better. Add only normal amounts of salt when cooking.

Avoid eating preserved and packaged foods as much as possible. Ask about salt added to food, especially at restaurants. Most restaurant chefs will omit salt when requested.

Remember the word 'Na', which is present in many drugs, soda etc. Nothing can be preserved without adding salt to it, therefore beware of processed and frozen fruits.

Remember that it takes three months of a salt-free diet to get adjusted to it and ultimately start liking it.

DOCYARD

DR PRASHANT SAXENA

Head, Pulmonology, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, MAX SMART SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SAKET, DELHI



Boost your immunity

Immunity compromised patients are those who have very low levels of immunity and therefore are not equipped to withstand attacks from pathogens like fungus. This makes them vulnerable to a host of diseases and infections. It is estimated that around 10 per cent to 15 per cent of fungal infection cases occur in hospital settings and carry high risks of mortality and morbidity. People who suffer with compromised immunity are mostly those who undergo critical surgeries and consume high dosage of drugs as part of prescribed therapy, for example patients who suffer with HIV, cancer or uncontrolled Diabetes.

Treatments like chemotherapy further suppresses the immune system to enable medicines to work. Incase of organ transplant it becomes necessary to suppress immunity so that the new organ is accepted by the body, which would otherwise be rejected by the natural immune system. Unprescribed or prolonged antibiotic abuse, consumption of steroids and other factors may also contribute to low immunity.

Aspergillosis and candidiasis are the most common invasive fungal infections that occur in hospitals. They can be community acquired as well, especially from soil or environmental pathogens. The infections tend to flare up and manifest in the hospital when the patient is undergoing some other treatment and the immunity is low.

Fungi are common in our natural environment. It is almost impossible to have a 100 per cent uncontaminated space, even in hospitals. In many cases the infection already exists in latent state in patients.

Invasive fungal infections are difficult to diagnose and treat. Quite often doctors identify these infections by using various diagnostic testing like surrogate markers. Fungal infections may also require prolonged treatment that may last for around six weeks.

Immunity compromised patients undergo heavy medical treatment for their serious illnesses. Contracting invasive fungal infection during this period makes cases more complicated as doctors need to balance the treatment of major medical conditions like cancer, organ transplant, surgery and others, while treating patients with adequate antifungal therapy to boost immunity. Doctors have a well-measured approach to start antifungal treatment in appropriate dose and duration.

Invasive fungal infections are associated with prolonged hospital and ICU stays, prolonged recovery, increased cost, and high mortality. Hospitals deploy various measures to control invasive fungal infection or hospital acquired infections like avoiding prolonged indwelling catheters, antibiotic stewardship, adhering to antibiotic guidelines, and conducting regular surveillances.

Early identification of the infection and taking precautions are important steps to prevent the diseases. Technological advancement has made quick diagnosis possible. In addition, better medical expertise and availability of quality medicines have improved the management and treatment of these infections.

Awareness plays a key role. Immunity compromised patients and their families, especially in a community setting, should be alert for symptoms like fever, headache and especially swelling of the eyes. Although these symptoms may be due to innocuous infections, sometimes they signal invasive fungal infections and hence should be reported to the doctor immediately. Consumption of over-the-counter antibiotics or drugs should be avoided.

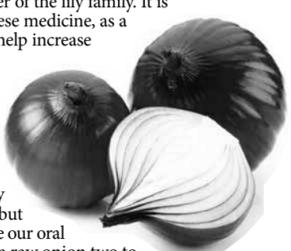
Following hospital rules at hospitals and at home is helpful in warding off the infections. Visitors should not bring flowers as they often harbour fungal spores. Immunity compromised people should avoid activities like gardening, trekking in the forests or green belts. Construction sites should also be avoided. Due to increased pollution levels and air borne infections using N95-99 masks is suggested for patients while venturing out. This can prevent fungal spores from entering the rooms. Patients should avoid being near pets or bird droppings, as they are carriers of fungal infections. In terms of food, soft over-ripe fruits, black spots on vegetables like onions and greenish spots on bread should be avoided.

WARMFOODS

ONION: The humble onion is found in every kitchen, but its curative powers make it an important medicinal plant too. Like garlic, it is a member of the lily family. It is used in traditional Chinese medicine, as a chi - or energy tonic, to help increase perspiration, and tackle illnesses brought on by cold weather. The idea is that they encourage energy to move to the body's surface to help keep you warm.

Raw onions may make our breath stink, but they can actually improve our oral health. Simply chewing a raw onion two to three minutes can strengthen teeth and eliminate bacteria that can lead to tooth decay.

Onions can help reduce cancer risk when combined with turmeric. Chemicals found in these two cooking ingredients creates a synergistic effect that reduces both the size and number of precancerous hosts in the intestine, therefore reducing colon cancer risk.



Pak bestows MBS with highest civilian award



Pakistani President Arif Alvi receives visiting Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at presidential palace in Islamabad, Pakistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday conferred its highest civilian award Nishan-e-Pakistan on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his "outstanding support" in reinvigorating the ties between the two countries.

The award was presented by Pakistan President Arif Alvi at a special ceremony held at the President House in Islamabad. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, members of prince Salman's delegation, diplomats, senior officers and Cabinet ministers attended the ceremony.

According to the citation, the Crown Prince provided "outstanding support for reinvigorating Pak-Saudi bilateral relationship".

The Crown Prince arrived at the President House in traditional Presidential chariot along with Prime Minister Khan. A special contingent of Presidential security guards escorted the chariot.

President Alvi, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry received him on arrival.

Will try to de-escalate tension between neighbours: Saudi after Pulwama

AFP ■ ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia vowed to "de-escalate" rising tensions between Pakistan and India during a high-profile summit in Islamabad on Monday as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman prepares to travel from Islamabad to New Delhi.

The kingdom's Foreign Minister spoke at a press conference in Islamabad as Pakistan recalled its envoy from Delhi for "consultations", the latest development in a fresh diplomatic crisis between the neighbours.

India has vowed to retaliate after the suicide attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama that killed 41 CRPF soldiers last week, the deadliest attack in the state in decades.

The attack has sparked widespread calls in the country for action against Pakistan.

"Our objective is to try to de-escalate tensions between the two countries, neighbouring countries, and to see if there is a path forward to resolving those differences peacefully," said Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir.

The pledge came as the crown prince, widely known as "MBS", prepared to head for India later Monday, at the conclusion of his two-day visit to Pakistan.

The Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack, and the vehicle was driven by a 22-year-old terrorist.

India is garnering diplomatic support after the attack and has vowed to "isolate" Pakistan diplomatically in the international community, saying it has "incontrovertible evidence" of Islamabad's role. Pakistan has rejected the allegations.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman meets Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday night

Abe mum on Trump's claim of nomination for Nobel Peace Prize

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe kept quiet Monday over President Donald Trump's claim that he had nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize, but praised him and emphasised he did not deny doing so.

Trump's assertion on Friday that Abe had nominated him for the honour and sent him a copy of the letter has raised questions and criticism in Japan.

Questioned in parliament, Abe praised Trump for his dealings with North Korea but said, "In light of the Nobel committee's policy of not disclosing recommenders and nominees for 50 years, I decline to comment." Neither the prime minister nor his spokesman denied Trump's comment.

"I never said I didn't" nominate him, Abe said in response to a follow-up question by Yuichiro Tamaki, a lawmaker for the opposition Democratic Party for the People.

Tamaki said in a tweet Monday that he was concerned such a nomination would "send the wrong message to North Korea and the rest of international society."

Junya Ogawa, another opposition lawmaker, cited various policies and actions by Trump that he said ran contrary to the spirit of the peace prize, calling the nomination "an embarrassment for Japan."

In responding to Tamaki's questions in parliament, Abe lauded Trump for meeting with Kim and working to resolve the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programme and missile tests.

Trump had also addressed Japan's concerns over past abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korea, Abe said, adding "he and the entire White House also actively cooperated in resolving the issue." "I highly praise President Trump's leadership," Abe said.

Trump's claim that Abe had sent him a "beautiful copy" of a letter sent to the Nobel committee could not be immediately verified. Nor could a report Sunday by the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun, citing unidentified government sources, that Abe had nominated Trump at the US president's request.

GLOBE TROTTER

EX-LEADER YAMEEN HELD FOR MONEY LAUNDERING

Male: Maldivian authorities Monday ordered the arrest of former strongman president Abdulla Yameen over money laundering charges, officials said.

RUSSIA PAVES WAY FOR 'ISIS CHILDREN' RETURN

Moscow: As the end nears for the IS enclave in Syria, the fate of jihadists' family members becomes a prescient issue. Russia can be seen as a pioneer in systematically returning children of Islamist fighters home.

SHAHBAZ SHARIF INDICTED IN CORRUPTION CASE

Lahore: Pakistan's Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif was indicted by an accountability court on Monday for corruption in a ₹1,400 crore housing project.

US-TALIBAN TALKS IN PAKISTAN POSTPONED

Islamabad: The talks between the US and Afghan Taliban slated for Monday here have been postponed, according to the insurgent group which alleged that some members of its negotiating team could not travel to Pakistan for the meeting due to sanctions imposed by America, the UN.

Iran arrests three terrorists over suicide bomb attack

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said on Monday it has arrested three "terrorists" involved in last week's deadly suicide bomb attack on security forces in a region bordering Pakistan.

"Safe houses in (the cities of) Saravan and Khash were identified and eliminated, and the terrorists based in them were arrested," the force said on its official Sepah news agency.

"Three of the terrorists were arrested and 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of explosives and 600 kilograms of explosive materials as well as weapons and ammunition were confiscated," it said.

The Guards said the three arrested had "produced, guided and supported" the vehicle used in Wednesday's suicide bombing.

The attack killed 27 members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards travelling on a bus in the volatile southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, which straddles the border with Pakistan.

It was claimed by the jihadist outfit Jaish al-Islam (Army of Justice).

Iran has provided Pakistani officials with "information on the terrorist groups' hidden and semi-hidden training centres", army chief-of-staff Mohammad Bagheri told Tasnim news agency.

In a phone call with Pakistani army commanders, Bagheri asked them to "either confront the groups or allow (Iranian) forces to enter." Islamabad launched an operation against the "terrorists" in its Balochistan border province on Sunday, he said.

PSPCCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001).
(Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813)
Website: (www.pspcl.in)

OPEN e-TENDER NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE Chief Engineer/ Transmission System,
C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001
Tel: 0175-2301537, Fax: 0175-222014
Email: se-ss-design@pspcl.in,
E-Tendering page: pspcl.abcpocure.com

Online tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per tender specification No. 178/SSD-1/2019 of PSPCL:-

Item No.	Description	Qty	Enquiry Nos.	Last date & time for downloading of tenders	Last date & time for bid submission	Date & time of opening of bids
1.	25/31.5 MVA, ONAN/ONAF, Power Transformers	22	178/SSD-1/2019	27-03-2019 11:00 A.M.	29-03-2019 11:00 A.M.	28-03-2019 11:30 A.M.
2.	20 MVA, 6S/11 KV, ONAN Power Transformers	28				

Detailed NIT and specification may be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>
It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website www.pspcl.in and www.pspcl.abcpocure.com

SE/Sub-Station Design, PSPCL, Patiala
"Energy Efficiency is Key for Development"
RO NO. C-4792 Dt. 18-02-2019

AXIS BANK
Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301
Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 07-03-2019, 12 P.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128 Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 79,94,459/- due on 07-02-2019 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Ajay Kumar Gupta and Mrs. Anita Gupta. The reserve price will be Rs. 53,35,780/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 53,35,780/-.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale
PHR079201755298	Freehold property Entire Ground Floor Flat, Comprising of Three Bedroom, One Drawing-Cum-Dining Room, Two Toilets & One Kitchen, Having Total Covered Area 1650 Sq Ft (approx.), without roof rights, with the rights of front and rear lawn, except the common passage, with the rights to inspect and maintain the water, plumbing arrangements, TV antenna etc., on common stairs cases and common passage of building/plot, constructed upon plot number 1055, sector B, Measuring 308.75 Sq. yards (258.11 Sq Mtrs) part of Kharsa No 80/25, Situated in the residential colony known as GREENFIELDS within revenue estate of Village Sarai Khawja, Teshil & District Faridabad Haryana.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auaction-notices/>
Date: 19-Feb-2019, Place: Noida
Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: Approx 55 years, Height: 6', Complexion: Shallow, was wearing Sky colour Shirt and Brown colour Lower, was found at MM Plaza, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 42-A, dated 10.02.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
DP/2513/RD/19 Ph.: 011-27581559, 27581223

EU states ponder Trump demand to take back ISIS men

AP ■ BRUSSELS

US President Donald Trump's demand that European countries take back their nationals fighting in Syria is receiving mixed reactions, as nations pondered how to bring home-grown Islamic State extremists to trial.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told ARD television Monday that German nationals have the right to return, but that it's almost impossible to collect evidence in conflict-torn Syria.

Maas said late Sunday that "we need information, we need investigations. All that is not in place, and as long as it isn't, I think this is extraordinarily difficult to implement."

The Executive Engineer, Belonia Division, PWD(R&B), Belonia, South Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 14/EE(PWD)/BLN/2018-19 Dated 12-02-2019

- For
- Strengthening of road from Ratanpur to Manirambari via Shibpur ADC Village under Hrishyamukh R.D. Block /SH- Patch repairing, re-carpeting and allied works etc. under RIDF-XXIV of NABARD.
With
● Estimated cost: ₹ 1,33,93,420/-
● Earnest Money: ₹ 1,33,934/-
● Time of Completion - 12 (twelve) months.
 - Replacement of Bailey Bridge by construction of RCC Box Culvert (3 x 8.00m) at Mujaffar Para on the road from Bishnupur AWC to Bagachatal Bazar during the year 2018-19 under RIDF-XXIV of NABARD.
With
● Estimated cost: ₹ 1,20,95,115/-
● Earnest Money: ₹ 1,20,951/-
● Time of Completion -06 (six) months.
 - Replacement of Bailey Bridge by construction of RCC Box Culvert (3 x 8.00m) at Madhya Para on the road from Belonia-UBC Nagar road to UBC Nagar- Barpathari road during the year 2018-19 under RIDF-XXIV of NABARD.
With
● Estimated cost: ₹ 1,20,95,115/-
● Earnest Money: ₹ 1,20,951/-
● Time of Completion - 06 (six) months.
- Last Date of bidding for bids - 16-03-2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura
Sd/-
(Er. Dilip Das)
Executive Engineer
Belonia Division, PWD (R&B)
Belonia, South Tripura.
- ICA/C-2613/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one person Name & address unknown, Age: about 30-35 Years, Height: approx 173 cms, without cloths/naked was found dead at Haiderpur, Water Treatment Plant, Kachi Nahar, Delhi on 01.02.2019.

In this regard a DD No. 38-A, dated 01.02.2019 has been lodged at PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this decease may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph. 011-27571162, 27571153
DP/2520/RD/19

UJVN LIMITED
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dharwad-248001
Telephone/Fax: 01195-2263508, 4150 9001,2008 Certified
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 www.uttarakhandjvnlidvut.com

Tender Inviting Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation), Khodri Power Station, Khodri, Dakpathar invites sealed tenders from reputed and experienced firms/bidders for the following work. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

Tender no. & Name of work: 12/EE(G)/KPS/TN/2018-19: Fabrication, fixing of new M.S. trench covers & associated works at Khodri Power Station.

Tender no. & Name of work: 13/EE(G)/KPS/TN/2018-19: Repairing & Overhauling of one No. rolling shutter gate at Khodri Power Station.

Tender no. & Name of work: 14/EE(G)/KPS/TN/2018-19: Comprehensive AMC of CO2 Gas fire Suppression and alarm System at Khodri Power Station.

Estimated Value of work: ₹42450/-, ₹240000/-, ₹490000/- (GST extra)
Earnest Money: ₹28300/-, ₹9600, ₹19600/- respectively.
Tender Document Fee: ₹ 590/-, ₹ 295/-, ₹ 295/- (GST inclusive) respectively.
Last date/Time of down loading the tender: March 11, 2019 Upto 11:00 Hrs.
Last date/Time of submission of tender: March 11, 2019 Upto 15:00 Hrs
Date & Time of opening of tender: March 12, 2019 at 11:00 Hrs
For eligibility criteria and full & further details, please visit our website i.e. www.ujvn.com. The tenders can only be obtained by downloading from our website and their cost is to be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

पत्रांक संख्या: 113/ री: 18.02.2019
Executive Engineer (Generation)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found dead on 31.01.2019 from MCD near wine shop, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 37-A, dated 31.01.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Vijay Nagar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 28 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Grey Dharidar T-shirt and Black Pant.

If anyone has any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO Police Station, Vijay Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27061294, 8750870329
DP/2524/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that one girl Name: Sweta Kumari, D/o: Buddhi Lal, R/o: H. No. 78/19, Gali No. 5, Vikas Kunj, Vikash Nagar, Ranhola, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 49", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: White Jacket-Blue Jeans Paint and white sports shoes in feet, has been missing/Kidnapped since 21.01.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 54/19 U/s 363 IPC dated 22.01.2019 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/1857/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one man namely **Bihari Lal S/o Late. Sh. Shankar Lal R/o:** H No. 2080, Mukim Pura, Subzi Mandi, Delhi, Age: 60 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black T-Shirt & Black Pajama has been missing/ kidnapped from his house since 28.03.2017 from the area of P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 21-A Dated 28.03.2017 has been registered at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the man but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this man please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/8196/N/17

SHO P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23823161, 8750870126

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Raano Devi, W/o Nidhan Singh, R/o H.No- 451, Sona Singh Colony, Village- Jhangola, Alipur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 17.01.2019 from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 31-A, dated 28.01.2019, has been lodged at P.S Alipur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped female but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under:

Name: Raano Devi, Gender: Female, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Pink colour Suit & Salwar and Black colour Jutti in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped female, kindly inform SHO/Alipur, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/56/ON/19

SHO P.S. Alipur, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27202290, 27202265

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body Name: Rambahadur, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown Colour Jacket and Saleti Colour Pant and bare foot found dead on 10.02.2019, Place of Recovery: Shop no. 1860, Main Bazar, Turkman Gate, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 41 A has been lodged at PS Chandni Mahal, Delhi on 10.02.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO PS. Chandni Mahal, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23279338, 23271751 & 23263967
DP/6066/CD/19

Trend Blazer

'Fantastic to represent India'

Veteran actor **ANUPAM KHER**, who is gearing up for the second season of *New Amsterdam*, says being a part of the medical drama broadens his horizons.

"It is also fantastic to represent my country in a show which deals with love, compassion and diversity," Anupam wrote on social media. Asked if he believes in luck, Anupam said he first believes in hard-work.

The actor who was born in Shimla, is a Kashmiri Pandit. A user questioned him as to who will make a movie on Kashmiri Hindus — if he can't? He replied, "Sometimes raising a voice is more important than making a film."



'The market is evolving and lot of interesting stuffs are coming. The web platform is an adventurous space to be in and I see myself acting in a web show soon. I have always picked up different projects in my career irrespective of the fact whether it is a TV show or a short film. My next project will be something that I have not done in the past.' —Smiriti Kalra



Actress **ARCHANA PURAN** Singh has shot for two episodes of *The Kapil Sharma Show*, but has denied that she did so as a 'permanent' replacement for cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been ousted from the show after a controversial comment in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack. Archana said, "No, I haven't replaced him. I have not received any official information from the channel or anyone to be a permanent part of the show. I just shot two episodes for the show before the Pulwama attack. He (Sidhu) was busy somewhere due to which the channel approached me for shooting two episodes, and I did it."



'Theatres need to be around forever'

Veteran filmmaker **STEVEN SPIELBERG** has urged other filmmakers to make movies for the theatres and not just for television.

While accepting the Filmmaker Award at the Cinema Audio Society Awards, Spielberg requested filmmakers to focus on giving the audience a theatrical experience. He said, "I hope all of us really continue to believe that the greatest contributions we can make as filmmakers is to give audiences the motion picture theatrical experience. I'm a firm believer that movie theatres need to be around forever."

Spielberg said he was not against television, but he feels theatre has far better experience.



Pilgrims' progress

Adventure sports, spirituality, a combination of luxurious and economical packages make this year's Kumbh Mela more attractive. By TEAM VIVA

A significant change in the pattern of travellers attending the Prayagraj Ardh Kumbh Mela 2019 has been witnessed by a travel organisation. There has been a change in the perspective of the attendees towards the holy mela. Visitors not only want to explore spiritual tourism but want to combine it with high-octane adventure sports, bringing in a new flavour to the mela.

These are some of the major reasons according to Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. (TCIL), why millions of travellers attend the mela:

World's largest number of spiritual travellers

While majority of visitors commute by air, rail and road, this year there is a considerable rise in the number of people travelling to the Kumbh Mela on foot. A number of them have also been flying to Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi and then driving two to three hours to Prayagraj where the Kumbh takes place. While the mela of 1903 witnessed a crowd of four lakh people, the one in 2013 saw the number surge to 12 crores, making it the world's largest gathering of visitors. This year, the area of the Mela has been doubled to 3,200 hectares wherein the first *Shahi Snan* alone, has recorded the participation of 2.5 crore people.

According to CII, 2019's budget allocation of ₹4,200 crores is the steepest for the pilgrimage and the expected revenue for Uttar Pradesh is ₹1.2 lakh crore.

Spiritual tourism fused with adventure sports

Due to its cultural significance, the Kumbh Mela was recognised as India's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2017. Spiritual tourism has been on the rise in recent years. The surreal congregation of *Naga Sadhus* taking the *Shahi Snan* is a highly photographed event. This is coupled with the rise in the interest in adventure tourism, sports like parasailing, paramotoring, wall climbing, ball zorbing on land or the Yamuna river and hot air balloons have been introduced at the Mela grounds which has visitors queuing up.

Cities of Kumbh

The city of Prayagraj comes alive during the mela with sites like Aloi Devi Temple, Allahabad Fort and more receiving high traction. The world's largest temporary city has been brightened up by around 40,000 LED lights and has adequate water provision as well as 250 km roads and 1.22 lakh toilets keeping in mind *Swachh Kumbh*, *Surakshit Kumbh*.

Over 4,000 tents have been set up in the city for the growing urban-rural and national-international crowd that offer budget friendly as well as glamping (luxurious) tents.

An increase in working millennials from metro cities

Interestingly, this year the company



received over 800 requests from people for its Kumbh Mela packages, of which a majority came from the working millennials of the metro cities of Mumbai, Bangalore, and Delhi. They have been opting for short, affordable and experiential packages, especially those offered to suit their travel schedules.

One can definitely conclude that there is a rising interest among millennials about the mela this year, as around 40 per cent of the packages offered, have been booked by them. This growing demand could be attributed to the social media, which has promoted the rich culture of the mela through vivid and visual imagery as well as the enticing packages that have been offered around the ongoing Kumbh Mela. Through these, they are able to explore the mela, take a holy dip at the Sangam, indulge in local sightseeing including forts, temples and museums and experience an adrenaline rush through some adventure sports.

Ease of attending and enhanced safety

Complemented by better infrastruc-



WITH THE RISE IN THE INTEREST IN ADVENTURE TOURISM, SPORTS LIKE PARASAILING, PARAMOTORING, WALL CLIMBING, BALL ZORBING ON LAND OR THE YAMUNA RIVER AND HOT AIR BALLOONS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED AT THE MELA GROUNDS WHICH INTERESTED VISITORS

ture, greater connectivity and a surge in employment, short haul pilgrimages have seen a 40 per cent month-on-month growth. The remodelled infrastructure for this year's Kumbh comprises upgradation of nine railway stations, two water vessels deployed by the IWAI, construction of a new airport terminal and the introduction of additional special flights and 800 special trains by Air India and the railway authorities respectively.

Moreover, for enhanced safety and security of visitors, IBM Intelligent Video Analytics have been used for railway station surveillance. 'Epidemic intelligence officers' have been deployed to predict and prevent possible outbreaks at the Kumbh Mela and an application developed by the Uttar Pradesh Police is available to help attendees navigate their way through the Prayagraj Ardh Kumbh Mela, 2019.

So this year has been about surrendering oneself to the spiritual fever of the Kumbh Mela without any tangible worries.

Victoria Beckham doesn't need celebrities at her fashion shows — her A-list family provides more than enough star power.

The designer's husband, retired soccer superstar David Beckham, and the couple's four children turned up as guests of honor to support her London Fashion Week show. The former Spice Girl was among the big names showcasing their latest designs in the British capital, alongside Vivienne Westwood, Burberry and Roland Mouret.

Westwood used her show to spotlight climate change and warn of impending doom, Burberry featured a diverse show of streetwear and elegant classics, and Peter Pilotto showed a wide variety of lovely dresses and jumpsuits.

BURBERRY SHOWS WIDE RANGE, HONORS HERITAGE IN CATWALK SHOW

Burberry earned its place — again — as one of the top shows in London Fashion Week with a widely ranging catwalk show that honored the British brand's long tradition but showed it is still ready to mix it up and set trends.

Chief Creative Officer Riccardo Tisci showed in his second collection that he is perfectly comfortable stretching the Burberry look to keep its younger fans happy while easily switching gears to create classic, severely tailored ensembles that ooze chic.

The two sides of the Burberry coin were reflected in the two adjacent rooms where the collection was shown, one a sedate auditorium with comfortable, padded seats and other a raucous wide-open space ringed by a climbing gym of the type young kids would use.

"I have been thinking a lot about England as a country of contrasts, from the structured to the rebellious and free, and I wanted to celebrate how these elements coexist," Tisci said.

He added he had four characters in mind when putting the col-



They've got the look

Models at the London Fashion week went from street-style clothes to oversize puffer jackets, metallic ornamentation, revealing slip dresses, silver boots, faux fur, big red plastic sneakers to subtle, timeless outfits in muted fall colors

lection together — a girl and a boy, and a lady and a gentleman.

The transition was obvious as models went from street-style clothes to oversize puffer jackets, metallic ornamentation, revealing slip dresses, silver boots, faux fur, big red plastic sneakers — to subtle, timeless outfits in muted fall colors.

Tisci made ample and imaginative use of the traditional Burberry trench and check, and paired a number of sexy evening dresses with full-length coats for a look at once provocative and classy. There were a few eccentric touches, including an outfit set off by a giant scarf that paid homage to "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

FAMILY AFFAIR AT VICTORIA BECKHAM

Like everyone else, Beckham family members in the audience whipped out smartphones to take a picture of Victoria Beckham when she came out for a bow at



the end of the display.

The designer said she wanted to channel "modern femininity" and cinematic drama for the collection and had in mind a particular image of the woman wearing her clothes.

The result was a mix of lady-like classics, tailored check blaz-

regard to traditional gender divides. There's a creamy white double-breasted trouser suit, and boxy wide blazers were worn over silky, flowing dresses. A slouchy, checked suit with drawstring trousers was paired with a low-cut Lurex top.

For those looking for a properly oversized piece, Mouret offers up a huge, shaggy faux fur coat that is sure to be the talk of the party wherever it goes.

There's still much that's traditionally soft and feminine, though. Asymmetric, handkerchief-hem skirts caress the calves and swish beautifully with movement. Strategically draped bodices slyly reveal a shoulder here and a collarbone there. The shimmering metallic Lurex adds luxury, and the show's closing look, a pale blush gown worn under a matching faux fur coat, is made of a fabric so light it billows like clouds.

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD GOES GUERRILLA THEATER

The grand dame of British fashion, Vivienne Westwood, put fashion on the back burner and turned her catwalk show into a broadside against climate change, corporate greed and other ills.

Westwood has moved in that direction in recent years, but she went into guerrilla theater mode for this show. It featured angry models stopping in the middle of the catwalk to denounce the planet's problems, finding time to complain about artificial intelligence, robots, Brexit and a whole lot more.

The first model set the tone by announcing the world would be dead unless something is done this year. The models warned, to a percussive, threatening sound track, that humanity would soon go deaf and blind and have squished internal organs.

One model with a microphone proclaimed "Hollywood

has made us into zombies." A wittier riposte came from the model who announced, "England is going to die from irony."

The clothes on offer were distinctly and androgynous. Many male models were outfitted in dresses or tops and skirts, though others wore beautifully made suits with distinctive draping and a very English look.

Westwood is a fashion legend dating back to the punk era who seemingly can do no wrong with her legions of fans.

DRESSES, JUMPSUITS, TAILORED OUTFITS BY PETER PILOTTO

Designer Peter Pilotto seems to be moving from strength to strength as he solidifies his place as one of London Fashion Week's leading lights.

He showed a wide array of very soft, feminine dresses, jumpsuits and tailored tops and skirts, including some asymmetrical, off-the-shoulder dresses made of luscious silk and other fabrics. Pilotto is fond of high-waisted trousers matched with revealing top. There were sparkly jumpsuits galore, an array of the silk print dresses that he's known for, and a bounty of tailored, shaped floral suits and wraparound dresses that could be seen as a celebration of beauty.

Some of the models set off their outfits with long, sparkly gloves that added a metallic sheen to the ensembles. Others wore blouses with dreamy, billowing sheer sleeves. One of the few misfires was a series of pleated skirts with contrasting tops that didn't really shine.

Pilotto seems to be hitting his stride, buoyed by the buzz surrounding his wedding dress for Princess Eugenie last year. His collections have become a highlight of fashion week.

(The fashion week ends today.)

—AP

MASTER CLASS

A mix of artworks, photographs and sculptures that would come up for an auction in New York next month was showcased in the capital to an appreciative audience. By TEAM VIVA

From the brightly-coloured oils in a myriad combination that look like stain glass to bringing together of still life with human forms to a depiction of the famous horses and more — one could traverse through the works of who's who of the art world at the Delhi Travex organised by Sotheby's at a five star hotel in the capital.

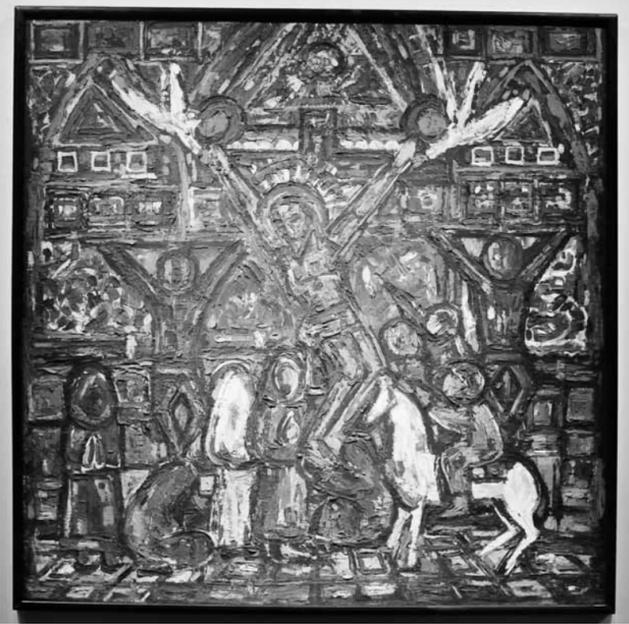
There was a mix of artworks, photographs and sculptures from the remarkable artists from Bombay Progressives and Bengal School of Art which will be the key highlights at an auction in New York on March 18.

Yamini Mehta, international head of Indian and south Asian art, Sotheby's pointed out that there were reasons for bringing only a few selected works from the auction. "We brought over works that have value, something that would catch people's eye. These are the ones we thought will appeal to the audience. I wanted to bring the sculptures by Huma Bhabha as well but that would have cost a bit too much.

The travex was bifurcated between 17 paintings by prolific artists namely including G R Santosh, Ram Kumar and some of the modern and contemporary painters; two photographs by Steve McCurry, Henri Cartier-Bresson and one sculpture by Prodosh Dasgupta. Many of these works are fresh to the market since they have remained in private collections for several decades.

Even though there were works of MF Husain, Jogen Chowdhury, J Swaminathan and even one by the Bangladeshi artist Zain-ul-Abidin which is rare, it was FN Souza's *Golgotha in Goa* which was the highlight of the evening as it was brought to India after nearly seven decades.

The rarity of *Golgotha in Goa* by the artist demonstrates the profound influence of Catholicism on Souza's personal and



FN Souza's *Golgotha in Goa*

artistic development. While Souza was an incredibly prolific artist across his nearly-seven-decade career, works from this formative period remain incredibly rare as less than 20 paintings by Souza from the 1940s have ever appeared at auction, marking this as a major event in the artist's market. This particular painting was a personal favourite of the artist and its first collectors did not let go of this until their last breath and cherished it for their entire lifetime.

While Souza had the eyeballs, there were other works too that drew the art fraternity for a closer look. Jogen Chowdhury's *The Grey Vase*, a small but absolutely unusual piece saw a buzz around it. The beauty of the work which combines human figure with still life, a vase with flowers with human forms on either side, comes from its crosshatch design. "Chowdhury never made the human body perfect. He made a caricature.



J Swaminathan's *Untitled work*



Yamini Mehta

'IF INDIAN CONTEMPORARY ART IS TO BE REALLY SUCCESSFUL ABROAD, IT NEEDS A PUSH AND A STRONG MARKET FIRST IN THE COUNTRY'

When you look at this painting, it looks like the body of a young woman, but when you look at her breast it is not that of one. So he played with less than perfect forms. He combines ink, water colour and pastels in this work," said Uma Nair, independent curator and art critic.

A work by J Swaminathan, in Nair's opinion too was worthy of mention. "These three are the most important works in term of history, composition and the artists themselves at the event," said Nair.

Another painting that drew attention was George Keyt's *Portrait of PM*, 1931. Oil on canvas as it was a portrait was from a very early period in the artist's oeuvre, before he embraced modernism and started to paint and draw in his signature abstract and cubist manner. The subjects in Keyt's very early works were more modest and usually clothed but this voluptuous nude signalled a transition from traditional themes to his later, less inhibited portrayals of women.

Mehta pointed out the work of Bangladeshi artist Zain-ul-Abidin as an important one among the exhibits. "It is a signature work of the father of Bangladeshi modern art and it's very rare to get a major from him. This is coming from an American diplomatic family and has a impeccable provenance to it."

Talking about the newer artists, Mehta pointed out that "If Indian contemporary art is to be really successful abroad, it needs a push and a strong market first in the country."

She also pointed out that among the up and coming artists, it was names like Gauri Gill, Simran Gill and Sunitha Kumar that were worth watching out for.

The evening saw connoisseurs and people from the fraternity bond over the collected love of art.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

Vortex of emotions

S PAUL's cameo of a few photographs offers a milestone in nostalgia and the understanding of the precious moment, says UMA NAIR



At the All India Working News Camera men's Association exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi, S Paul's cameo of a few photographs offer a milestone in nostalgia and the understanding of the precious moment which become momentous.

PRECISION AND PROUST

People and landscapes become vital to understand the lucidity and lithe precision of the eye of Paul whose poetic perspectives and clean strong images affect us when we ponder upon them. In some ways I was reminded of Sebastião Salgado's mode of work, of his devotion and unending sense of duty in capturing the depth of the subject he traversed upon.

There are limpid landscapes and you somehow recall the famous Marcel Proust work, *Remembrance of Things Past* where when you flip countless times through the pages of the final volume before you realise that it is more about life and its many perspectives rolled into the capsule of time. When artistes speak to the world, they do so in terms of a whole. Paul was one such artiste, a photographer. Look at his landscapes

and you know he unconsciously unravels Proust's novel as an organic whole — one that conveys insight into human beings while giving readers the sense of an all-around summation. Landscapes for Paul were about that silent solitary summation.

VEILED WOMEN

One work that stood apart from all the images in the show was that of a group of burqa-clad women with a little boy amidst them. The timing of the image with its innocence and feminine aura somehow brings a smile to your face. The gathering of the veiled women is a synergy that sighs like a symphony. It makes you remember Bresson's Muslim women praying in Srinagar after India's tryst with freedom. It makes you think of the intrinsic quality and quotients of the power of the veil and its esoteric immersiveness. Paul revels in black and white sonatas. He offers a rare insight into the charms and oddities of the everyday idiom and signifies the impact of being culturally distinguished while at the same time creating a subtle corollary of intellectual concern which underpins the exterior appearances of life in the city wherever it may be.

RURAL RHYTHMS

Paul's soft concerns show in his two images — a baby sitting in a basket of a rural couple and the brick wall that hides a cow with magnificent horns. Paul's images talk to us, they are like echoes of his personal memoirs. They are unusually tranquil, yet characteristically offbeat. Images of domestic life act as a springboard to probe questions which he feels are simmering beneath the surface. Paul presents a contemplative perspective on street life and makes us think about our definitions of community and a man's place in the society.

VISUAL TREATMENTS

When you look at his landscapes, his language of minimalism is what stuns us and draws us into a vortex of emotions and evocations. Most of our writing, our ideas of the society are urban, yet our fundamental myths derive from village life. You understand these landscapes by knowing the power of the visual treatments.

Paul's works talk to us about the great Dutch masters. In more ways than one I remembered Piero della Francesca and Johannes Vermeer. Francesca's works had a quiet, solemn atmosphere; they had a clear spatial structure and the figuration was unassuming yet powerful. Vermeer's pictures portrayed simple settings that were serene yet full of poetic feeling, displaying the tranquil beauty inherent in life.

Paul brings back the language of the masters in his scene of the rural rustic people on the streets of daily sustenance clothed in their only attire walking along life's pathway with humble poverty as their only design. It is the solemn signature that stays with us and we know that Paul was indeed a master of the scene, he wanted to capture that just for himself and no one else.

Artist Prabir Purkayastha has over the past two decades captured dulcet landscapes in Ladakh as well as different parts of the world as an itinerant traveller.

The India Habitat Centre brings back its *Photosphere* at the Visual Arts Gallery where Prabir's *Dheemahi* is an invitation and an invocation to the realm of silent contemplation in a world crazed by technology and conspicuous medleys of materialism.

"My images for *Dheemahi* are conceptual visual narratives of the disappearing landscapes around us and within us," states the photographer.

"I don't want the viewer to be further inundated with images of gruesome reality of the violation of Earth," adds Prabir and believes that there are far better photographers than him who excel in being masters of doom and gloom.

He says, "I prefer to celebrate the darkness within the darkness."

One glance at these landscapes invites us into the crevices and shadows of the abyss of pathos and darkened interiors. These are by no means beautiful but they are powerful in



Tales of a traveller

Artist PRABIR PURKAYASTHA creates symphony of time through *Dheemahi*, his series of photographs of disappearing landscapes. By U NAIR

the synergy that they present.

"The shadow of grief in our loss is inescapable, something precious is passing us by... a dreamlike state exists in our experiencing what we once loved and are now sadly losing. It is as if we are witnessing the passing of life itself," explains Prabir.

He explains the electrifying speed that soars across the frame and elucidates that the images are in motion and translucent. The darkness is prevalent and brooding, but the mystical light is always present and gives hope of a better day to come.

Prabir recalls the *Vedas*, probably the oldest holy scriptures known to man, which seeded the thought of holistic sustainability over 5,000 years ago. "*Bhuh Bhuvah Svah...* These three words of the Gayatri mantra, in the Rig Veda, which mean earth, air and cosmos give us the knowledge of the entire cosmos. And this mystical knowledge, born of man's umbilical connection to *Bhumi*, is the guiding light that gently steers us through the dark labyrinths of time," explains Prabir.

According to him, in today's world, we have with alarming apathy and contemptu-

ous attitude turned our backs to this guiding 'light', and subsequently to the planet we live upon.

For this, we raise a cacophony of futile excuses and explanations in today's *Kali Yug*. But primarily it is man's unparalleled ruthlessness and inexplicable thoughtlessness that is strangling his very own 'raison d'etre', or so Prabir believes.

He provokes the viewer into a meandering medley of thoughts with integral and imperative questions, "As we hurtle ourselves into oblivion, is there no power to steer us away from the pending *Pralay*? Are we, as a race, beyond all hope and redemption?"

The photographer believes that in this frightfully unsettling narrative and brutal spectacle lives a potent cosmic force, a benevolent energy that man can merge into for his future existence.

Dheemahi — 'we contemplate' — presents a traditional visual narrative about our hidden world, a visual tapestry that amplifies the disappearing desolation, around and within us. The resulting effect of such sublime contemplation in the exhibition will make it

impossible to ignore the Earth that we are destroying. And, one that we need to passionately nurture and celebrate. For ourselves and for the future generation as well.

The explanation that Prabir extols presents another realm that we must meditate upon. "The divine *dhiksha*, of simple contemplation for our *Bhumi*, will seamlessly connect us to one another. And, more importantly, provide us with an immersive and collective conscience to protect and nurture our one and only planet."

These are landscapes that talk to us about living. Explanations for obscurity come in a rush all day long. A landscape must make us ponder. It must make us think of what we have not seen and felt. Most landscapes are predictable and passive, but here are a set that are ephemeral by definition, telling us that they are quick to decay but at the same time they stand testimony to the beauty of a painting, a symphony or a novel.

It explores a mapping of understanding that "Landscapes are for living," and also become a vehicle for and expression of a certain inchoate impulse.

WATCH OUT



National School of Drama presents *Nine Miles to Go* as part of its ongoing Bharat Rang Mahotsav. Directed by Jayasree Bhattacharya, the play questions and tries to understand Baghajatin's strategy to fight against 500 soldiers with only four companions. WHEN: February 19 TIME: 5.30 pm WHERE: LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, 1, Copernicus Marg.

AIFACS presents *Retrospective*, an exhibition of sculptures, paintings and drawings by artist Biman B Das. It features his journey from childhood and college days to early professional life. WHEN: Till February 21 TIME: 11 am to 7 pm WHERE: Galleries of the Society, AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg.



Nadd Foundation Concert for *Harmony*, which will feature sitar recital by Prateek Chaudhuri with Durjay Bhaumik on Tabla and instrumental by Ustad Akram Khan and Ravishankar Upadhyay. WHEN: February 20 TIME: 5.30 pm WHERE: Chinmaya Mission Auditorium, Lodhi Road.



Rhythm of Marble is a solo exhibition of sculptures by artist and sculptor Amit Singh, which will be inaugurated by Muhamed Cengic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina. WHEN: Till March 4 TIME: 11 am to 8 pm WHERE: Sculpture Court, 205 Triveni Kala Sangam, Tansen Marg.



The Raza Foundation presents *Individual Palettes or Kala Vividha* — Raza Utsav, a group art show curated by Rameshwar Broota. It showcases how each artist is highly individualistic and driven by a strong sense of self. WHEN: Till February 28 WHERE: Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg.



MANDHANA MAINTAINS TOP SPOT



Pedro puts Chennai in drivers' seat

PTI ■ SHILLONG

Pedro Manzi scored two goals and set up another to guide table-toppers Chennai City FC to a 4-2 win over hosts Shillong Lajong in a return leg fixture of the Hero I-League here Monday.

Pedro, the current highest scorer in the 12th I-League with 18 goals to his credit, changed the complexion of the match in a span of 12 minutes.

Spaniards Sandro Rodriguez and Nestor Jesus were the other goal scorers for Chennai, while Kitboklang Pale and Samuel Lyngdoh scored for the home team.

Chennai consolidated their position at the top with 37 points from 17 games, five points clear of their nearest rival East Bengal.

Shillong remained at the bottom of the table with 10 points from the same number of games.

Akbar Nawaz gave new recruit and Italian keeper Mauro Boerchio his first start under the Chennai woodwork while Allison Kharsyntiew started with an unchanged XI.

The game began with Chennai City pressing hard from the first minute. The Spanish duo of Pedro and Sandro along with Ajith Kumar combined well to threaten the young Lajong defence.

It soon yielded results when Sandro curled in a corner into Shillong net past keeper Pancha Lachempa in the seventh minute to hand Chennai the lead. Lajong then lost their keeper

Lachempa to an injury.

Shillong started to attack a little late in the half and made some threatening moves to keep debutant Mauro Boerchio busy.

Phrangki Buam, Mahesh Naorem, and Kitboklang Pale combined well to create a few opportunities but could not convert any.

Lajong's efforts finally paid dividends when Kitboklang Pale came up with a clinical finish, after a brilliant through ball from Phrangki Buam in the 23rd minute.

The first half came to an end with the scoreline reading 1-1 for both the teams.

In the second half, Lajong began on a more enterprising note but Phrangki Buam and Samuel Lyngdoh wasted some golden chances.

However, as has been the case throughout the length of the league, Chennai's Spanish armada led by Pedro changed the complexion of the game in the last 12 minutes.

Off a Sandro free-kick from the left flank in the 78th minute, Pedro headed in for his 17th goal of the league.

He then latched on to a long ball four minutes later, from Josef Kaplan from inside the Chennai half and crossed accurately for countryman Nestor Jesus to head home. Samuel Lyngdoh then converted a penalty in the 85th minute to keep Shillong interested before Pedro's 90th-minute strike sealed the match in Chennai's favour.

Pulwama fallout: Minerva moves court, East Bengal wait & watch



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Minerva Punjab FC pulled out but refused to give up on points while East Bengal adopted a wait and watch approach towards its scheduled fixture after the Pulwama terror attack cast a shadow on their matches against Real Kashmir FC in Srinagar. Defending champions Minerva did not show up for their clash against RKFC in Srinagar on Monday after asserting that the home club and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) failed in providing written security assurances.

East Bengal, on the other hand, conveyed their concerns about the February 28 match to the AIFF but refrained from making an outright pull-out threat. Their clash against RKFC is the last scheduled I-League match in Srinagar. The AIFF, meanwhile, has referred the Minerva issue to its League Committee and maintained silence on East Bengal's concerns. The entire sequence of events is a fallout of Thursday's attack in which at least 40 CRPF paramilitary troopers were killed while several others injured. It has been termed the deadliest terrorist strike in three

decades in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minerva claims it couldn't have travelled to Srinagar after its foreign players were specifically told by their respective embassies to avoid the J&K capital.

The club has refused to offer a forfeiture and has moved the Delhi High Court after the AIFF refused to relocate their match.

"We have filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court, seeking relief so that we are not forced to play in Srinagar at this volatile time," Minerva Punjab FC owner Ranjit Bajaj told PTI. "Even today there was a 12-hour encounter where four Armymen have been martyred. And they are saying 'come and play football here'. Unless the court intervenes, we are not expecting natural justice."

Interestingly, the AIFF has also not declared the match a forfeiture till now. According to the FIFA guidelines, in the event of a forfeiture, full points are awarded to the team turning up for the game.

After the February 14 attack, East Bengal also wrote to the AIFF asking for a change in venue. "We have sent a letter to AIFF and we are awaiting the revert. Let them

reply and then we will decide the next course of action," East Bengal CEO Sanjit Sen said.

"AIFF has to let us know when and where the match is going to be held. Once they let us know, we will decide our stance," he added. I-League CEO Sunando Dhar though said security was not an issue as the local authorities assured them of all the necessary arrangements.

"The local security authorities in Srinagar have given a go-ahead to hold the match. The AIFF has assured of all the necessary arrangements for players and officials by the local authority," Dhar said.

He added that the "whole security arrangement of the players from the airport to the team hotel and from travelling from the hotel to the ground and return, everything was taken care of."

While Minerva Punjab are not in contention, East Bengal and Real Kashmir are both title contenders this season, and it remains to be seen what the AIFF does in the matter.

Real Kashmir FC co-founders Sandeep Chattoo and Shamim Meraj expressed disappointment that Monday's match did not take place.

PTI ■ DUBAI

India opener Smriti Mandhana maintained her pole position while ODI skipper Mithali Raj remained fifth in the latest ICC ODI Players' Ranking issued on Monday.

Mandhana is leading the pack with 774 rating points ahead of Australia pair of Ellyse Perry and Meg Lanning.

New Zealand's Amy Satterthwaite is placed fourth, just ahead of Raj. The other Indians to feature in top 20 are Deepti Sharma, who jumped a place to 17th and Twenty20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur at 19th.

West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor has advanced two places and grabbed eighth position among batters even as a number of players from Pakistan and South Africa have also moved up in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings after winning their respective ICC Women's Championship series.

Taylor led the list of run-getters with an aggregate of 158, including two fifties, in a 2-1 loss here that enabled Pakistan to overtake the West Indies in the points table of the eight-team championship. It provides direct qualification berths to hosts New Zealand and four other top teams in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021. South Africa have kept in



DEEPTI SHARMA AND POONAM YADAV ARE TWO OTHER INDIAN BOWLERS FIGURING AT THE TOP-10 AT EIGHTH AND NINTH POSITIONS RESPECTIVELY

contention for a direct berth in the pinnacle event by completing a 3-0 triumph at home over Sri Lanka,

a verdict that has helped them to catch up with the fifth-placed West Indies on 11 points, even

though they remain behind on net run rate.

Pakistan's victory over the West Indies has lifted them to 12 points and they are now in the fourth position, just behind India on the net run rate in the list led by Australia with 16 points from only nine matches and New Zealand second at 14 points from 12.

Among bowlers, veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami is the best-placed Indian at the third spot behind Megan Schutt of Australia and Pakistan's Sana Mir, who is leading the pack.

Deepti Sharma and Poonam Yadav are two other Indian bowlers figuring at the top-10 at eighth and ninth positions respectively.

Deepti also features in the all-rounders chart at a career-high third spot. Perry is at the pinnacle of the list followed by West Indies' Taylor.

No Indian woman has reached the top spot among all-rounders as all the former captains — Goswami (in July 2015), Purnima Rau (December 2000) and Shubhangi Kulkarni (January 1986) have attained the second position.

The upcoming India-England series can be crucial in the final standings while defending champions Australia host second-placed New Zealand in another series that also starts on Saturday.

Gibbs back India, England as contenders for WC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former South African opener Herschelle Gibbs named India and hosts England as the two strong contenders to win the upcoming ICC World Cup starting May 30.

"It is always wide open. The two standout contenders will be England and India. But, who is going to make the other two places for the semi-finals? It is difficult to say. A lot depends on the weather in England. The bowling attacks will all play a part (in the tournament), the 44-year-old Gibbs said on Monday. Asked about South Africa's chances, Gibbs

said that it is not about AB de Villiers' absence that will be key but more so about the lack of quality all-rounder. "We (South Africa) are always up there irrespective of ABD. We have got Faf (Du Plessis) and Quinton de Kock. The only issue for South Africa is not having an all-rounder," Gibbs said.

Recently, ICC chairman Shashank Manohar expressed his concerns about Test cricket's future but Gibbs begged to differ. "Test cricket is (still going) strong. I don't know why people say you need to revive it? I am a big fan of Test cricket finishing in four days. It need not go on for full five days." However the veteran of 90 Tests and 248 ODIs, wants batsmen to be challenged more in the longest format. "The batsmen around the world get it easy in ODIs and T20. If they need to fight on sporting tracks in Test cricket, so be it. Sometime the game finishes in two days, when the pitch is offering turn. I don't mind that," the dashing right-hander said.

"It should not have to go for all five days. It is important that a batsman's technique gets tested all the time. The bowlers, they also have something in it, to get their confidence going. They don't get it from T20s or ODIs because flat decks are on offer," said the 44-year-old.

Pakistan's shooters were on Monday granted visas to participate in the New Delhi World Cup, a top Indian shooting official said, ending speculation about their presence in the event in the wake of the Pulwama terrorist attack.

The ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) event, which will offer 16 quota places for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, starts at the Dr Karni Singh Range on Thursday.

"Their visa has been cleared and we have received communication from the Indian High Commission and the Pakistan shooting federation. The two shooters and the manager's tickets are also being booked," National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) secretary Rajiv Bhatia said.

Earlier, the terrorist attack had cast a doubt over Pakistan shooters' participation in the World Cup, with the country's federation saying in Karachi that it would not send its marksmen if the visas don't come through by this evening.

Pakistan applied for visas for two in the rapid fire category GM Bashir and Khalil Ahmed.

Slight let up and you will get hurt: Finch on Ind series

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia captain Aaron Finch feels that he doesn't need a Big Bash League triumph to "pep" him up as playing an away series against a formidable Indian team is a big enough challenge.

Finch will lead Australia in the upcoming limited overs series in India starting February 24 where they would play two T20 Internationals apart from five ODIs to fine tune their preparation for the ICC World Cup. Finch's side Melbourne Renegades beat Melbourne Stars by 13 runs in the BBL final on Sunday. "I don't think you need anything to put pep in your step when you're going on an Aussie tour, particularly to India," Finch was quoted as saying by official Cricket Australia website cricket.com.au.

"If you are slightly off the mark, you are going to get hurt. They (India) are the best side in one-day cricket in their own conditions, I think. So you've got to go there full of confidence and have a real clear game plan," said the 32-year-old opener.

Finch went through an eventful summer. He was appointed Australia's one-day captain in a World Cup year, before making his long-awaited Test debut. But he has since been dropped from the Test squad after failing to fire, and has not been as destructive as usual in the shorter form of the game.



India shouldn't play Pak in WC: Harbhajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh doesn't want India to play Pakistan in the upcoming ODI World Cup in the aftermath of the ghastly terror attack in Pulwama.

Harbhajan said India is strong enough to win the World Cup even if they decide to forfeit the match against Pakistan in Manchester on June 16. Harbhajan's statement came after the terror attack in Pulwama killed 40 CRPF personnel. Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad had claimed responsibility for the ghastly act.

"India should not play Pakistan in the world Cup. India is powerful enough to win the World Cup without having to play Pakistan," Harbhajan said. "This is a difficult time. The attack that has happened, it was unbelievable and it's very wrong. Strict action will surely be taken by the government.

When it comes to cricket, I don't think we should have any relations with them otherwise they will keep treating us like this," he added. Harbhajan said India doesn't need to revive any sort of sporting ties with Pakistan as a mark of respect for the armed forces. "I don't think India should play the World Cup match against Pakistan. Country comes first and we are all standing behind our country. Cricket or hockey or sports, it should be kept aside because this is a huge thing and repeatedly our soldiers are killed. "We should stand with our country. Cricket or hockey or any sport, we don't need to play with them," he said. "We should not keep any kind of ties with Pakistan: we are powerful enough to feed the world on our own. Cricket, sports is not as important. We stand with every member of the defence force. Their sacrifices should not go to waste," Harbhajan said.

Komal impresses in BP XI loss against England XI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Left-arm medium-pacer Komal Zanzad impressed with a three-wicket initial burst but Board President's XI failed to defend their modest score of 154 and lost by two wickets against the visiting England XI in a practise game on Monday.

Komal who is yet to play for India but has taken an amazing 9 for 8 against Haryana in the domestic one-day tournament of the BCCI last season, rocked the visitors with her devastating spell of 3 for 9 in her first six overs at the Wankhede Stadium. England XI were gasping at 11 for 4 by the fifth over triggered by the triple strike by the Vidarbha captain before Heather Knight, with a steady, unbeaten 64 off 86 balls, lifted the team out of the rut and guided it past the finish line in the 38th over. England made 157 for 8.

Apart from Komal, Reemalaxmi Ekka and spinner Tanuja Kanwer picked up two wickets apiece. Earlier, the local outfit lost wickets in clusters and were bowled out in 49 overs with lower order batswoman Minnu Mani emerging the top scorer with 28 in 57 balls that contained one of the two sixes struck in the innings.

Need funds to play more Int'l tournaments, says Sourabh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reigning national champion Sourabh Verma has appealed for financial help, which will enable him to play more international tournaments in order to improve his current world ranking.

The 26-year-old had burst into the scene with his first senior national title in 2011 but over training led to frequent break downs, which stopped him from playing tournaments consistently.

It affected his ranking as from a career-best ranking of 30 in 2012 he now finds himself at 55. "I don't have financial support to play international tournaments. Now due to the new rule, only top 25 players are getting financial help from BAI. That led to my international exposure being reduced and hence my ranking slipped," Verma said.

He said that BAI did sponsor him for the Dutch Open but he needs more funding. Of course, Dutch was financed by BAI after my performance in two domestic events but if I get financial support, I can do well," he said. "I need to play at least 10-12 tournaments to get more ranking points. I had a knee problem last year, which I had to take care by myself. I am playing tournaments on my own. As a player, it becomes a big burden if you have to manage all by yourself," he said.

Verma said that he had to even pay for all his travel arrangements for his next two tournaments -- Swiss Open and Orleans Open.

"I will be playing Swiss Open and Orleans Open next after Barcelona Masters. I have paid for my visa and financing everything (hotel and travel) all by myself. So I don't have much option to play bigger tournaments," he reasoned.

Last year, Sourabh recovered from a shoulder injury to win two Super 100 titles at the Russia Open and Dutch Open and clinched his third Senior National title at Guwahati last week.

"After 2017, I had frequent injuries due to training overload. So I worked on my body and now I am more aware about the play-rest balance," said Sourabh, who will start his international season at the Barcelona Spain Masters. Starting with the qualifiers Tuesday.

"I also had a knee issue and I wasn't playing too many events. Now I'm stressing on fitness. I am looking at quality (of tournaments) and not quantity. I know if I can take care of my body, I can win tournaments," said Sourabh, who will start his campaign in the second round qualifiers after his first-round opponent Lu Guangzu withdrew.

Sourabh had clinched his maiden international title at Bahrain International Challenge in 2013, before claiming the TATA Open. The Madhya Pradesh shuttler stitched a string of title wins at Iran Fajr and Austrian International, besides a runners-up at Malaysia Masters GPG in 2014.

Despite the injury setbacks, he had a good year in 2016, when he won the Chinese Taipei Masters, besides securing runners-up finishes at Bitburger Open, Polish International and Belgian International.

He also claimed his second senior national in 2017, beating Lakshya Sen in the finals. Lakshya Sen, who finished runners-up at Guwahati after losing to Sourabh again, will also play at Barcelona Spain Masters -- his first international tournament of the season in a year where he is making his transition into senior from junior.

The 17-year-old from Uttarakhand, who is an Asian Junior Champion and a bronze medallist at the world junior championship, will have to play at the qualifiers to make his way to the main draw.

Among others, former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap and Ajay Jayaram will begin against Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent and Malaysia's Cheam June Wei respectively.

Subhankar Dey, who was defeated by Mumbai's Harshdeep Dani at the Nationals, will play a qualifier in the opening round. National championship silver medallists Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok will take on Korean eighth seed Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae, while Krishna Prasad Garaga and Dhruv Kapila face France's Christu Popov and Toma Junior Popov in another men's doubles match. Women's doubles pair of Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh and mixed doubles combination of Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan are also in the fray.



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