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DEHRADUN, SATURDAY JANUARY 19, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹2



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## Rahul hails Didi's Opp unity bid

Cong prez writes to TMC chief; Opp leaders to take part in show of strength today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee prepared to hold a massive show of strength on Saturday, which will be attended by a galaxy of major Opposition leaders, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday wrote to her hailing the TMC chief's initiative to unite India against the BJP.

The Congress president wrote, "I extend my support to Mamata Di on this show of unity and hope that we send a powerful message of a united India together." Saying that there were "powerful forces afoot" angry with the Narendra Modi Government for peddling false promises, Rahul wrote these "forces are fanned by anger and disappointment of hundreds of millions Indians who have seen through the false promises and lies peddled by the Modi Government."

Rahul's letter came at a time when political who's who from all over the country including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and NCP chief Sharad Pawar had started landing at Kolkata.

On united Opposition against the BJP, the Congress president wrote, "The entire Opposition is united in our belief that true nationalism and development can only be defended on the tested pillars of democracy, social justice and secularism, ideas that the



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders at a hotel in Kolkata on Friday. Anti-BJP leaders have arrived in Kolkata to attend TMC's mega rally on Saturday PTI

BJP and Modi are intent on destroying."

While neither Sonia Gandhi nor Rahul Gandhi would be joining the rally, the Congress will be represented by the party's Leader in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge. His presence and Rahul's letter tends to neutralise BJP's argument that Mamata's much-hyped Brigade rally lacked the backing of the second biggest party of India indicating at the schism within the much touted Opposition unity.

Rahul's support apart, Deve Gowda too praised Mamata for taking the "grand initiative to bring the entire Opposition together against the Narendra

Modi Government. She is a hardworking leader and her endeavour will bring success," Gowda said after landing at Kolkata.

Congratulating the Chief Minister for bringing the whole India to Kolkata, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "Mamata Didi has sent a message by bringing all leaders to Kolkata. Every segment of the society is unhappy with the Modi Government and time has come for a new Prime Minister for the country."

Former Arunachal Chief Minister Gegong Apang who left BJP a couple of days ago said, "Mamata is a great leader and we all have come here to

support her initiative."

Meanwhile, stage is set for the expected record-breaking rally even as thousands of TMC cadres poured in from districts. Kolkata prepared for a historic Brigade rally that according to a rough ruling party estimate break the Left Front record by assembling no less than 30 lakh people sources said.

By Thursday late-noon a galaxy of politicians had landed in Kolkata led by former HD Deve Gowda, NCP chief Sharada Pawar, Gegong Apang, Akhilesh Yadav. Mamata had on Thursday said that leaders of about 20 Opposition parties would be coming to join the

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"Mahagathbandhan rally against the BJP's misrule."

Apart from those who had already landed at Kolkata, others who were expected to join the rally are Karnataka Chief Minister Kumaraswami, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu, National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, RJ leader Tejashwi Yadav, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, DMK leader Stalin and BSP leader Amit Mishra, Mamata said.

BJP leader Shatrughan Sinha and Yashwant Sinha were also likely to join the rally. *Continued on Page 4*

## PC: Rafale jets number cut for French windfall

Ex-FM says Govt paid ₹186 cr/jet, Defence Ministry denies charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NDA Government's decision to buy 36 Rafale jets instead of 126 as was decided by the UPA regime led to escalation of the price of each aircraft by 41 per cent and came as a windfall for French aircraft-maker Dassault, said Congress leader P Chidambaram citing an exhaustive report published by The Hindu newspaper.

The Defence Ministry has denied the charges in detailed statement. Claiming that the Government paid Euro 25 million more per aircraft compared to the price negotiated by the Congress-led UPA, Chidambaram said the Government did not buy 90 more aircraft needed by the Air Force and paid Rs 186 crore more to French firm Dassault, maker of Rafale, for 13 India-specific enhancements in the medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA).

The former Finance Minister reiterated his party's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale jet deal, saying the decision is not amenable to court but to a parliamentary



Congress senior leader P Chidambaram addresses a Press conference in relation to the alleged scam in the Rafale deal in New Delhi on Friday PTI

panel. The Congress has alleged earlier that the Prime Minister increased the 'Benchmark Price' of Rafale deal from 5.2 billion Euros to 8.2 billion Euros and that the NDA Government paid over Rs 1,600 crore per aircraft against the UPA's negotiated price of Rs 527 crore per aircraft, demanding answers as to who is responsible for the loss to the State exchequer.

Chidambaram's Press conference came in the backdrop of a media report claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to buy 36 aircraft instead of the 126 asked for by the Indian Air Force pushed the price of each jet up by 41.42 per cent.

"The Government has wronged the country in two ways - firstly, it has compromised national security by denying to the Air Force 90

fighter aircraft that they desperately need. Secondly, it has purchased two squadrons that will cost about ₹25 million more per aircraft. At the 2016 exchange rate, Euro 25 million is equal to Rs 186 crore. India will pay Rs 186 crore more per aircraft," Chidambaram said.

"There is no doubt any longer that Rafale aircraft deal deserves to be examined thoroughly by a Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Congress reiterates its demand for constitution of a JPC," he said.

The Rajya Sabha member said he feels that Dassault "is laughing all the way to the bank," as the NDA Government gave a "gift" to the French firm over amortisation or recovery on the cost of 13 India-specific enhancements sought in the aircraft that cost 1,300 million Euros. *Continued on Page 4*

### CAPSULE

**K'TAKA: 4 CONG MLAS SKIP MEET, EXPOSE CHINKS**  
Bengaluru: Exposing chinks in the ruling coalition in Karnataka, four dissidents Friday skipped the Congress Legislature Party meeting here that was called as a show of strength against an alleged bid by the BJP to dislodge the HD Kumaraswamy Government.

**RAM TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT BY 2025: RSS**  
New Delhi: RSS executive head Bhayyaji Joshi has expressed confidence that the Ram temple will be constructed in Ayodhya by the time of next 'Kumbh' in 2025, the Sangh said in a statement on Friday.

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## Cong inks poll alliance with regional players in J'khand

Of 14 LS seats, Cong to fight 6, JMM 4, RJD 1, JVM 2, CPI 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Bihar and Maharashtra, Congress has formed its alliance with regional parties in neighbouring Jharkhand for Lok Sabha elections and later the State Assembly polls. The alliance to take on BJP will have five parties — Congress, JMM, RJD, CPI and Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM).

The anti-BJP alliance in the State has also agreed to project JMM working president Hemant Soren as the CM candidate for the State Assembly polls later this year.

Of the 14 seats in Jharkhand, JMM will contest in four seats, according to sources. One seat — either Palamu or Chhota — will go to RJD, JVM will be contesting in two seats and CPI will contest from



Hazaribagh, a seat held by Union Minister Jayant Sinha. Congress will field its candidates on the remaining seats.

The BJP won 12 of the 14 seats in Jharkhand in the last Lok Sabha elections. The remaining two were won by the JMM. The Congress which contested in nine seats in alliance with the JMM lost in all nine.

As a pre-condition for a tie-up in Lok Sabha elections, the JMM has been insisting on projection of Soren as the chief ministerial candidate for the Assembly polls. The demand seems to have been met by the alliance partners.

The ties between the JMM and the Congress had soured last month when the former supported an Independent candidate in the Kolebera bypolls to the State Assembly. The

Congress, however, managed to win the seat defeating the BJP by more than 10,000 votes.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi had earlier said we will contest the State Assembly elections under Soren's leadership and it was reiterated in the meeting. Jharkhand Congress president Ajay Kumar said after a meeting of Opposition parties in Ranchi on Thursday.

"You can see all of us here together. We will discuss contours of our alliance within our party and finalise the seat-sharing arrangement by this month-end," JVM chief Babul Marandi said after the meeting. Marandi who was in BJP became the first Chief Minister after Bihar was bifurcated and Jharkhand came into existence. Later he quit over differences and formed JVM and tied up with Congress in couple of elections.

Jharkhand is the third State where Congress has stitched an alliance with regional parties after Bihar and Maharashtra. The party, however, failed to get berth in the alliance formed by once UP rivals Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party and Mayawati's BSP.

## India writes another cricketing history in Oz



Australia's Glenn Maxwell drives as India's Yuzvendra Chahal dives to stop a run during their ODI cricket match in Melbourne, Australia, on Friday. Mahendra Singh Dhoni rekindled his love affair with final flourishes, anchoring India to their maiden bilateral ODI series triumph in Australia for a perfect finish to a historic trip Down Under here on Friday. Virat Kohli's men became the first country to return from Australia without losing a single series having won the Test series 2-1 and drawn the T20 Internationals 1-1. From a dasher, to a finisher to finally the anchor in the last leg of his career, Dhoni 3.0 was in full flow during India's successful chase of 231 in the third and final ODI on a sluggish Melbourne pitch after Yuzvendra Chahal set it up with a career-best 6 for 42 PTI

## LS polls likely in April, May; EC to announce date in ides of March

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) may announce the schedule of the parliamentary elections sometime in the middle of March, while the polls are likely to take place in April and May. The polling is likely to be conducted in several phases across the country and the EC is keen to ensure that the poll dates do not clash with the school examinations as well as festivals in the States. The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 3.

An EC spokesperson, however, said, "No decision has been taken as yet on the date when the elections would be announced."

According to sources, the

Commission is in the process of deciding the number of phases and the months in which polling would be held. The charting of the phases would also depend on the availability of security forces and other requirements, the sources said, adding the announcement of the mega exercise is likely to be made in first week of March.

The polling to elect the new Assemblies in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim are likely to take place along with the parliamentary elections. The state assembly polls in J&K, which is now under President's Rule may also be held with Lok Sabha polls in April-May. *Continued on Page 4*

## Celebratory bullet in leg fails to spike bride's gun

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On Thursday evening, in the midst of the wedding ceremony in East Delhi's Shakkarpur, when the bride, 19-year-old Pooja, and the groom, Bharat, were walking towards the stage to exchange garlands (varmala) at Shiv Mandir Dharamshala, Pooja was allegedly hit by a bullet.

She was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, but returned three hours later after a surgery to resume her wedding rituals.

Pooja's mother Joga Devi said, "Doctor advised her to take rest for a few hours but she was determined to go back to wedding procession. Now she is fine and taking rest."

Eyewitnesses said two bullet shots were fired by the accused one was shot in the air, while the other shot hit the

bride in the ankle of her right leg. It was revealed that the bullet had brushed past her leg.

Police said it is a case of celebratory firing and hunt is on to arrest the accused identified as Rinku, the resident of Geeta Colony. Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Pankaj Singh said they are looking into the matter and the accused was a guest from the groom's side. However, the groom has denied this statement and claimed that he doesn't know the accused.

Pooja is a resident of Mandawali and Bharat is a flower merchant from Shastri Park. They were engaged a year ago.

The wedding attendees alleged that the accused might have fled when the bride was being taken to the hospital.

In a similar incident last November, a groom was shot at



in the shoulder by two gunmen as he was riding a chariot to his wedding. A few hours later he returned to the wedding to carry-on with the marriage rituals.



VIEWPOINT

# The Communists and the religion



ROMIT BAGCHI

This article I wrote many years ago a few days after the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court delivered its landmark judgment on the long-festering Ayodhya title suit. As I did not have it published then I think it can be presented now as things have remained unchanged with the tangle having again usurped the prime place in the political discourse of the country. The write-up was about the Communists' attitude to religion, in general, and Ayodhya tangle, in particular. Things have remained relevant as the Communists do not seem to have changed a bit since the time this article was written as the Sabarimala episode has clear-

ly revealed. "As expected, the Communists have taken a tough stand regarding the recently pronounced verdict on the Ayodhya tangle, pillorying it as a betrayal of the Muslim cause and violation of the Supreme Court ruling on the issue. According to the CPI-M Politburo members, the Apex Court had ruled way back in 1995 that the title suit could not be adjudicated on matters of faith. "But this is what the Allahabad court has done," a CPI-M Politburo member said.

It is another matter that the party reeling under strings of poll debacles in its redoubts in West Bengal and Kerala would try to milk it electorally. Particularly so as the Marxists' support base among the minority keeps sliding irreversibly. The evidently beleaguered party would leave no stone unturned to shift the blame onto the courtyard of the Congress, slamming the charge of political vacillation of the premier party vis-à-vis the Ayodhya tangle.

However, apart from the political calculations, there is an ideological view entangled with it. On matters religious, the party cannot deviate from its long held view.

The CPI-M general secretary, Prakash Karat made a

candid confession in Cambridge, saying that the Communists had remained prisoners of the past. "They have failed to move with the times, stuck as they are in the 1940s grooves," he said.

The Communism is based on the dialectics of history. So changing with the time is an imperative. Grappling with the dialectics is considered by the Communists as a proud portion of the homo sapiens. And so changing tacks from time to time keeping the ideological contour intact is in keeping with the Communist worldview.

But religion is a subject which they religiously shun. Save for occasionally denouncing Islamic fundamentalism and the exploitation in the name caste, they maintain a studied silence on the matters religious.

It is said by many that the Communists have failed to dent into the country's political landscape because of their aversion to religion.

True, in a country like India which remains deeply religious for ages, bypassing it for mundane economic and class issues would not carry one far. Dissents keep coming to the fore from within their ranks, asking the party to review its rigid stance vis-à-vis religion. Many have

deserted the party on the issue. Yet they have chosen to remain firm in their avowal of indifference.

Karl Marx called religion opium for the exploited. This is perhaps the hardest denunciation of religion. But there is a tendency to quote it out of context to bolster an individual standpoint. Marx in fact did not deal with the question of religion as a separate subject. In his large oeuvre of writings, religion steps in only a part of the superstructure the base of which remains the economic substance-the productive forces, production relations and the class struggle. Either his obsession with things economic restrained him from dealing with religion in details or, maybe, he was not against religion itself but against its exploitative potential. He attacked religion on two fronts - firstly as an aid being used by the exploiting class to coerce the mass of the working people into remaining tied to exploitative order and secondly as an idea fostering a stoical acceptance of the unjust order as a divinely sanctioned decree of fate.

True to the Marxian axioms, the Communists tended to view the Hindu-Muslim problem and its culmination in the gory partition

from the economic point of view. They were strongly inclined to the view that had the Congress embarked on a revolutionary movement, stressing on emancipation from the foreign yoke as a means to a better life the Muslims who were falling prey to the spell of fanaticism could still be won over and the partition could have been avoided.

According to late Hiren Mukerjee, respected as one of the tallest Marxist ideologues, the situation in the country in the years just preceding the partitioned independence was conducive to an all out call for revolutionary programme as anti-imperialism mood of the people was palpable.

The crux of the Communist argument remains hidden here. The partition could have been avoided had the Congress leadership been inclined to an economic solution which would have blurred the communal divide among the working masses of the people.

This is something, which they seemed to have derived from the Marxian worldview. And this is where the theory had floundered. The excessive stress placed on the economic aspect of man seems to have denied the access to the wider spectrum of subjective

workings. Those abiding by the Communism never take pains to understand the import of religion in moulding human personality.

If they really thought that through building unity on the economic (read class lines) the partition could have been avoided it must be said that they had been prisoners of a myopic vision heavily biased for the superficial to the deliberate ignorance of the deeper."

I am ending the article with an amusing development which happened in the CPI-M. An influential Marxist minister Abdur Rezzak Molla who is now in Trinamul Congress tossed a debate in the Communist circles. He went on a pilgrimage to Hardwar and Rudraprayag to seek divine blessing. "I stayed in an Ashram in Hardwar and took prasad daily. Form Hardwar I went to the small town of Rudraprayag where the Alakananda and the Mandakini meet in a confluence of great religious significance. There is nothing wrong in visiting these places for seeking divine blessing when one is in the grip of a crisis," he averred. The party, however, sought to undermine the gesture, saying that he was on sightseeing.



## 'Political leadership must have confidence as Vivekananda'

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Lieutenant general (ret'd) Ravi Kumar Sawhney who retired from the post of the deputy chief of the army staff said that Indian leadership must have self confidence as was shown by the 19th century patriotic monk Swami Vivekananda.

While presiding over a function held by Sanskar Bharti and Ramkrishna Sewashram Samiti, he exhorted the school children to develop self confidence and follow powerful words of Vivekananda.

A symposium was organised to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Chicago address in Awdhoot Mandal Ashram.

Sharing his experience as he was involved in conceptual development of strategies being the director of Military Intelligence, Sawhney said that for a country to win, 'atma vishwas' was a must in political leadership.

He said that in 1962, he felt it missing in Indian leadership when Chinese troops had reached from Tafang to NEFA in present day Arunachal Pradesh, there was no preparation on military equipment or transport.

This was why the country faced humiliating defeat. "In 1999, during the Kargil operation, I felt, not even once there was a worrying frown Atal Bihari Vajpayee's face. The

same I felt in operational room while speaking to Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. The country needs leadership like that of Modi to continue to be safe."

Presiding as guest of honour Swami Jankeeshanand from Ramkrishna Mission Sewashram said, "Hundred twenty five years have been passed since the famous Chicago address was delivered but it continues to enthuse the people across the world." Swami Rupendra Prakash of Awdhoot Mandal Ashram greeted the students who had scored well in quiz contest held by the Sewa Samiti based on the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Seventy students from 10 schools had participated in the quiz organised by the organisation.

Students of Lord Krishna Public School, Roorkee led by Raj Kumar Upadhyay read the Chicago address given on September 11, 1893 by Vivekananda at the Parliament of World Religions in English and Hindi. State head of RSS, High Court advocate Gajendra Singh Sandhu and former State Information Commissioner Vinod Nautiyal said that dharma made people strong and any dharma which weakened the masses must not be accepted. A stage play by theatre artistes of Sanskar Bharti led by Narendra Ahuja on life of Vivekananda was also appreciated by the audience.

## Mr U'khand Hem Chandra awarded 'Mr Motivational Icon of India'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Hem Chandra, resident of Panyali (Kathgharia), Haldwani in Nainital district, has won the prestigious title 'Mr Motivational Icon of India'. He participated in the 'Indian Icon 2018' which was held from December 25 to 30 2018 in Haryana and Delhi for six days, organised by Sea Lord Entertainment.



Hem Chandra who had gone through difficult time in his childhood studied B.sc and M.sc in Agriculture from G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar.

He is currently working in Uttarakhand government as assistant director, Sericulture, Udham Singh Nagar district.

Notably, he has achieved a lot of success in the field of sports as well in the past. In the field of bodybuilding, he has been crowned many awards

such as Mr Uttarakhand, Mr Kumaon, Mr Nainital, Mr Haldwani and Mr Pantnagar.

Among those who congratulated him on winning the national level title were the director Social Welfare Vinod Goswami, chief development officer Uttarkashi Prashant Arya, director Sericulture Anand Yadav, deputy director Sericulture Arwind Laloriya and deputy director Sericulture Pradeep Kumar.



A view of Naini lake on a sunny day in Nainital on Friday

Pioneer photo

## Government of India Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Department of Social Justice & Empowerment)

### Vacancy Circular

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (D/o SJE) proposes to fill up the post of Financial Advisor in the Pay Band — PB-4 (Rs. 37400-67000/- + GP Rs. 8700/- on Deputation (including short term contract) basis. Last date for receipt of application is 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement in the Employment News.

For details, please refer to the Vacancy Circular published on the official website of D/o Social Justice and Empowerment : [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in).

davp 38101/11/0085/1819

Under Secretary(SCD-VI)

## Office of the Transport Commissioner, Uttarakhand Kulhan, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

Phone: 0135-2608105, 2608106, Fax: 2608108 E-mail: [ci-trans-uk@nic.in](mailto:ci-trans-uk@nic.in) No: 310/Computer/8-148/2019 Date: 15.01.2019

### Notice Inviting Proposal

The public is hereby informed that tender notice number 5276/computer/8-148/2018 date 19-12-2018 issued by this office for auction of obsolete computer hardware and related equipment of Transport Commissioner office, for which proposals had been invited from eligible institutions by 10-01-2019 under E-Waste (Management) Rule, 2016. Making amendment in the tender, the last date for submitting the tender is being extended to date 30-01-2019, 2.00 PM and the date for opening of tenders is hereby fixed on 30-01-2019, 4.00 PM. The tender form can be downloaded from the Transport Department website [transport.uk.gov.in](http://transport.uk.gov.in).

Those interested can fill the tender form as per the fixed procedure and fully filled proposals can be submitted in the stated address of Transport Commissioner office by 30-01-2019, 2.00 PM. In this regard, information regarding any amendment or change of date will be published only on the departmental website.

RO: 6637

Additional Transport Commissioner, Uttarakhand

## Food issues caused by fund constraints: officials

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following complaints by coaches from various districts participating in the Khel Mahakumbh about the food served not being appropriate for players, officials concerned have stated that monetary constraints are responsible for the type of food being served to the players. According to the officials, the Government Order (GO) signed for Khel Mahakumbh facilities limited amount for the diet of the players which gets decreased further after Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Joint director of Youth Welfare department, Rakesh Chandra Dimri said, "As per the GO signed for the Khel Mahakumbh about Rs 150 is given to us for every player for daily diet but after GST it becomes Rs 123. The menu has been planned according to this. We cannot add or change anything in the menu as it may cost us more money which is not provided to us."

When asked about players of some districts not being

**We got less time to organise such a huge event like Khel Mahakumbh this year, last year we had more time. It would have been better if we were provided with more time.**

provided with proper sports kits he said, "This is a district matter and all these aspects are decided in the district plan. We have no role in this."

Expressing about the problems faced in organising the Khel Mahakumbh this year Dimri said, "We got less time to organise such a huge event like Khel Mahakumbh this year, last year we had more time. It would have been better if we were provided with more time."

The official also informed that the football match that was supposed to be held on January 20 has been rescheduled to February 17. "The highlight of this year Khel Mahakumbh is the football match; in order to make that competition a major event it has been shifted to February."

## HNM donates furniture to Govt School

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Jayanti, a class V student of government primary school number 22 in Kankhal never had a chance to sit on bench and use a writing desk in school.

She had spent four years sitting on a floor mat in class. There was no bench in school to sit on and all students including Jayanti had to sit on the floor mat.

However, members of Haridwar Nagrik Manch have provided good quality furniture to the school. Block education officer Ajay Chowdhary appreciated the efforts made by the organisation.

When this correspondent visited the school and asked one of the boy students why they had gathered in the school lawns on Friday he responded, "We are going to receive gifts today." The joy of receiving gifts was well written on their faces.

"There was no furniture in the school, students used to sit on the floor in the cold when I visited this school last month. Today the school principal and the kids are happy to have risen from the ground," said SK Batra smilingly. SS Jaiswal of Haridwar Nagrik Manch said that Rs 11,000 will be awarded among meritorious students of Classes I to V every year.



# 2,232 patients availed benefit of AAUY



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A total of 2,232 patients have so far availed the benefit of 'Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana' (AAUY) till date. The Chairman of state health authority (SHA), D K Kotia reviewed the progress of the scheme at health directorate on Friday. The scheme which is being dubbed as a game changer by the BJP Government was launched in the State on December 25, 2018 by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. Kotia was informed that 2,232 people have got treatment in different hospitals under the scheme out of whom 950 have undergone surgical processes while 885 have availed free dialysis. During treatment, 34 patients were admitted in the Intensive Care Units (ICU)

under the scheme. Similarly, 56 patients have got treatment of heart ailments. The Chairman was further informed that 118 patients have got treatment for orthopedic related diseases, 93 have got cancer treatment while 53 got nephrology related cure. Similarly, 260 beneficiaries have availed eye related treatment while 80 were treated for Gynecological issues. Kotia directed the officials that prompt payment to the hospitals concerned should be made. He was informed in the meeting that till date claim of ₹2.12 Crore have been received out of which payment of ₹49.84 Lakh for 58 claims have been made to the hospitals. The patients under the scheme have so far received treatment in the AIIMS New Delhi, Safdarjung hospital New Delhi and PGI Chandigarh

apart from Government hospitals of the State.

## ATAL AYUSHMAN UTTARAKHAND YOJANA

A cover of ₹5 lakh per annum would be provided to all 23 lakh families of Uttarakhand in the panelled hospitals under the scheme. Patients can avail benefit of the scheme for 1350 types of diseases in these hospitals. Information about the scheme can be received on the Toll Free Help Line 104, Mobile App (Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana) and website <http://ayushmanuttarakhand.org>. For the assistance of the patients, Arogya Mitras have been deployed in the listed hospitals through which the patients undergoing treatment in the hospital will get help and guidance. The Chairman accepted

# 1 more patient succumbs to Swine Flu in Doon

**Death toll reaches eight, six still undergoing treatment in different hospitals**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The swine flu is continuing to spread unabatedly in Doon valley. On Friday, one more patient suffering from the disease died, taking the death toll of the disease to eight this season.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun, Dr S K Gupta told *The Pioneer* that a 65 year old female patient, a resident of Mehwala in Dehradun died due to the disease at Synergy hospital on Friday. He informed that three patients, found positive for the disease, are undergoing treatment at Synergy hospital while two are admitted in Max hospital. One patient of the disease is undergoing treatment at Mahant Indresh hospital while



one has been discharged from hospital after recuperating. The CMO said that all medical professionals have

been asked to keep track of the suspected cases of the disease and inform them to the district health department.

He added that all the hospitals have adequate supply of Tami flu (medicine of swine flu) and triple layer masks. The

CMO said that since the disease spreads by droplet infection, people should cover their nose and face with handkerchief while sneezing or coughing and should regularly wash hands and face. Dr Gupta said one should immediately consult a doctor in case of consistent fever and breathlessness.

Swine flu is a viral disease. Its virus is also called H1 N1 and its genetic analysis has shown that it has originated from the animals specially pigs. Hence, it is called Swine flu. The virus spreads from person to person similar to that of seasonal influenza.

Alarmed over swine flu deaths, the state health department has set up a death audit team headed by Additional CMO, Dr Narendra Kumar in Dehradun to examine the cause of death. The team has a microbiologist, one epidemiologist, one physician, a child specialist and one specialist of community medicine.

# Interview for Asst Profs in medical colleges to start from Jan 28

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a long wait, the Government medical colleges of Uttarakhand would get permanent faculty members as the Uttarakhand Medical Services Selection Board (UKMSSB) would take interviews to select 138 faculty members from January 28. The chairman of the UKMSSB, Dr D S Rawat told *The Pioneer* that interviews would be held for 138 posts in 24 disciplines from January 28. He said that the UKMSSB has set up four boards who would interview 40 candidates in a day.

Dr Rawat added that 380 candidates have been short-listed for interview out of total 417 applications. The Chairman claimed that all preparation for holding the interviews to select Assistant Professors for the government medical colleges has been made. The Chairman accepted

that some posts in reserved posts in some disciplines are likely to remain vacant as less candidates then the number of vacancies have applied.

In Uttarakhand there are three government medical colleges, the Government Doon Medical College, Medical College Haldwani and Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Medical College Srinagar.

In absence of permanent appointments for last many years most of the faculty members in these medical colleges are working on contract.

In such a condition these medical colleges are marred by absenteeism, frequent changes and other problems associated with contractual employees. The appointment of permanent faculty members in these colleges is expected to bring stability in teaching positions and improvement in academic environment.

To fill large number of vacant positions of faculty

members in the government medical colleges the UKMSSB started a drive to fill 138 posts of assistant professors in 24 disciplines in September this year.

However the open recruitment decision was resented by the Assistant Professors working on contract in these medical colleges.

Their contention was that they were selected after a proper process in which every criterion like reservation was followed and for more than three years they had worked hard to ensure the medical colleges got the mandatory permission from the Medical Council of India (MCI).

Some of these contractual faculty members went to the High Court (HC) on which it issued a stay on the recruitment process last month.

The HC however vacated the stay in November last year and gave green signal to the UKMSSB to go ahead with process of selection.

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# CM launches AAUY in Rudraprayag district

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana at Rudraprayag on Friday. A total of 5,40,670 golden cards have been issued under this scheme so far. Speaking on the occasion, he said that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Aishman Bharat Yojana, the first golden card of the country was given to Tara Devi of Rudraprayag district. He further said that Uttarakhand had become the first state in the country to provide health cover to all 23 lakh families in the state.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he also said that a dedicated air ambulance service will be started in the state from January 26, while adding that even now helicopter service is provided to seriously ill persons in special circumstances. But now onwards, dedicated air ambulance service will provide this facility in Uttarakhand. The ICU services in each district will also be started within a year. Rawat said that women groups will be provided loan of up to ₹5lakh at one per cent interest rate. Similarly, farmers in the state will also be provided inter-



est free loans of Rs one lakh each. He said that to encourage locals towards self employment 67-Nyay Panchayats are being developed as growth centres. The local people are directly linked with 'Pirul' (dry pine needles) policy. Under the policy, a target to give employment to 50,000 people at local level and to generate 150 MW of power from 'Pirul' has been fixed. He said that the State Government has hit hard against corruption in the past 20 months and by investigating

works and policies in social welfare, food, medical and NH-74 scandals, thousands of crores of public money has been saved. He said that everyone has to contribute to make Uttarakhand corruption free.

On the occasion, the CM also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 23 developmental projects worth Rs 78.68 crore. He said that a guest house will be constructed at Rudraprayag and work of Dighdar Badma Sainik school will also be completed soon. The electrification of Kartik Swami

temple will be done. Rawat said that approval for constructing 155 bridges had been given and 200 more bridges will be built and by 2020 all 355 bridges will be constructed. He said that to link youth with employment 200 buses will be provided on 50 per cent subsidy and these buses will be hired by the state roadways.

Finance and Parliamentary Affairs minister Prakash Pant, Rudraprayag MLA Bharat Singh Chaudhary and others were also present on the occasion.

# Know Your Army Fair commences

**Objective of the fair is to create awareness about armed forces, positive environment for army and encouraging youngsters to join Army**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The two-day Know Your Army fair started at Mahindra ground, Garhi cantonment on Friday. Large number of people including many students visited the fair on the day.

Inaugurating the fair, the general officer commanding (GOC) of Uttarakhand sub area, Major General Bhaskar Kalita said that the fair would provide information about

army to the people. He said that the objective of the fair is creating awareness about armed forces, creating positive environment for army and encouraging youngsters to join army.

He hoped that the fair would be appreciated by the students and many among them would make armed forces as their profession.

A combined military band display during the opening ceremony drew applause from those attending the function.

The weapons particularly T-72 tanks, hand held thermal imagers, INSAS rifles, Sniper rifle, battle field surveillance radar, rocket launchers, 81 mm mortar and flame launchers displayed on the occasion evinced keen interest of visitors especially students.

One of a senior officer of army associated with fair said



Armymen in war paint pose with guns and kukris at the Know Your Army fair in Dehradun. Pioneer photo

that by holding such fairs the common people come to know about its armed forces.

The youngsters showed keen interest in the equipment kept on the display. Large number of youths was seen at the stall where the armed forces

personnel informed them about a career in the army.

"It is my dream to serve the country by joining the armed forces of the country and the visiting the fair is definitely a big boost for me," said a class XII student.

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# HP CM asks banks to help raise farmers income

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday said the banks should focus more to improve the investment credit by funding those schemes that helped in increasing the income of the farmers.

Presiding over the state credit seminar 2019-20 organised by the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (NABARD), he said sustainable agriculture practices need to be focused on soil fertility through the use of green manure, crop rotation and mixed cropping for effective use of natural

resources.

He said the total bank credit for 2019-20 for priority sectors has been estimated at Rs 23,631 crore, an increase of 5.6 per cent over the previous year plan of Rs 22,389 crore.

Thakur said the role NABARD played in the development of the state, particularly in the field of rural development, agriculture and irrigation and public health, was commendable.

NABARD was also playing a major role in strengthening the economy of the farming community. He said the self help groups were doing laudable work in various sectors and the government was also

ensuring all possible help to the NGOs.

Wild and stray animals were causing major damage to the crops of the farmers due to which at times farmers have even stopped cultivation.

He said for this several steps have been initiated by the state. Eighty five per cent subsidy is being provided for solar fencing to protect the crops of the farmers from the stray animals.

Thakur said since 90 per cent of the population of the state lives in rural areas and the main occupation of the people being agriculture, it was futile to even think of development without welfare of the rural

areas.

He said the state has enhanced the subsidy for greenhouse from 50 to 70 per cent and 60 per cent subsidy is being provided on anti-hail guns to the fruit growers.

## CM DIRECTS TO COMPLETE WORK ON HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS BY FEB 20

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that all the announcements and commitments made by him to the people of the State should be completed by 20 February this year so that fruits of development could be percolated down to the targeted groups and needy people.

Presiding over the meeting with the administrative secretaries and heads of department held here to review physical and financial progress of various schemes launched by the state government, he said the departments concerned must ensure that the new schemes announced in the budget regarding their departments must be taken in hand and implemented in the stipulated time period.

"The proactive approach was vital for effective implementation of the developmental schemes. He said that it becomes our duty to come up to the expectations of the common man," he added.

# AAP: No tie up with Cong in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has been giving mixed signals on the chances of an alliance with the Congress, on Friday finally ruled out any such possibility in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, saying the Congress is not thinking for the nation.

Speaking to the media, AAP leader Gopal Rai said the party at one stage was ready to compromise with the Congress as there was a demand that anti-BJP parties should join hands to save the nation.

"We were ready to drink poison (compromise with the Congress). But now, we have decided that AAP will contest on all seats in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana with its full strength and will not have any alliance with the Congress," Rai said. He admitted that the AAP, just like

several other parties, had started considering, despite dissent inside the party, that they will compromise with the Congress for the sake of the nation.

"Several like-minded parties were coming together and even though not being in favour of Congress, they have decided to join hands. We, too, were ready to think about joining hands to save the nation from the dictatorship of (Narendra) Modi-(Amit) Shah," he said.

"But the way Punjab CM Amarinder Singh issued statement that the AAP does not have any value in Punjab and the way (Congress Delhi Chief) Sheila Dikshit said that the AAP is a small party unlike Congress which is a national party and they will not have any sort of compromise with us."

"It is clear that for them, their ego is more important than the nation," Rai said, adding that the AAP has always disagreed with the policies of the Congress.

"Against the corruption of the Congress, the AAP has been always vocal and removed completely the 15-year rule of Dikshit in Delhi."

He also said the kind of language "they are using against us (AAP) showed that they are only thinking about themselves and not the nation."

The AAP leader also attacked the BJP and said the dictatorship of the saffron party forced them to think about compromising with the Congress. "The way the Modi-Shah duo has created a dictatorial attitude throughout the country and the way they have stopped the elected government of Delhi from working, a feeling was created that all the anti-BJP parties should join hands." "We will not only defeat the BJP in Delhi, but will also make a government at the Centre with the other like minded parties in country."

Earlier in January, the AAP had announced it will finalise its candidates by mid-February.

IANS

# DUTA protests against varsity's provision to have 10% permanent positions as contractual appointments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Teachers' Association Friday protested outside the vice chancellor's office against the varsity's provision to have 10 per cent of permanent positions as contractual appointments. The protest was against the total apathy of the varsity administration towards teachers who are waiting for more than a decade, the DUTA said.

It said contractual jobs of any kind was unacceptable as thousands of young teachers are already working in "extremely exploitative and uncertain conditions".

Our protest is to highlight the issues related to denial of promotion to more than 2,500 teachers, the DUTA said.

It demanded that the matter be discussed in the Executive Council of the varsity. The other demands are the inclusion of Physical Education

as a teaching discipline (as recognised in the UGC Regulations), the fulfilling of the promise made by the VC to make provision for one month's maternity leave to ad-hoc teachers and the decision regarding immediate disbursement of revised pension to the retired teachers, it said.

The DUTA alleged that the varsity had been converted into a fortress with the presence of police and the Rapid Action Force. "Instead of resolving the issues of teachers which have been pending for years, the administration has resorted to such means revealing their indifference to the plight of all sections of teachers," it said. Meanwhile, sources said an Executive Council meeting was held in the afternoon where some members moved a resolution against the use of police force against the protesting teachers, alleging that it was done at the behest of the varsity administration.

A discussion ensued on it for three hours and later the issue of having 10 per cent permanent positions as contractual appointments was taken up for discussion, they said.

The Academic Council had on Wednesday passed the proposal to have 10 per cent of permanent positions as contractual appointments despite opposition from certain members, the sources claimed.

In a statement, the varsity appealed to its members to maintain peace and harmony. "University of Delhi strongly believes in freedom of speech and expression. The university appeals to all members in various departments/colleges/institutes to maintain peace and harmony during the course of exercising their freedom of speech and expression," it said.

Meanwhile, police said the protesting teachers tried to scale barricades and they had to resort to the use of mild force to control the situation.

# Delhi Govt's free entrance exam coaching scheme attracts over 4,000 students

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Within a year of its launch, Delhi Government's scheme which provides free entrance coaching for SC/ST students preparing for competitive exams has attracted over 4,000 students, officials said. The Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, launched by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on December 9, 2017, was reviewed by Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam along with officials.

The scheme provides free coaching for students preparing for civil services, judicial services, banking, engineering, medicine, and other competitive examinations through known and established coaching institutions.

The Minister, who is also the chairperson of the Delhi Scheduled Caste (SC),

Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC), Minority and Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation Ltd, discussed ways to reach out to more students.

"Over 4,000 students have enrolled for the coaching facilities for various courses so far out of the targeted 5,000 students in a year," said a Government spokesman.

The meeting discussed proposals for roping in premier coaching institutes for better results, and extending the coaching fee cap to up to Rs 1.5 lakh. At present, the fee for the coaching is up to Rs 40,000, while the eligible students are also provided a stipend of Rs 2500 per month, it said.

Formation of a monitoring committee to look after the quality of the coaching and other issues was also discussed in the meeting.

# BJP mocks AAP after seat-sharing announcement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP took a dig at the AAP on Friday, describing the party as "sour grapes" after hopes of an alliance with the Congress had been struck down.

The Aam Aadmi Party's announcement that it will contest all the Lok Sabha seats alone in Punjab, Delhi and Haryana shows that it was "not accepted" in the political world, said Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari.

"The AAP saying it will have no alliance with the Congress and contest alone amounts to it being sour grapes," Tiwari said.

The party was "scared" of

defeat in the Lok Sabha elections and was trying to forge an alliance but that was not possible because of newly appointed president of Delhi Congress Sheila Dikshit, he said.

"The Lok Sabha elections will be contested on the issues of leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the development works under his policy 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'," he asserted.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta claimed that there was "panic" among the opposition parties due to the fast implementation of public welfare schemes under the leadership of Modi and they are trying to forge alliances for survival.

# F&D enters TV market with affordable Smart TV priced at ₹49,990

Dehradun: F&D, one of the oldest players in audio Market, enters the TV segment, with its first 43inch 'FLT-4302SHG' SMART LED TV. Priced at 49,990/-, the TV comes with introductory launch offer of 1+2 years extended warranty.

With a screen resolution of 1920\*1080 and A+ Grade Panel that brings dynamic contrast ratio of above 310Nits, it creates an everlasting impact on the visual senses, the company claims.

Integrated with the 8Wx2 (16W) BOX speakers, the TV produce crystal-clear sound, enhancing the movie viewing and listening experiences, the company adds. The smart TV runs on Android Version 7.0 and comes with pre-installed applications like Netflix, HotStar etc. Powered by 1GB RAM and storage space up to 8GB, the TV stores multimedia data and files without the worry of external memory, the company further claims.

PNS

# 4 Odisha kids get Bravery Awards

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Four children from Odisha have been selected to receive the National Bravery Awards 2018 for showing an instance of courage.

The children are Jhili Bagh, Ranjita Majhi, Biswajit Puhan and Sita Mallick. They are among 21 brave children, including eight girls, nominated for the award for year 2018.

The awards will be presented to them during the celebration of the Republic Day on January 26 in New Delhi.

Notably, the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) has been presenting the



National Bravery Awards to children who distinguish themselves by performing outstanding deeds of bravery and inspire other children to set the example.

# BJP women bang bangles at Min, MLA houses Protest acquittal of Pipili gangrape accused

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP Mahila Morcha activists on Friday banged red bangles near official residences of Minister Pratap Jena, MLA Akash Das-Nayak and BJD leader Muna Khan as mark of protest against the State Government's failure in ensuring safety to women and justice to rape victims.

"Accused persons involved in the Pipili gangrape case were acquitted due to lack of evidence. Former Minister Pradeep Maharathy and Crime Branch officials have a hand in acquittal of the accused. The



Crime Branch has failed in nabbing culprits in 90 per cent cases," alleged Morcha State president Pravat Parida.

Stating that the Chief Minister has not listened to the Morcha's demand for a CBI inquiry into the Pipili gangrape, Parida said, "Bangles are a symbol of strength of women. If the Chief Minister and his Ministers don't muster up courage to take action against

culprits, then they should once wear bangles to get courage," said Parida.

Among others, Morcha vice-president Kananbala Patnaik, secretary Rashmirekha Das, treasurer Bijayalaxmi Mohapatra, Subhashini Patnaik, Diptimayee Das, Bishnupriya Behera and Purnima Das participated in the agitation.

Parida threatened that the Morcha would offer red bangles to the Chief Minister on January 20 if he doesn't order a CBI probe into Pipili case and tender an apology before women community by then.

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Sl. No.: 1. Name of work: Hiring of Multi Utility Road vehicle (Type: Mahindra XUV, Toyota Innova, Tata Hexa) for Sr. DOM/G & Chg. DRM's Office N. Rly. Moradabad for the purpose of attending traffic and safety related duties on round the clock monthly basis with authorised permit holders, for local journey travel at Moradabad as well as other places of UP, Uttaranchal, Delhi and NCR of Delhi, Haryana etc. with minimum running of 2500 Km. per month for Two years. Approx. Value of work: Rs. 11,56,555/-. Contract period in years: 2 years (24 months). Earnest Money: Rs. 23,100/-. Cost of the Tender: Rs. 2,360/-. Date & time of closing of tender: Tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on 05.02.2019. Date & time of opening of tender: Tender will be opened at 15.30 hrs. on same day. Tender forms can be seen/downloaded from N. Rly's website www.rfps.gov.in on internet. No.: 1-T/Sr.DOM/Chg. & G/MB/2018. Dated: 10.01.2019.  
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S.No. Section TKM  
1. Raiwala to Rishikesh (KM 0/590.80 to KM 11/798.55) 18 TKM  
Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the load carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances after 05.12.2018.  
The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follow:-  
i) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the high Voltage wired/conductor  
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iii) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.  
115/19  
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# Rahul hails Didi's Opp unity bid

From Page 1

The immensity of the rally could be gauged from the 100-foot long stage and four other mini-stages to accommodate other dignitaries. In a symbolic statement the ambience of the rally ground is being kept "absolutely party-neutral and federal," a senior Trinamool Congress leader said adding the backdrop of the 100-foot stage will show a huge cutout of India with no picture of any leader and not even Mamata Banerjee

gracing it. According to past records, the Brigade Parade Ground has a maximum capacity of 12-14 lakhs. If the crowd surpasses that figure "which we expect it to do then the processions will be stopped midway, sources said adding "for those who would not be able to come to the ground will be able to watch the leaders speak on giant screens fixed at about 20 points across the city.

# PC: Rafale jets number cut for French windfall

From Page 1

He said the cost of these enhancements has been recovered by Dassault in 36 aircraft and the same should have been recovered by it for 126 aircraft instead.

"That is a windfall for Dassault. That is the gift that the NDA Government has given to Dassault and that is why I said Dassault is laughing all the way to the bank...The windfall to Dassault was a deliberate decision of NDA

government and is highly questionable," he said.

"The increased price per aircraft is a gift to Dassault that the NDA Government gave between April 2015 and August 2016," he also said.

Chidambaram earlier said in the light of new facts and revelations, "the question gains greater urgency: why did the government buy only 36 Rafale aircraft instead of 126 aircraft required by the Air Force?"

Chidambaram took to Twitter and said serious issues are being raised in media reports about the process of decision-making in the NDA Government and alleged that "the man who got away was Mr Manohar Parrikar who passed the buck to the Cabinet Committee on Security. Clever man." Meanwhile, the Defence

# LS polls likely in April, May; EC to...

From Page 1

The Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir was dissolved in November, 2018 and the upper limit ends in May. In normal circumstances, the J&K Assembly's six-year term was to end on March 16, 2021. The other State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha have a five-year term. The State Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana are scheduled to be held later this year. While the term of the Sikkim Assembly ends on May 27, 2019, the terms of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh assemblies end on June 18, June 11 and June 1 respectively.

The final electoral rolls with January 1, 2019, as the qualifying date were published in all the States and Union Territories. This marked the end of the Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls 2019. The process had started on September 1, 2018.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already announced the schedule of the Class Xth and Class XIIth examinations, making it sure that both commence and conclude earlier than usual so that the electioneering could not disturb the students preparing for the examinations. The Class Xth examinations will start on February 21 and end on March 29, while Class XII will be held from February 15 to April 3.

# XLRI student dies in mysterious circumstances

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Tension gripped the top B-school XLRI campus as a second year HRM student of XLRI died under mysterious circumstances on the institute's campus under Bistupur police station area early Friday morning.

The student Shashwat Dixit (26) was rushed to Tata Main Hospital, where the doctors on emergency duty declared him as brought dead.

Police have seized the body and kept it in the Tata Main Hospital morgue. The XLRI management has informed the deceased's parents about the incident.

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change from a firm and fixed price to a flexible rate was possible only because the deal was structured under an Inter Governmental Agreement with France. This factor is expected to lead to a substantial commercial advantage over the delivery period of 36 Rafale aircraft, it added.

On the issue of dissent within the Indian negotiation team while finalising the 36 Rafale jet deal, the statement said it was answered by Sitharaman in Parliament. In the highest traditions of the Civil Service, all views are aired and recorded and a collegiate decision taken after considering such opinions. Decisions on the deal were taken after due process of inter-ministerial consultation, the ministry said.

## UP ILLEGAL SAND MINING SCAM IAS officer Chandrakala, SP leader get ED summon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to four accused persons, including IAS officer B Chandrakala and a Samajwadi Party (SP) leader, in connection with an alleged illegal mining scam case in Uttar Pradesh.

The ED had registered a criminal case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking cognisance of a CBI FIR to probe illegal mining of minor minerals (sand and gravel) in the Hamirpur area between 2012 and 2016.

The CBI has said it is probing the role of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav too in the case as he had held the mining portfolio during this period.

Chandrakala and SP MLC Ramesh Kumar Mishra had been summoned by the ED to appear before the Investigating Officer of the case in Lucknow on January 24 and 28 respectively. Besides Chandrakala and Mishra, the ED has summoned two more officials to appear before it next week, sources said.

The ED is probing the money trail and whether the alleged proceeds of crime generated due to the kickbacks received in these cases were laundered by the accused.

The agency will also look for assets, both immovable and movable, of the accused that can be attached under the



Chandrakala and SP MLC Ramesh Kumar Mishra had been summoned by the ED to appear before the Investigating Officer of the case in Lucknow on January 24 and 28 respectively

anti-money laundering law after establishing the proceeds of crime. The CBI had carried out searches at 14 locations earlier this month in connection with its FIR against 11 persons including IAS officer Chandrakala, Mishra and Sanjay Dixit (who had unsuccessfully contested the 2017

Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on a BSP ticket), to probe the alleged illegal mining of minor minerals in Hamirpur district during 2012-16.

The role of the then mining ministers of the State is also under the scanner of the ED. Yadav, who was the CM of the State between 2012 and 2017, held the mining portfolio during 2012-13, a reason why his role is under the scanner for investigation, according to the CBI FIR.

He was succeeded by Gayatri Prajapati, who took charge as the mining minister in 2013 and was arrested in 2017 following a complaint of rape by a woman residing in Chitrakoot.

## CITIZENSHIP BILL Centre likely to call N-E CMs meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of strong protests over the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill, the Centre is expected to soon call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all northeastern States to address concerns.

Sources said a decision in this regard was taken after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh discussed the matter in detail with Mizoram and Meghalaya Chief Ministers in a meeting here.

The controversial Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8.

However, large scale protests were witnessed in the northeastern States including Assam and Mizoram over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government's attempt to pass the Bill in the Upper House of Parliament.

"There was a serious discussion on the Bill in the meeting. The Centre has assured that it will look into the concerns of northeastern States before moving ahead," a high-placed Government source said.

"Most likely, a meeting of chief ministers of all northeastern States will be called soon to resolve their concerns," the source added.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said:



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma (2nd R), Mizoram CM Zoramthanga (L) and Meghalaya Dy CM Prestone Tynsong (R) during a meeting regarding Citizenship Bill, in New Delhi on Friday

"Northeastern States will be forced to take a call if it does not get a positive response on the scrapping of the Bill."

In the meeting, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga said the Centre was informed that all northeastern States were opposing the Bill and the law should not be diluted. "It (amendments) should not be there. Let it be as it is. Let it not be amended as it is proposed. That's what we want," he said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, pro-

## Mizoram CM against dilution of existing Citizenship Act

New Delhi: Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Friday said there should not be any dilution of the 64-year old Citizenship Act. "It (amendments) should not be there. Let it be as it is. Let it not be amended as it is proposed. That's what we want," Zoramthanga told reporters here.

Aspirants for Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Large scale protests were witnessed in the northeastern States including Assam and Mizoram over the BJP-led NDA Government's attempt to pass the Bill in the Upper House of Parliament

## IN SHORT

### RS SECY PITCHES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Secretariat Secretary Dr PPK Ramacharyulu on Friday said that the constitutional provisions for gender equality have been supplemented from time to time by significant women-centric legislations like the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act. The implementation of this Act has, however, not been able to address the concerns regarding women security and safety at the workplace, he said at the concluding address of the two day sensitisation workshop on various aspects of the issue of sexual harassment at workplace and the provisions of the Act in this regard.

### WOMEN TO BE RECRUITED IN MILITARY POLICE: MIN

New Delhi: Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the Government has taken a "historic" decision to induct women in the military police with an aim to enhance their representation in the armed forces. Women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20 per cent of total Corps of Military Police, the official handle of the Defence Minister tweeted. Their role would range from probing rape and molestation cases to assisting the Army wherever required.

### 'CELEBRATE BOSE'S B'DAY AS DESHPREM DIVAS'

New Delhi: The Forward Bloc has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate the birthday of its founder Subhas Chandra Bose as "Deshprem Divas", more than eight years after the demand was rejected by the then Congress-led government. Bose had quit the Congress and floated the All India Forward Bloc in 1939. Calling Modi an "ardent admirer of Netaji", the Left party, in a letter to the prime minister, requested that the day be renamed as soon as possible as January 23, 2019 would be the 123rd birth anniversary of Bose.

### 'BIG DECISION FOR FARMERS SOON'

New Delhi: BJP farmers' wing president Virendra Singh Mast on Friday said the Centre will soon announce a "very big decision" aimed at boosting the income of farmers. He said the government had taken a number of "historic" decisions for rural development and the agriculture sector.

### IRANI SLAMS CONG OVER ANTI-INDIA SLOGANS

New Delhi: The BJP is committed to make India a strong and resurgent nation while the Congress is standing with those who raise anti-India slogans, Union Minister Smriti Irani said on Friday. She further attacked the Congress, saying one of its senior leaders had advocated repealing the law that defined sedition.

## India lodges strong protest with Pak over Gilgit-Baltistan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: India on Friday summoned the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan and lodged a strong protest on a recent order by Pakistan Supreme Court extending its jurisdiction over Gilgit-Baltistan. The Pakistani official was conveyed that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, which also includes the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan', "has been, is and shall remain an integral part of India", the Ministry of External Affairs said. In an order, the Pakistan Supreme Court has said that its jurisdiction and power extend to Gilgit-Baltistan.

"The Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan was summoned today and a strong protest was lodged on recent order by Supreme Court of Pakistan on the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' which is an interference in India's internal affairs," the MEA said.

It also said Pakistan was asked to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation. "Pakistan Government or judiciary have no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it. Any action to alter the status of these occupied territories by Pakistan has no legal basis whatsoever," the MEA said in a statement.

It said India rejected such continued attempts by Pakistan to bring material change in these "occupied territories and to camouflage grave human rights violations, exploitation and sufferings of the people living there".

## Survey to identify those who left out by Govt schemes, says Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to identify eligible people who are left out under the Prime Minister's flagship schemes, a survey, 'safety net survey', is being conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA). All necessary formalities are expected to be completed by January 31, 2019. The survey is being done among the self help group (SHG) members, whose number stands at 34 lakh across the country.

Besides, the Ministry will extend outreach of its flagship project Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana among the poorest of poor in the country through a series of events in the coming month.

Announcing this, the Union HUA Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said the survey is being conducted to identify eligible self help group members not covered by Government programs including Swachh Bharat Mission (urban), Prime Minister Awas Yojana (Urban), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and National Nutrition Mission.

According to HUA officials, there are reports that numbers of eligible people have not been able to get benefit from the flagship schemes. "We will try to include those eligible who have not been covered," officials added.

Puri also announced that the 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav',

## Kartarpur corridor: Access mode for Indian devotees yet to be decided

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said the mode of access for Indian devotees headed for Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan, is yet to be decided by the two countries. "Whether access will be given to them by using passport as a travel document or VISA will be applied, are issues that are to be discussed bilaterally between the two countries. It is yet to be finalised," Puri told reporters. He said that a decision has been taken that access from the Indian side — the main road which goes up to Kartarpur Sahib will be completed in a time-bound manner.

focusing on urban livelihoods, will be held from February 1 to 15, showcasing initiatives of the Deen Dayal Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-National Urban Livelihood Mission).

The Mission has made "significant progress" in the last five years, organising 34 lakh urban poor women into self-help groups, besides providing subsidised loans to over 8.5 lakh individuals and groups.

"Over 8.9 lakh candidates have been skill trained and certified. Over 4.6 lakh have been placed," Puri said.

Among other achievements under the mission, 16 lakh street vendors have been identified through a survey and half of them have been given identity cards. More than 1,000 permanent shelters have been set up, creating space for

more than 60,000 urban homeless, he said.

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said various activities will be organised in the city, state and at the national level as part of the 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav'. A national exhibition will be held in New Delhi from February 8 to 17 along with a national street food festival which will start on February 14, he said.

A national conference on street vending will also be held to discuss issues and seek a way forward to support livelihoods of hawkers. National-level workshop on sanitation and a conference on street vending will also be part of the planned programmes. Further, rally by self help groups, job melas, loan camps, identity cards for street vendors and other activities will be organised.

## 51 women in 10-50 age group entered Sabarimala shrine till now: Kerala to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fifty-one female devotees in the age group of 10-50 years have entered the Sabarimala temple through an online process since the Supreme Court removed the bar on their entry in September last year, the Kerala Government on Friday told the apex court.

The submission was made during the hearing of a plea filed by Bindu and Kanakadurga, the two women who had entered the temple on January 2, seeking security.

The apex court ordered the state to provide two of them round-the-clock foolproof security.

A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices L N Rao and Dinesh Maheshwari said it was only going into the

aspect of security of the two women, and would not like to entertain any other prayer made in the petition.

"We deem it appropriate to close this writ petition at this stage by directing the State of Kerala to provide adequate/full security to the petitioner Nos. 1 (Bindu) and 2 (Kanakadurga) herein which would be provided to the petitioners round the clock," the Bench said.

It was hearing the petition of 42-year-old Bindu, a college lecturer and CPI(M) activist from Kozhikode district's Koyilandy, and Kanakadurga, 44, a civil supplies department employee from Angadipuram in Malappuram, who had entered the Sabarimala shrine on January 2.

The state has witnessed violent protests over the issue.

At the outset, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for the Kerala Government, told the bench that till now 51 female devotees have entered Sabarimala temple and all of them are being provided adequate security.

"In this regard it is submitted that a total of 7,564 women between the age group of 10-50 years had registered for darshan and as per the digitally scanned records around 51 women in this group have already visited the shrine and had darshan without any issue," the note of Kerala government given to the court stated.

He said that the two petitioners were given adequate and effective protection from the temple to a safe place and they continue to remain under protection.

## SC considers four advocates for elevation to Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium has considered four advocates for elevation to the Delhi High Court and has deferred decision on two of the recommended names while the other two have been sent back, according to a resolution posted on the apex court website on Friday.

The four — Krishnendu Datta, Saurabh Kirpal, Priya Kumar and Sanjiv Ghose — were among nine advocates whose names were recommended for elevation by the collegium of the Delhi High Court on October 13, 2017. PTI

## Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Sanjiv Khanna sworn in as apex court judges

New Delhi: Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna were on Friday sworn in as Supreme Court judges amid a raging controversy over the functioning of the Collegium which recommended their elevation by ignoring some senior judges of various high courts.

Both the judges were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi during a ceremony held in court number 1 of the apex court. PTI

## ISRO to give students practical experience of satellite building

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation will select over 100 students from across India and give them a practical experience of how satellites are built under the new Young Scientist Programme, its chairman K Sivan announced on Friday.

The initiative, chalked to attract young minds and arouse interest in this niche arena, is conceptualised on the lines of a similar programme run by American space agency NASA.

Sivan said mostly Class 8 students — three each from 29 states and seven Union territories — will be given lectures by ISRO scientists and they will also get access to the space agency's laboratories.

The programme will be funded entirely by ISRO, he said.

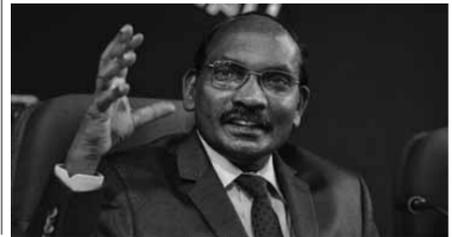
"We want them to get a practical experience of building a small satellite. If the satellites are good, we want them to fly,"

Sivan said. Vivek Singh, director of media and public relations, said the students will be encouraged to develop "scientific payloads" that can be launched by ISRO.

Sivan said six incubation centres will be established in various parts of the country — North, South, East, West, Centre and North-East, and the first such centre has been established in Agartala in Tripura. The students will be able to use these centres for R&D purposes. ISRO, he said, will ask the students to address problems and buy solutions from them.

The PS4, the last stage of PSLV, can be used for various experimental purposes, Sivan said, urging students to send their satellites which can be launched by ISRO.

PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages. Singh said since PS4 can be used by launching satellites by students with no extra cost to ISRO.



## Anti-vaccine movement threat to global health in '19: WHO

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

It is not only India but even several countries across the globe are witnessing the anti-vaccine movement particularly myths circulated on social media, prompting the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare the disturbing trend as one of the ten biggest health threats that the humanity faces in 2019.

Other key threats for 2019 in the list, that the WHO compiles every year and was released recently, include climate change, air pollution, a global influenza pandemic, dengue, poor primary health-care facilities, HIV and ebola.

Reluctance or refusal to immunise "threatens to reverse progress" made in tackling preventable diseases, the UN

health body has noted. "Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding disease — it currently prevents 2-3 million deaths a year, and a further 1.5 million could be avoided if global coverage of vaccinations improved. An estimated 1,10,000 people, mainly children, died from the vaccine-preventable disease across the world in 2017," said the WHO.

Though, India, is a biggest exporter of vaccine, it has failed to reach out to every needy kid because of several reasons including vaccine hesitancy.

The WHO warning comes after a 30 per cent spike in measles cases worldwide, including in several countries where the virus had been virtually eliminated. In India too,

## 10 biggest threats to global health in 2019

→ Vaccine hesitancy, Ebola virus, fragile and vulnerable settings, HIV, Dengue fever, noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and heart conditions, HIV, weak primary health care and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

measles cases are on increase. "The reasons for this rise are complex, and not all of these cases are due to vaccine hesitancy," the WHO said. "However, some countries that were close to eliminating the disease have seen a resurgence," the WHO said terming it as of serious concern.

With nine out of ten people breathing polluted air every day, air pollution has been touted as the greatest environmental threat in 2019. Microscopic pollutants in the air can penetrate respiratory and circulatory systems, dam-

aging the lungs, heart and brain, killing 7 million people prematurely every year from diseases such as cancer, stroke, heart and lung disease. "Around 90 per cent of these deaths are in low- and middle-income countries, with high volumes of emissions from industry, transport and agriculture, as well as dirty cookstoves and fuels in homes," as per the global health agency.

The primary cause of air pollution (burning fossil fuels) is also a major contributor to climate change, which impacts people's health in different

ways. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause 2,50,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) — the ability of bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi to resist these medicines — threatens to send us back to a time when we were unable to easily treat infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, gonorrhoea, and salmonellosis. India is already battling with AMR cases in TB.

While India has launched Ayushman Bharat scheme aiming to help the poor people to avail medical facilities free of cost at the tertiary hospital, primary health care — which is usually the first point of contact people have with their health

care system, remain wanting. Dengue is yet another threat that the countries including India will have to tackle in 2019. A high number of cases occur in the rainy seasons of countries such as Bangladesh and India.

Also, though much progress has been made against HIV, the epidemic continues to rage with nearly a million people every year dying of HIV/AIDS. Today, around 37 million worldwide live with HIV. Reaching people like sex workers, people in prison, men who have sex with men, or transgender people is hugely challenging. Often these groups are excluded from health services, noted the WHO. In India, new pockets are witnessing emergence of HIV cases.

# 3 grenade attacks on security forces in J&K

JeM claims responsibility

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Militants lobbed three grenades on police and security forces in Srinagar and south Kashmir on Friday a day after three policemen were wounded in a similar attack in Rajbagh area of summer capital Srinagar. Jaish-e-Muhammad outfit claimed responsibility for the grenade blasts.

There was no damage to life or property in the three blasts. Security sources said that unidentified terrorists hurled hand grenade towards security personnel near Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower), one of the main market places in Srinagar. They said the grenade exploded with damage to some vehicles and no one was hurt in the attack. Security forces launched search operation to nab the attackers. Another hand grenade was lobbed towards a camp of Special Operations Group of Police in south Kashmir's Shopian area. The grenade



Police personnel collect samples after a grenade attack by militants who were reportedly targeting a CRPF picket at City Centre Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Friday. PTI

exploded outside the camp and did not cause any damage. Around the evening, another grenade was hurled at a police station in Kakapora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The explosive went off inside the police station compound but there was no damage. A spokesperson of banned JeM outfit claimed responsibility for the attacks and said that several personnel of police and CRPF were injured. The three grenades were hurled a day after three policemen including a junior officer were injured in a blast at Zero Bridge in Rajbagh area of cap-

# 5 killed, 5 missing as avalanche hits Ladakh's Khardung La

J&K Governor condoles deaths

Srinagar: Five persons were killed and five others were missing after their truck came under an avalanche in the Khardung La area of the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

The avalanche hit the truck carrying 10 persons at Khardungla pass in Ladakh region at 7.00 am on Friday, an official of the Border Roads Organisation said.

The BRO pressed into ser-

vice its men and machinery to rescue the passengers of the truck believed to be trapped under debris.

The police, Army and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel have reached the spot for rescue operations, the BRO official said.

"So far, the bodies of five persons have been recovered from the avalanche site, while a search is on for the other missing persons," he said. PTI

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik expressed grief over the loss of lives due to an avalanche in Ladakh region on Friday.

The Governor has prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength to the bereaved families in their hour of grief. PTI



Malik has announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for the next of kin of those killed in the avalanche.

Ten persons on board two trucks are feared dead after the avalanche buried two vehicles under 20 feet of snow at Khardung La pass in Leh district, officials said. PTI

# Ex-BJP MP Uday Singh quits party; may join Grand Alliance

Patna: Former BJP MP Uday Singh, who has represented the Purnea Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar twice, announced his resignation from the party here on Friday alleging that it has surrendered before the discredited JD(U) headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Singh did not reveal his cards saying until resigning from the BJP, he had no right to negotiate with any other party but gave ample hints saying he may join a Grand Alliance constituent.

He stated he saw Congress president Rahul Gandhi's popularity growing even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi of whom he had been an ardent supporter, seemed to have withdrawn himself from reality even if he has good intentions.

He also said that even while in the BJP, he never approved of the slogan of Congress-mukt Bharat. A democracy cannot survive if the opposition is wiped out. It will degenerate into a totalitarian regime.

Singh, whose elder brother N K Singh is the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, had lost his seat in 2014 to JD(U)'s Santosh Kushwaha by a margin of more than one lakh votes notwithstanding the strong Modi wave.

With the BJP and the JD(U) having agreed to fight 17 seats each, leaving six for Ram Vilas Paswans LJP, and Purnea being a sitting seat of Nitish Kumar's party, there is little likelihood for Singh being considered for the seat, which he had won in 2004 and 2009 and his mother Madhuri Singh had represented as a Congress nominee in the 1980s.

Singh, however, maintained that his



decision had nothing to do with the possibility of getting a ticket from his seat as NDA constituents are yet to finalize which constituency will be fought by which party.

Replying to a query, he said so far he had no talks with Rahul Gandhi or (RJD supreme) Lalu Prasad. But he was looking forward to speaking to them after taking his supporters into confidence.

He claimed that there was widespread resentment among the party's cadre over the undemocratic style of current leadership and remarked it is so difficult to meet BJP president Amit Shah. RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha kept requesting for an appointment, which was never given, and he ultimately had to resign from the Union council of ministers and quit the NDA in sheer disappointment.

Committed BJP workers are appalled over the manner the party agreed to share power with Nitish Kumar, forgetting our bitter experiences with him in the past, and also over the fact that his government is rapidly losing goodwill. Now the BJP will end up sharing the blame for his misdeeds. And as if that was not enough he was given such a massive share of seats, he remarked. PTI



Silhouette of a Pelican bird seen flying past fishermen collecting their fishing nets after day end's work at Foreshore Estate beach (Pattinapakam beach) in Chennai on Friday. PTI

# Maha Government mulling Ordinance against dance bars

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Under severe criticism from the Opposition and other quarters over the Supreme Court relaxing some of its stringent legal provisions restricting licencing and functioning of dance bars in the State, the Maharashtra Government on Friday announced that if necessary, it would promulgate an Ordinance to enforce rules and stop reopening of dance bars in the State.

A day after the apex court permitted dance bars to operate from 6 pm to 11.30 pm and allowed the sale of liquor in these joints, Maharashtra



Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said that the State Government was contemplating bringing an ordinance to prevent reopening dancing joints in Mumbai and other parts of the State.

"While we respect the decision of the Supreme Court, we are of the firm view that the dance bars cannot be allowed to function. In the larger interests of the people and to protect the cultural fabric of the state,

the Maharashtra Government is considering bringing an ordinance to stop dance bars from operating in Mumbai and other parts of the State," Mungantiwar said.

"After going through the Supreme Court's order and seeking legal opinion, we intend to bring an ordinance in the next two weeks to make necessary changes and strengthen the existing law to enforce restrictions on the dance bars in Mumbai and other parts of the State," Mungantiwar said.

The Maharashtra Cabinet is likely to discuss the issue at its weekly meeting to be held next week.

# Congress MLAs being 'terrorised' as part of BJP's toppling bid, alleges Kharge

Bengaluru: Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of attempting to "take control" of his party MLAs in Karnataka by using CBI, ED and Income Tax to "terrorise" them in the BJP's alleged bid to topple the State Government.

"They are trying multiple things such as threatening our MLAs by carrying out CBI, Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax raids. Modi is attempting to take control over our MLAs," Kharge alleged while addressing Congress workers at a ceremony where H K Patil took over as

KPCC campaign committee chief.

Kharge, the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, reminded BJP leaders that Congress workers were "strong and stubborn" and they would not yield to any pressure.

He spoke about an incident to underline 'Operation Lotus', an alleged BJP attempt to topple the coalition government, Kharge said he, Modi, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, and senior BJP leader L K Advani had assembled on January 16 evening to decide on the Gandhi Peace Prize. PTI

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
No. SSA/Esst/TT/Print/2018-19/1/2019/5688 Date: 17.01.2019  
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web Offset Machine/ Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of Open Educational Resources (OER).  
To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.  
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled 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

# Woman who got HIV after blood transfusion delivers baby girl

Madurai: A 24-year-old woman, who contracted HIV at a Government hospital allegedly after being transfused contaminated blood, has given birth to a baby girl here.

The woman had a normal delivery on Thursday, Government Rajaji Hospital dean Dr S Shanmugasundaram told PTI, adding that the baby weighed 1.75 kg.

"C-section would have facilitated lesser contact with the mother's blood. But the mother developed labour pain and the delivery hap-

pened quickly," he said. The low birth weight baby is being treated in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and has been administered medicines for prevention of HIV transmission, the dean said.

A healthy baby weighs between 2.5 kg and 3.5 kg at birth. HIV screening would be conducted on the 45th day to ascertain whether the child has been infected by the virus, he added.

Last month, the pregnant woman contracted HIV at a Government hospital in Sattur in

Virudhunagar district allegedly after being transfused contaminated blood supplied by a blood bank.

Following this, the state government ordered examination of stocks in the State's blood banks.

It was later found that a 19-year old blood donor's infected blood was transfused to the woman. On learning that she had contracted the virus, he consumed rat poison and died on December 30.

Services of three lab technicians of the blood bank attached to the Government hospital was terminated. PTI

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSPV PANCHKULA	PROV. FURNITURE & EXECUTION OF INTERIOR WORKS/AUDIO VIDEO IN NEW OFFICE BLDG IN SITE NO 3 MADHYA MARG SEC 18A GHD INCL 1YR MTC & DEFECT LIABILITY	CLOSING 07.02.2019	EMD-7.96 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a> HSVP/DIR-II/2018-19/261	9914683824 srm@hry.nic.in
2	HSPV GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS (AREA VACATED FROM ENCROACHMENT) IN SECTOR-1 AT PATAUDI (EARTH WORK, EMBANKMENT, PREPARATION OF SUB GRADE, COLLECTION	CLOSING 23.01.2019	5.10 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0124-2251530 smd@hry.nic.in
3	HSIDC	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING OF REAL TIME EFFLUENT QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM WITH CCTV CAMERA INCLUDING 5 YEARS WARRANTY & CAMS FOR 5 MLD CETP AT JE RAJ	22.01.2019 05.02.2019	30.65 LACS	<a href="https://hsidc.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in">https://hsidc.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in</a>	9416873860 hsidc@hsidc.com
4	HSIDC	DEVELOPMENT OF MASTER ROADS (60M WIDE) AT IMT KHARQ-HODA, DIST. SONEPAT	18.01.2019 11.02.2019	10250	<a href="https://hsidc.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in">https://hsidc.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in</a>	0130-2320586 smk@hsidc.com
5	HSIDC	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD ALONG NADA CHOE FROM SECTOR ROAD OF 22-23 IN TECHNOLOGY PARK, SECTOR-22 PANCHKULA	22.01.2019 05.02.2019	24.80 LACS	<a href="https://hsidc.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in">https://hsidc.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in</a>	9466120016 hsidc@hsidc.com
6	BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN	TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOILETS AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING TOILETS IN K.S.S.S AT BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN - I OTHER WORK	CLOSING 30.01.2019	19.27 LACS	<a href="http://www.bpswomensuniversity.ac.in">http://www.bpswomensuniversity.ac.in</a>	01262-283002 srg@bmv@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeaprocurment.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 74935

**DELHI JAL BOARD**  
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (NE) II  
R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95  
PRESS NIT NO. 38 (2018-19)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old / damaged / deep 150 mm dia water line at Roshan Vihar road from Karawal Nagar road in Mustafabad AC-69	30,27,414.00	61,000.00	500.00	15.01.2019	04.02.2019 upto 02.30 PM.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 689/2018-19 Sd/- EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II

# DMK moves Madras HC against 10% quota

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The DMK, which demanded earlier this month that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly pass a unanimous resolution against the 10 per cent reservation announced by the Centre for the economically weaker sections in the forward communities, approached the Madras High Court on Friday with a writ petition, challenging the Constitutional validity of the recent amendment incorporated in the Constitution in this regard.

According to R S Bharati, MP, the petitioner, the amendment made in the Constitution setting apart ten per cent quota in Government jobs and seats in educational institutions to the underprivileged sections in forward communities was unconstitutional and violated the basic feature of the Constitution.

A division bench consisting of Justices S Manikumar and Subramaniam Prasad agreed to hear the case as and



when the High Court Registry lists the matter before them for admission.

Bharati stated in his affidavit that reservation in education and public employment were provided under the Constitution for uplifting the oppressed and backward classes and to end caste-based discrimination in existence in the country for about three millenniums.

In such circumstances, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Amendment) Bill of 2019, intended at providing reservations on the basis of economic status, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on January 8 and rushed through its introduction was not part of the agenda of

the Lower House of Parliament on that day, he claimed.

Through the ruling AIADMK too had expressed their Opposition to the Constitution amendment to ensure 10 per cent quota for the poorest of the poor in the forward communities, it has not shown any interest in adopting a resolution in the legislative Assembly. Thambi Durai, deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha and the propaganda secretary of the AIADMK had stated in the House itself that his party would vehemently oppose any move to dilute the reservation system.

The reservation in Tamil Nadu is already at 69 per cent due to the operation of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993 (Tamil Nadu Act 45 of 1993) which has the protection of Article 31-B and has been placed in the IXth Schedule of the Constitution.

# Alliance with BSP, RLD final; seat-sharing no problem: Akhilesh

**Lucknow:** The Samajwadi Party's (SP) alliance with the BSP and the RLD was "final" and there would be no issues as regards seat-sharing in the coming Lok Sabha polls, party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Friday, while ruling out any understanding with the Congress.

"Our alliance with the BSP, the RLD and smaller parties like the Nishad Party is final and seat-sharing will not be a problem. It will be worked out soon. We have emerged as a strong force in the State, which has changed the tone and tenor of the BJP, whose leaders have started using foul language against us," the SP national president told PTI.

"Uttar Pradesh has always acted as a catalyst for change. This time, the people of the State will change the prime minister. Our fight is with the BJP and the people are supporting us," Yadav said in an interview at the SP headquarters here.

He, however, ducked the question as to who would be his choice as the next Prime



Minister.

Maintaining that the SP will only "concentrate" in Uttar Pradesh, Yadav ruled out any understanding with the Congress in the State in the Lok Sabha polls.

"How can we have an understanding with it (Congress)? It is a national party. We have given them two seats (Amethi and Raebareli), which the SP had been leaving for them. Presently, my focus is on Uttar Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the SP will field one or two candidates who are strong and we will explore (the possibility of an) alliance with others," he said. **PTI**

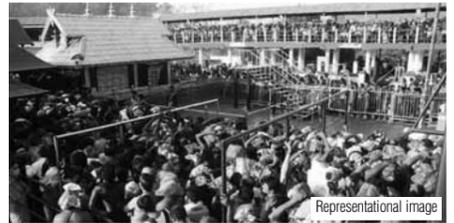
# Sabarimala action committee to hold mega rally in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

**Sabarimala Action Committee,** an umbrella organisation fighting the Supreme Court verdict that quashed the ban on the entry of women in the child bearing age group in the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa is organising a mammoth rally on Sunday at Thiruvananthapuram, the Capital City of Kerala.

The rally and public meeting titled Ayyappa Bhakta Sangamam to be held at Putharikandam Maidan of the heritage city would be addressed by leading Hindu monks, sanyasins and spiritual leaders, according to a release issued by the organising committee on Friday. For the first time in modern times, the State of Kerala will see Swamy Chidanandapuri, the spiritual leader of the Hindus, Mata Amrithanandamayi, popularly known as the hugging saint along with a galaxy of monks and sanyasins sharing the stage to address the gathering.

"Using the Supreme Court verdict as an excuse feminist activists with connections to Maoists are being escorted to



the shrine by the State Government machinery to desecrate the holy abode of Lord Ayyappa. The devotees who have mounted a constant vigil to protect the temple and its sanctity have been subjected to brutal State repression," the SAC alleged in the release.

It said the Sangamam is being organised in response to the attempts to desecrate the shrine and show the determination of the devotees to resist the efforts to browbeat them into submission. "More than 150 leaders of social organisations will be present on the dais along with prominent activists, intellectuals, and artists from the entertainment industry," said M S Giri, the convener of the event.

Devotees from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana are also on their way to Thiruvananthapuram to take part in the Nama Japa Yatra as well as the public meeting, said Durai Shankar, leader of Dhurma Raksha Samiti, Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, a war of words erupted between the Government of Kerala and the SAC on Friday following a report submitted by the former to the Supreme Court that 51 women in the 10-50 age group have visited the shrine this season. The government also submitted a list of the women devotees. But Sreedharan Pillai, president Kerala BJP charged that the list was a fake one made out from the virtual queue system operated by the Kerala Police.

# Citizenship Bill: Rajnath rings up AASU, seeks to resolve issue via talks

**Guwahati:** Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has rung up the All Assam Students Union (AASU) spearheading the agitation over the Citizenship Amendment Bill expressing the Centre's desire to resolve the issue through discussions, a statement by the students' body said here on Friday.

Talking to Singh, AASU and North East Students Organisation (NESO) Chief Advisor Samujjal Bhattacharyya insisted that the bill "which will make the indigenous people extinct and only protect the Bangladeshis has to be scrapped as desired by the people of Assam and the northeast region."

NESO is the umbrella organisation of major students unions of the seven northeastern states. "Only through implementation of the historic Assam Accord 1985, signed at the end of the Assam Movement, the burning issue of citizenship problem has to be solved," the statement quoted Bhattacharyya as telling the Minister.

A six-year long movement

by the AASU demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord by the Rajiv Gandhi government and the AASU on August 15, 1985.

AASU president Dipanka Nath and General Secretary Luringiyoti Gogoi said the organisation will apprise the leadership of its allied 30 ethnic community and the NESO about Rajnath Singh's phone call.

Asserting that the controversial bill has to be scrapped, the two AASU leaders said the organisation is firm about its demand and will continue its agitation for the existence of indigenous people.

Rajnath Singh also discussed the matter with Mizoram and Meghalaya chief ministers in a meeting in New Delhi during the day.

Meanwhile, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) that severed its alliance with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state recently over the bill, took out a torch rally in Guwahati on Friday evening as part of its statewide protest. **PTI**



Twa tribal members exchange goods using a traditional barter system at the Jonbeel Mela festival in Morigaon district of Assam on Friday

# UP 3rd State to approve quota for the poor

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh Government on Friday approved 10 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions for the economically weaker sections in the general category.

The nod was given at a meeting here of the State cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, senior Cabinet Minister and UP Government spokesperson Shrikant Sharma told mediapersons. Uttar Pradesh became the third State after Gujarat and Jharkhand to approve the legislation which has to be ratified by at least half the State Assemblies in the country.

The Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill, 2019, pro-

viding for 10 per cent reservation in Government jobs and educational institutions to the economically weaker sections in the general category was passed by Parliament in its recently concluded winter session.

President Ram Nath Kovind has since given his assent to the bill.

"The Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved the notification granting 10 per cent reservation to the poor in the general category which has come into effect on January 14," Sharma said. **PTI**

# Special fee on IMFL, beer for 'gaushalas'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

**F**acing the heat over stray cattle menace, the Uttar Pradesh Government has imposed a special fee on Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and beer for funding 'gaushalas' (cow shelters) for the stray cattle in the State.

This decision was taken in the State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Friday.

Briefing media persons here, State Government

spokesperson and Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma said the Government would collect an additional revenue of ₹165 crore annually by imposing special fee on excise.

"While an additional fee of ₹0.50 to ₹2 will be imposed per bottle on purchase of beer and IMFL, the special fee will be ₹10 per bottle for liquor consumed in bars. The money generated will be used to fund construction of shelters for stray cows in the State," he said.

# Train runs over 25 cows in UP's Hamirpur district



**Banda (UP):** A train ran over 25 cows near Ragaol railway station in neighbouring Hamirpur district on Friday, officials said.

"The cows were found dead on the track. They were buried in a nearby field," Superintendent of Police (SP), rural, Hamirpur Hemraj Meena said. Police personnel have been deployed in the area after some persons alleged the cows were deliberately kept on the track.

Police are investigating the matter. **PTI**

**SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-II  
LODHI ROAD AUTO WORKSHOP, UNDER SEWA NAGAR FLY OVER, NEW DELHI-110003  
E-mail: ee-em-ii-sdmcc@ncl.gov.in, Telephone Number - 011-24620140  
**PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
No. EE (E&M)-II/SDMC/2018-19/D-645 Dated: 17.01.2019  
Executive Engineer (E&M)-II, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on behalf of Commissioner, SDMC invites online item tender on website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> in two bid system for the work of Operation and minor Maintenance of 18 numbers of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines for a period of one year working in all four zones under SDMC, Estimated Cost Rs. 3,24,01,958/-, Earnest money Rs. 6,48,100/-  
The tender documents may be downloaded from the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER>. However the drafts for the tender cost (Rs. 1500/-) and EMD has to be deposited in the tender box kept in the office of SE (E&M), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Center, New Delhi-110002 up to 28.01.2019 at 14:30. Addendum/ corrigendum etc. (if any) shall be uploaded on the aforesaid website only and the same shall be considered to be part of tender document. No press notification in this regard shall be made. All prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan the said websites for any update with regard to the subject tender.  
Ro No.162/DPI/S/2018-19 EE (E&M)-II, SDMC

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) II  
H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089  
PH: 27851040 (E-MAIL: [eenw2.djb@gmail.com](mailto:eenw2.djb@gmail.com))  
**SHORT PRESS NIT No. 46 (2018-19) Press Notice Tender**  
S. No. Name of Work Amount Put to tender Earnest Money/ Tender Fee Date of release of tender procurement solution/D. No. Last date/Time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution  
1. Improvement of sewerage system by repairing, reconstructing the damaged manholes in narrow lanes of C Block, Sector-5, Rohini in AC-06 Rithala under EE(NW)-II Rs. 30,73,582/- Rs. 61,500/- 17.01.2019 30.01.2019 2019\_DJB\_166082\_1 Upto 3:00 PM  
2. Improvement of water supply by replacing old under sized water lines in D-8 Pocket of Sector-6, Rohini in AC-06 Rithala under EE(NW)-II Rs. 29,95,498/- Rs. 60,000/- 17.01.2019 30.01.2019 2019\_DJB\_166088\_1 Upto 3:00 PM  
Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 692/2018-19 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW)-II

**BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi**  
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Date: 19.01.2019  
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs:  
NIT No. Brief Work Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening  
CMCBV/18-19/ RB/S/088 Providing of Commercial Vehicles on hire for various offices in B.Y.P.L. 4 Crore 8 Lakh 08.02.2019, 14:30 HRS 08.02.2019, 15:00 HRS  
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com) →Tenders →BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD →Open Tenders Head (Contracts & Materials)  
Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525  
TEL: 011-39971111 | Fax: 011-39992076 | Website: [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT**  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-II  
L.M. BUD OFFICE COMPLEX, GHASSTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110031

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. II I&FC, Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online tender for the following works:  
1. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/50/2018-19  
HOA: MLALAD FUND  
Name of work:- Improvement of Quazristan at Seemapuri, Shahdara AC-62, Estimated Cost: Rs. 21,34,531/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 42,691/-, Period of completion: 90 Days. Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m on 24.01.2019  
(Tender I.D 2019\_IJC\_165726\_1).  
2. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/51/2018-19  
HOA: MLALAD FUND  
Name of work:- Providing and fixing RCC Bench with hand rest at various locations in AC-56 Kondli. Estimated Cost: Rs. 20,34,800/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 40,696/-, Period of completion: 120 Days. Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m on 24.01.2019  
(Tender I.D 2019\_IJC\_165727\_1).  
Other details can be seen at website <https://delhigovt.nic.in/tender>  
Executive Engineer, CD-II  
DIP/Shabdarth/2777/18/19

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Vishnu Kumar** S/o Sh. Krishan Lal, R/o H. No. 6772/I, 1st Floor, Gali No. 3, Block No. 10, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **F.I.R. No. 199/13 u/s 420/467/468/474/120-B/506(2)/34 IPC** registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Vishnu Kumar** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Vishnu Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vishnu Kumar** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.03.2019**  
By Order  
Ms. Shilpi Jain  
DP/5997/CD/19 Metropolitan Magistrate, Central District, (Court Notice) Room No. 180, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम**  
मुख्यालय परिवहन मार्ग, चौम, हाउस, जयपुर।  
**ई-टेंडरिंग सूचना संख्या 04/2018-19**  
निगम को लगभग 4000 क्यू लाईन साधारण एवं वृद्धगामी सहनों जिनमें निगम द्वारा अनुबंधित वाहनों में शामिल है, के चालक/परिचालक साइड पैलर पर विद्यमान हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट [www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in) & <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखें।  
UBN - RTC1819SLOB00189  
विज्ञापन संख्या 175/2018-19  
सत्र. संवा. सं/सी/18/5275 कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रशासन)

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)  
Website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.  
A (1) 28/SPE/PE(PH-I)/E-T/2018-19 Supply of Labour and Machinery for cleaning and Desilting of drain from Sandeep Paper Mill to Horola Sec-4, 19, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38, 40, 41 to Sec-51 Irrigation Drain, Noida. Cost : Rs. 3621568.00. (2) 31/SPE/PE(PH-I)/E-T/2018-19 Supply of Labour and Machinery for cleaning and Desilting of drain from Sec-11 to 34 Main Irrigation drain, Noida. Cost: Rs. 4218907.00 (3) 32/SPE/PE(PH-I)/E-T/2018-19 Supply of Labour and Machinery for cleaning and Desilting of drain from Sec-14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 27 to Drain No.-2, Noida. Cost: Rs. 2737568.00. The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 05.02.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 06.02.2019 at 11.00 AM.  
(S.K. Gupta)  
Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health), Noida  
Office Sector-39, Noida  
**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
No. SSA/Esst/TT/ELP/544/2018-19/5687 Date : 17.01.2019  
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, 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 REP Materials.  
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. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, 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

**GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD. SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR**  
**BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR REQUIREMENT OF D.I. PIPE FOR THE YEAR 2018-19**  
GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery D.I. pipes (80 to 1200mm Dia/ K-7 & K-9 class) with ISI Mark 128067 Mtr./ 10158.48 MT Estimated amt. Rs. 5157.21 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 at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>.  
The last date of submission of online tender is 12-2-2019. NO/INF/VPN/2018/G/2658

(R-II) Division, Civil Engineering Deptt.  
**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
Zonal Centre, Tiak Lane, New Delhi  
**e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
Tender ID - 2019\_NDMC\_166079\_1  
Subject : Repair and Maintenance of Infrastructure Assets in R-II Division During 2018-19  
1. SH :- Providing and fixing Porta Cabin at Tees January Lane in area of Sub-Division-I (R-II)  
Estimated Cost : ₹ 7,09,602/-  
Tender ID - 2019\_NDMC\_166089\_1  
2. SH :- Repair work near D-147, D-169 and CC work at Berms in Ravinder Nagar Colony  
Estimated Cost : ₹ 7,31,409/-  
Date of release of tender : 17.01.2019  
Last date/time for receipt of tenders : 28.01.2019 at 16.00 hours.  
Further details can be seen at [www.ndmc.gov.in](http://www.ndmc.gov.in) or <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with application services provider (ASP) of DGS & D is mandatory.  
Executive Engineer (R-II)  
To be the global Benchmark for a Capital City

## Thali to the rescue

The Lancet study has set markers for a planet-friendly diet but it already has a template in ayurveda



For all our environmental sensitivities and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, rarely do we look beyond the atmospherics — pollution, air quality, industrial and development monstrosities — and at ourselves, more importantly what we eat sitting atop the food chain. The latest Lancet study warns us that if we do not change our patterns of consumption and work towards a “planet friendly” diet, then we could not leave enough to support the 10 billion population that we are expected to become by 2050 as the earth can produce only so much and no further. All we need to do is shift from meat to vegetables, cut down on sugar and processed foods and eat what we can grow if we are to bequeath reserves and prevent 11 million premature deaths, the result of our current dietary habits. This would simultaneously reduce the damaging effects of climate change, soil erosion, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. In everyday life, a conscientious diet — as advocated by the report that relied on experts from around the world, including India — means halving red meat and sugar, doubling nuts, fruits, vegetables, legumes, lentils and chickpeas and apportioning 35 per cent of our calorie requirements from whole grains, tubers and plant proteins. If you are a diehard carnivore, then nutritionists estimate that you could just about provision for seven grams of red meat, 29 grams of poultry and 28 grams of fish per day. In short a nugget here and there. And if we are wondering what all this means in real terms, then one needs to internalise that food production is responsible for up to a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. A recent blog post from the World Resources Institute, a global sustainability think-tank, warns that agriculture alone could raise the Earth’s average temperature by more than 1.5 C above than in pre-industrial times if we don’t change our eating habits. This can be well understood from the fact that a simple non-vegetarian sandwich, from acquiring the land for a farm, feeding the animals whose meat you might prefer, to harvesting the wheat to processing, packaging and refrigerating the finished product and transporting it, piles up carbon debts. A recent study on the warming potential of animal-heavy diets by the University of Waterloo in Canada has even quantified how omnivores generate emissions equivalent to driving nearly 15,000 km! The World Resources Institute corroborated this with its finding that producing meat uses 20 times the land and generates 20 times the emissions as producing beans per gram of protein.

While all of these may be well-nigh alarming, for us Indians it is not too difficult a target to meet considering that our traditional diet patterns were based on the sustainable logic of ayurveda. In fact, the south Indian breakfast platter has often been rated internationally as the most wholesome start-the-day spread there is. And it certainly stays away from animal protein. Ayurveda practitioners have for long understood that the stomach of human beings, by virtue of being foragers and food gatherers at one time, is more conditioned to plant food and the latest obsession with animal protein actually does more harm than good, overloading our system. We are lucky to have an existing roadmap for a sustainable food future. Already our chefs have gotten together to revive our legume and grain heritage, something with proven nutritional benefits, and create a smart food network of the hospitality industry, advocacy groups, food producers and marketers to promote sustainable and farmer-friendly food. Gastronomic tourism is being promoted by even the Government to revive our native foods and crops, something which could help our farmers, who have lost out on their livelihood by growing market-friendly rather than geologically-appropriate vegetables and cereals. A traditional Indian diet, with its dependence on plant products and a moderation of animal protein, could well turn out to be the answer the world is looking for.

## A morality play

Even if the Supreme Court has allowed dance bars to re-open, there is no looking in the rear-view mirror



A few decades ago, dance bars and cabarets were common across many metropolitan areas of India but they came to define Mumbai nightlife and were made even more glamorous by Bollywood. They then mutated to becoming a conduit into the underworld; dance bars functioned not just as places where one could have a good time but also as barely disguised brothels where illicit alcohol and drugs flowed. And with the police turning a blind eye to what was going on, thanks to payments in cash or kind, Mumbai nightlife remained the most vibrant across India. Many of the dancers believed that dancing at one of these bars would be their route to fame and fortune, if not as a Bollywood starlet then as a gangster’s moll.

With the emergence of politicians going after the temperance vote of women, these dance bars became an easy target back in 2005. Even after the Supreme Court itself ruled in 2013 that dance bars could be allowed, the state fought back both with new legislation and morality-crushing policemen. In fact, the Supreme Court came down heavily on moral policing, saying in its judgement that “a practice which may not be immoral by societal standards cannot be thrust upon the society as immoral by the State with its own notion of morality and thereby exercise social control.” For this, the bench headed by Justice AK Sikri must be commended. But the judgement also led to a leeway for the State to decide what is obscene, and that opens another grey area which politicians are sure to take advantage of. It is not as if dance bars completely died out after the ban. In Mumbai, there are some ‘Orchestra Bars’ that, for lack of a nicer term, function as places where prostitution is rampant. Also while the Supreme Court has said that the Maharashtra Government should issue licences, the State can easily drag its feet on this front. A new sort of morality has emerged across India that perversely sees these dance bars as dens of vice while refusing to admit that prostitution and drug usage are shooting through the roof in the country. Dance bars have moved on, any visitor to Dubai can find several Bombay-style dance bars functioning with impunity in that country, although they are more controlled. Mumbai has not quite been the same as Bombay was in the 1970s; it is a different city in all aspects now. But Mumbaiers should have an equal right to have some fun.

# Endgame in Afghanistan

India must force its way into the peace process. It must show its willingness to support the Kabul regime with military hardware, other than financial and technological aid



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

One has heard the question before: “What is going to happen in Afghanistan?” There are two reasons for revisiting it. The first is the delegation-level talks between Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special representative for Afghanistan, with Pakistani authorities in Islamabad on Thursday. Both sides agreed there that direct talks between the Afghan government and Afghan Taliban were essential to ending the 17-year-old war in the country. The second is the statement by the spokesman of Pakistan’s foreign office, Mohammad Faisal, on the same day that India had no role in Afghanistan and that Islamabad had played a key role in arranging talks between the Taliban and the US.

It is clear that Washington and Islamabad are now working closely together on Afghanistan. Also, Pakistan sticks to its old position that it does not want India to have anything to do with Afghanistan. The shift in the US posture from the minority — withholding aid to compel Pakistan to act against the Afghan Taliban — to the cooperative, clearly stems from the Trump administration’s keenness, bordering on desperation, to end the war in Afghanistan and bring its troops home. That this is so is corroborated by the Trump administration’s decision, announced on December 20, to withdraw 7,000 troops from Afghanistan by this summer.

The shift in the US position was discernible as early as July last year, when the Trump administration began seeking direct talks with the Taliban, a significant shift in American policy given Taliban’s long-held position that they would first discuss peace only with the Americans, while the US had been insisting on the Afghan government’s participation. Since then, Khalilzad has met Taliban representatives in Doha, Qatar and has been conducting what can be called talks that could lead to formal talks to end the conflict.

The question is: Where do things go from here? So far, the Taliban can be seen to have been insisting on two fundamental demands. It would not entertain any delegation from the present Afghan government. The country’s constitution will have to be changed. It is difficult to see them relenting on either; the US government’s keenness to end the conflict is liable to convince them that they have only to sit tight and a desperate Washington would leave under circumstances in which they can march to Kabul and grab power. This would be in keeping with the strategy of attrition they have followed so far vis-à-vis the Americans and their Western allies. Their logical strategy will be to go on talking about holding formal talks while further building up their strength on the ground while carrying out high profile terrorist strikes and attacks on cities to demoralise the Afghan government and security forces.



It is not just a question of strategy. There are fundamental differences on the issue of the Constitution. The Taliban do not recognise the present Afghan constitution approved in 2004 by a *Loya Jirga* (a grand tribal council with legislative functions). On their part, they issued in 2005 their Order of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the nearest document to a constitution they have produced. There is inadequate space here for a discussion of the fundamental differences between the two in detail. Suffice it so say that they relate to the political systems they stand for.

The Afghan constitution has established a democratic system of government in which a popularly elected president is the head of state and government. The Taliban order, by contrast, proclaims Afghanistan as an Islamic Emirate under the leadership of Mullah Mohammad. The legislative and judicial branches of the two systems differ significantly. The Afghan constitution has established a bicameral National Assembly in which the lower house is directly elected and the upper house consists of a mix of indirectly elected and presidentially appointed senators. The Taliban order, by contrast, establishes a single chamber Islamic Council as the highest legislative organ, whose members are appointed by the Amir ul-Momineen (Commander

“INDIA HAS ALREADY INVESTED NEARLY \$3 BILLION IN BUILDING AFGHANISTAN’S INSTITUTIONAL, WELFARE AND EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD INDIGENOUS AFGHAN CAPACITY IN DIFFERENT AREAS”

of the Faithful) based on their familiarity with the principles of jihad and sharia. The order does not mention how the Amir ul-Momineen is to be selected nor how long an individual may serve in this role. It does, however, specify that he must be a male Muslim follower of the Hanafi school of Islamic jurisprudence.

It is difficult to imagine how the basic contradictions between the Afghan constitution and the Order of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan can be resolved. One can, therefore, visualise the talk for formal talks, and even perhaps the latter, continuing until the Taliban have entrenched themselves in the Afghan countryside to the extent that they can launch a massive offensive which sends the Afghan government forces reeling and the Americans see no alternative to peace on the Taliban’s terms. And, of course, a major beneficiary of all this will be Islamabad which will continue to milk Washington as “the honest broker.”

Of course, there will be many twists and turns on the way. One would need to see what the Russians, who have been holding a parallel peace process in Moscow with the participation of the Taliban, do. Whatever happens, India has to get actively involved. Its historic ties with Afghanistan have been deepened and reinforced by the ones developed in recent years. It has already

invested nearly \$3 billion in building up Afghanistan’s institutional, welfare and educational infrastructure and provided educational and technical assistance to re-build indigenous Afghan capacity in different areas. It has been encouraging investment in Afghanistan’s natural resources and providing duty-free access to the Indian market for Afghanistan’s exports. It has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Afghanistan in 2011 and has been supporting an Afghan-led, broad-based and inclusive process of peace and reconciliation, and advocating the need for a sustained and long-term commitment to Afghanistan by the international community.

Given Pakistan’s attitude and the unpredictability of Trump’s policies and actions, India has to make all concerned — including Russia and China — that it needs to be a party to any peace process. For this, it must show its willingness to support the Kabul regime not only with investments and financial and technological aid but military hardware. It has so far provided it with attack helicopters — more are on the way — and training its military personnel. It must now consider giving it heavy artillery, tanks and combat aircraft phased here but good enough for fighting the Taliban.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

Some leaders are even accidental and are foisted into the position by others. The accidental leaders do wake up to the responsibilities after given the position.



Goa Governor —Mridula Sinha

Nobody accepted the results of the general elections. The Imran Khan-led Government will not be able to complete the stipulated tenure.



Former Pak President —Asif Ali Zardari

Today in films, there is no lack of opportunity. I have been able to bridge the gap, in terms of what my male contemporaries get paid versus what I am getting paid.



Actress —Deepika Padukone

The next election is not just an election, it is a battle for India’s soul and its future and there the Opposition parties all stand together.



Congress MP —Shashi Tharoor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Triumph of truth

Sir — The judgement of the special CBI court sentencing the self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim to lifetime imprisonment is commendable. By taking this decision, the judiciary has restored the faith of the common people in democratic institutions.

We also need to acknowledge the indomitable spirit of rape victims and their family members who meticulously fought to expose the unscrupulous godman. There arises a fundamental question, who makes such imposters God? The answer is a mass of blind followers backed by media and political parties. And large numbers of these followers are uneducated and unemployed. Secularism truly means keeping religion out of politics. Likewise, democracy truly means keeping politics out of religion. Distort either one and you muck up the other. The judiciary cannot solve every problem. It is high time, as part of preventive measures, that we reject such pseudo-spiritual leaders and use our conscience before following any such spiritual scammers.

Sameer Bhoi  
Bargarh

### Dance bars finally freed from moral fetters

The quashing of the curbs on dance bars by the Supreme Court deserves an unreserved welcome. It has given bar dancers a new lease of life and made moral prudes and puritans squirm. We laud the apex court’s ruling for putting the right to livelihood above our misplaced morality. We also laud it for recognising bar dancers as individuals in their own right and restoring their freedom of choice and dignity of their labour. There is nothing obscene or immoral about bar dance. If it offends the ‘moral sensibilities’ of the ‘decent and respectable’ people, they can avoid visiting such places. A country which boasts the *Kamasutra* and the erotic sculptures of the Khajuraho as part of its architectural tradition cannot disapprove of bar dance and carnal beauty. Social conservatives can be a little less hypocritical.

It is a fallacy to say that human trafficking is rampant in dance bars. The court’s prescription of a contract between the bar dancers and bar owners as part

### Kashmir problem

Sir — It has been reported that Srinagar would get its first multiplex soon. Jammu & Kashmir has seen a lot of violence and disorder since the onset of militancy in the State and the news that its Capital would get its first multiplex soon is likely to be welcomed by many who would want

to have some respite from the horrors of militancy that have shaken the State so far.

However, multiplex alone cannot resolve the larger problem and that is how peace can return to the Valley. The State of Jammu & Kashmir needs more progress and development. It needs to involve young people in developmental activities to wean them away from the desire to choose

the path of self-destruction.

Devendra Khurana  
Bhopal

### Challenging approach

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Quota push and a drag” (January 17). Ten per cent quota for the economically-weaker sections (EWS) will fuel discrimina-

tion within society. Although the system of quota to EWS was not practically possible till this time, its acceptability and application will surely take time. However, the government can make the EWS quota simpler by setting up a proper committee that can look into all the matters for rapid redressal. It is quite challenging but not impossible.

Kirti Wadhawan  
Kanpur

### Fresh lease of life

Sir — I welcome the Supreme Court’s decision on dance bars. Every major city in the world has a night life — it is a mode of entertainment. There is a need to govern but not to control. The court has drawn a right balance between the rights of citizens and duty of the state to govern. But the authorities must ensure that the thin line between morality and immorality is maintained. Otherwise it will only lead to chaos.

Jubel D’Cruz  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New paradigm for prosperity

India needs to create 12-15 million jobs each year if it wants demographic dividends, say Arindam Bhattacharya & Aparna Bijapurkar

India is preparing its 15-year vision document and seven-year strategy and action plan. The destination is clear; India needs eight per cent growth over the next 20 to 30 years to grow the Indian economy from a lower-middle income to an upper-middle income country. Implicit in this aspiration is also the need to create 12-15 million jobs each year if India has to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, which should perhaps be the biggest policy imperative given the situation of growth with low job creation facing the country. In recent years, however, very few countries have achieved such a sustained period of high growth and job creation, other than China. India faces two challenges. The first is to adopt a set of strategies that will enable us to sustain a growth rate of eight per cent or higher in the "new" global economic environment, which is characterised by low to medium global growth and the absence of the "trade multiplier." The second, and perhaps more serious, challenge is to ensure that the high growth rate is accompanied by high job creation. Between 2004 and 2012, the average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 8.1 per cent but job growth averaged only 2 per cent. While the traditional models of globalisation — and consequently the economic model of manufacturing and export-led growth — are being disrupted, a set of new opportunities is emerging from the growth of digital technologies.

The first opportunity arises from the trend of growing "servitisation" of business. We are increasingly witnessing changing business models with growth of services consumption and trade, driven by a consumer need towards "solutions" rather than simple product-related transactions. These value-added services command higher margins for business. This growth can be seen, for example, in the rise of forward services in manufacturing, like asset performance improvement and predictive maintenance services, that leverage largescale data generated by connected devices. It can also be seen in the rise of asset-sharing models like Uber, which are beginning to disrupt traditional industries, such as automobiles, which are growing by service provision rather than product sales. In India, the services sector has shown immense promise with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.6 per cent (2010-2014), outperforming China (8.4 per cent) and the US (1.8 per cent). The second, related, opportunity is the growth in platform players, which is driving the viability of new start-ups, individual entrepreneurs, micro entrepreneurs employing a few workers and self-contracted workers. Hence, they support an entire ecosystem of self-employment; of "job creators" rather than only "job seekers." By aggregating micro-entrepreneurs, platforms provide these services at relatively low transaction fees, lower costs for customers and grow the market.

The global and local challenges to growth and jobs on one hand, and the new opportunities presented by servitisation and the growth in platform players enabled by newer digital technologies on the other, strongly point to the need for a new economic development paradigm for India around three pillars: i) Domestic demand will have to be the primary driver of growth (although exports, especially in services, will continue to contribute to GDP growth). ii) Services will provide a strong opportunity for both domestic and export growth; even more so for job creation as manufacturing will become increasingly capital or automation-intensive. iii) Micro entrepreneurs will play a bigger role in driving growth and job creation, alongside larger enterprises.

The Government has already launched major policy initiatives, such as Ease of Doing Business, Digital India and Startup India, to lay a strong foundation for this new economic development paradigm. What is needed is a concerted, focussed implementation of these policies as well as a special focus on "activating" four key leverage points. First, digital infrastructure will be as critical as physical infrastructure. This should cover all layers of the "technology stack" — high quality and ubiquitous broadband and low cost smart phones, the India stack, societal platforms and standards and norms for inter-operability of digital systems that enterprises can leverage. Second, the risk and growth capital for micro entrepreneurs has to be scaled up rapidly, along with the rules and mechanisms for easy access to them. Third, the learning and skilling ecosystem has to move towards a "lifelong learning system" as new kinds of jobs emerge with very different skill profiles. Finally, labour norms need to be revisited.

While heavy manufacturing sectors are likely to start shedding jobs as they become automated, in the short-term the light manufacturing sector in India has the potential to grow and create more jobs by taking advantage of the industry shifts away from China, where labour costs are rising rapidly. We have to leverage the complementarity between labour and technology. "Evolved" services like construction and financial services are currently contributing over five per cent of GDP and a large number of jobs. "Under-penetrated" services, such as education, tourism, transport and storage and healthcare will see rapid growth and job creation, fuelled by the growth in technology. Finally, a new set of "emerging" services sectors, such as natural infrastructure management and digital services, will need to be developed in order to bridge the jobs gap.

(Courtesy: India: Growth and Jobs in the New Globalisation, BCG and CII)

2018 HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR THE SECURITY FORCES AS THE ARMY HAS KILLED MANY MILITANTS WHILE OTHERS SURRENDERED UNDER PRESSURE.

—NORTHERN COMMAND CHIEF  
 LT GEN RANBIR SINGH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



IT IS STRANGE THAT A WELL-TRAINED ARMED FORCE IS CELEBRATING AND PATTING ITS BACK ON KILLING YOUNG MEN AND BOYS.  
 —HURRIYAT CONFERENCE (M) CHAIRPERSON  
 MIRWAIZ UMAR FAROOQ

Roots of a divided past

Assam has lived under a threat of marginalisation of its culture and ethos. Adding to the tale of continual tension, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act lit a fire that is yet to die down



PRAFULL GORADIA

For a good century and a quarter, Assam has lived under a dual threat of its culture and ethos being marginalised. On occasions, the threat came from immigrants whose language would overshadow the indigenous tongue, pushing it into the background. And there were times when there were deliberate designs to reduce the sons of the soil to a religious minority. It has been a tale of continual tension caused by neighbours to the south and frequent anxiety emanating from friends in the west. The Assamese could not always be sanguine that their own sons were playing the sly role, enabling the neighbours who were short of fertile lands to till and live off them. A threat engineered and egged on by persons within is worse than a danger posed by antagonists without.

The anxiety among the Assamese people at the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is wholly understandable. Merely assuring the people that protecting their culture is as much the Centre's concern as securing the culture of the entire country is hardly satisfying. For several good reasons, Assam is a very special and distinct case. For one, Assam and Bangladesh share a border. It is, therefore, most convenient for immigrants to cross over. Since the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries, there was infiltration, especially from Mymensingh district into the Brahmaputra Valley. From Sylhet into Cachar district, a cross over is even easier as they were twin districts pre-Partition. The two formed the legendary Surmah Valley.

Unless one has lived or frequently travelled in Assam, it is difficult to appreciate what nightmares the Assamese see when they think of infiltration. They are a gentle people with a soft, peace-loving nature. They have their own festivals. They were gifted by nature with plenty of land or even more rivers and water. They do not have to work too hard for survival. The climate is mostly warm and humid and does not lend itself to hard work. They are not competitive by nature and understandably shudder at the fear of this ethos being disturbed by outsiders.

Believe it not, until two decades ago it was a popular impression that the Congress strategy for winning elections in Assam was "Ali, Coolie and Bengali." Coolie implied the tea garden workers and their families. Ali and Bengali are self-explanatory; they are mostly people who had over the years immigrated into Assam. Even the tea garden workers were Adivasis brought from Jharkhand and neighbouring areas to plant and pluck the bushes. To this day, it is difficult to find an original Assamese who is a plucker in a tea garden. In sum and substance, the Congress depended on settlers from outside to win a majority vote.

Earlier a near fatal game was played with Assam. As mentioned, they are a gentle people. When World War II broke out in Europe, the British also declared that India was a participant. Congress leaders expressed their grave disapproval for the government doing so without consulting Indian leaders. In a loud protest, all Congress provincial ministries resigned forthwith, as did the one in Assam. It was replaced by a Muslim League ministry led by Muhammad Saadullah. The idea of Pakistan was already floating in the political air by then. Saadullah concocted a new theory that the Adivasis in Assam were animists and not Hindus. The result-

“ THE FEAR IS THAT MANY A HINDU FROM BANGLADESH MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION AND COME OVER TO ASSAM. SUCH A LEGAL MIGRATION WOULD REDUCE THE PERCENTAGE OF THE ETHNIC ASSAMESE AND DILUTE THEIR INDIGENOUS CULTURE. FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ILLEGAL INFILTRATORS, THE BILL IS WELCOME BECAUSE MANY OF THEM WHO CAME 1971 ONWARDS CAN BE SENT AWAY. BUT IN THEIR PLACE MANY A LEGAL MIGRANT MAY COME ”



ing arithmetic made the Muslims come within striking distance of a majority.

In 1947, MA Jinnah nearly convinced the British rulers in New Delhi that Assam was a Muslim-majority province and should, therefore, go to Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in his book on eastern Pakistan, stated that tribals were not only non-Hindus but also unfit for civilised life. The generally vague conclusion of the sympathisers for Pakistan was that Eastern Bengal and Assam should be combined into one province. As was the case under the first Partition of Bengal by Viceroy Lord Curzon in 1905. Fortunately, it was undone by 1911. Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, and also one of the three members of the Cabinet Mission, 1946, sent by the British government to find out what structure would be acceptable to Indian leaders, also swallowed this theory about an amalgamation of the two.

It was tough and go when Gopinath Bordoloi, the Assam Congress leader, rushed to New Delhi and persuaded those in power and influence that the Jinnah contention was untrue. As a result, Assam was saved for India, except for Sylhet district, which is now in Bangladesh. That is the kind of price Assam nearly paid for allowing illegal migrants to settle. Incidentally, until 1874, Assam was a part of the Bengal Presidency. It was then separated and placed under the rule of a Chief Commissioner. To make Assam a viable separate province, three Bengali-speaking districts of the Presidency, namely, Goalpara, Sylhet and Cachar were merged into the new province. That is how Assam became not only separate but also began its joint existence in company with Bengalis as well as Muslims. The allocation of Sylhet to East Pakistan in 1947 relieved this pressure to an extent. Nevertheless, the Partition added

Bengalis to the population as Sylhet had been a sister district of Cachar and its people were at least 46 per cent Hindu. Moreover, Mymensingh district was also nearby, enabling refugees to cross over. Due to the poverty of the landless peasants, Muslim infiltration also continued. West Pakistan monopolised the country's power and the eastern wing was treated as a colony. Emigration was perhaps the only way many a easterner could survive. The poorest came to Assam as well as West Bengal. The more resourceful went to England and other richer countries. Called Bangladeshis since 1971, they have the reputation of being the world's number one migrants in recent decades. No state in India has been spared by their visitation. The writer's temporary gardener at Cochin (now Kochi) turned out to be from Bangladesh. Delhi has any number of domestic servants, many albeit with Hindu pen-names.

Assam, however, can ill afford to host these infiltrators; the Assamese population is very small. The recent Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a major irritant for them especially since what was discovered in 1979. Some young men discovered in the electoral rolls of the Mangaldai Assembly constituency that many a voter was an obvious infiltrator. In order to spread the protest and try and stop such distortion of the electoral rolls of the State, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) was formed. Some members also went on to establish the Assam Ganatantra Parishad (AGP), a major political party. A few members took to terrorism under the name of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill has understandably upset the people of Assam in the light of the events just narrated. The fear is that many a Hindu

from Bangladesh may take advantage of this legislation and come over to Assam. Such a legal migration would reduce the percentage of the ethnic Assamese and dilute their indigenous culture. From the viewpoint of illegal infiltrators, the Bill is welcome because many of them who came 1971 onwards can be sent away. But in their place many a legal migrant may come. The dilution of the local culture and the threat to the political voice of the Assamese would be about the same. Hence the disturbed mood not only in Assam but also in the other northeastern States.

The solution to this potentially serious national problem would lie in making the Cachar district a separate Union Territory having no special political connection with Assam. Cachar has a population of some 40 lakh people of whom a little over half are Hindu. Under two per cent are Christian and the rest Muslim. More or less, all speak and write Bengali. Its economy is viable, especially with the help of over a hundred tea gardens which produce five crore kilograms of tea worth some ₹800 crore annually. That would separate some 16 per cent of the total Assam population, virtually all of whom are either Bengali or Muslim; a great relief to the Assamese. Remotely perhaps, the Bodos also may use the chance as an example and demand a Union Territory of much less than two million people living between Kokrajhar town and Sankosh river to the west. This is the one sure way to bring happiness to the Assamese people after at least a century. In any case, the Cacharis would be pleased at being semi-independent with Silchar becoming a mini rajdhani.

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

The evolution of mohajir consciousness

Was the Muttahida Qaumi Movement simply engineered by Gen Zia or was there more to its history?



NADEEM PARACHA

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), once the most dominant political party in Karachi, is in complete disarray. At the moment there are three factions of the party vying for the Mohajir vote and at least two sub-factions within one of the splinter groups. The immediate memory associated with the MQM in the minds of the party's supporters is that of an organisation that was able to stall the political and economic alienation of Sindh's Mohajirs. The other immediate memory of the party — mostly held by its detractors — is of an outfit which plunged Sindh's capital, Karachi, into ethnic turmoil and of heinous crimes allegedly committed by the party's armed wings.

There are also those who have maintained that the party was the outcome of "political engineering" undertaken by the 'agencies' at the behest of

Gen Zia's dictatorship. This has often been repeated by various political analysts. Although this claim was convincingly substantiated, it's possible that this indeed was the case before MQM broke away from the agencies' orbit sometime in the late 1980s.

This perception is largely rooted in comments by some Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) leaders and then those belonging to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). In 1986, when one of the worst ethnic riots in Karachi propelled the MQM into the forefront, the JI claimed that the party had been created by the Zia dictatorship to neutralise the support the JI once enjoyed in Karachi. The PPP, on the other hand, claimed that the party had been engineered to "balance out the PPP's influence in Sindh." There are various theories about MQM's formation. But there is enough agreement among historians and analysts about the train of events which led to the formation of a Mohajir nationalist outfit. Dr Tanvir A Tahir's book *Political Dynamics of Sindh* traces the roots of this evolution all the way back to the 1950s when, according to Tahir, the Mohajir community began to feel it was being pushed out of the country's ruling and economic elite. Tahir writes that

the Mohajirs had become part of this elite immediately after Pakistan's creation in 1947 when the Punjabis dominated the military and the Mohajirs were prominent in the bureaucracy.

After the assassination of Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan (a Mohajir), the Mohajirs began to feel that they were being nudged out. According to Tahir, the Mohajirs — who had come in droves from various parts of India and had mainly settled in Sindh — did not find the need to become familiar with the Sindh culture because they became a majority in Karachi. Tahir also writes that this delayed the formation of a Sindh middle class because the Mohajirs immediately managed to bag important positions in the province's economy and government from Karachi that had become the country's first capital.

In 1954, a Mohajir politician, Mahmud-ul-Haq Usmani demanded that Karachi be made a separate Mohajir-majority province. But the imposition of the One Unit system, that clubbed West Pakistan as a single province, somewhat placated the Mohajir community which was suspicious of provinces being based on ethnic considerations. According to Tanvir,

the Mohajirs found themselves almost completely ousted from the ruling circles during the Ayub Khan regime in the 1960s. They vehemently took part in the 1968 anti-Ayub movement. But when, after Ayub's departure in 1969, Gen Yahya Khan agreed to do away with the One Unit, the Mohajir groups protested against Karachi becoming part of Sindh.

The February 23, 1969 edition of *Dawn* reported the formation of a Jeay Karachi Committee. It was mainly led by a faction of the Left-wing National Students Federation. The Committee demanded the creation of a "Karachi sooba (province)." Another organisation, the Mohajir Mahaz (MM) came into being in late 1969. But it could win just one Sindh provincial Assembly seat during the 1970 election. Mohajir vote largely went to JI and Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP). In 1972, when the PPP-led Sindh government declared Sindh as the province's official language, groups of Mohajir students formed the Muttahida Talaba Mahaz Karachi (MTMK). They asked car owners to change their number plates to Urdu and attacked English signboards. Riots broke out between the police and the MTMK in Karachi and

between Mohajir and Sindh youth elsewhere in Sindh.

Usmani, who had demanded Karachi to be made a separate province in 1954, had joined the Left-wing National Awami Party (NAP). But he lost the election in 1970. During the 1972 riots, he formed the Urdu Qaumi Council. The July 15, 1972 edition of daily *Jang* quotes the Council members as saying that the organisation was launched to "inculcate in the minds of Mohajirs, scientific consciousness of their history and culture." The Council also demanded that the state treat Mohajirs as a separate ethnic community as it does the Punjabis, Sindhis, Baloch and Pakhtuns. Two years later, in 1974, a Karachi Province Movement was launched but it fizzled out.

The Mohajirs of Karachi played a leading role in the 1977 movement against the Bhutto regime. In 1978, two Karachi University (KU) students, Altaf Hussain and Azeem Ahmad Tariq formed the All Pakistan Mohajir Students Organisation (APMSO). In his 2011 biography, *My Life's Journey*, Hussain writes that Mohajir youth were exploited by JI and JUP against the Bhutto regime. In 1981, APMSO became a member of the progressive

student alliance, the United Students' Movement (USM) at Karachi University (KU). Hussain writes that JI's youth wing "expelled" APMSO from KU and the party began to establish offices in Mohajir mohallas (localities).

According to their 2011 essay for *Berkeley Journal of Social Sciences*, Ali Chandio, M Ahmad and F Naseem quote famous Sindh scholar Ibrahim Jyo as saying that "Punjabi economic hegemony" increased immensely in Sindh during the dictatorship of Gen Zia. This situation had a negative impact on the interests of Karachi's prominent (non-Punjabi) business communities. This concern saw some members of these communities form an organisation called the Maha Sindh (MS) in 1983. It was an organisation set up to protect the economic interests of Karachi's Memon, Sindh and Mohajir businessmen and traders. Chandio, Ahmad and Naseem write that Maha Sindh encouraged the formation of a Karachi-based party. Many APMSO members were involved in the party's activities. MS eventually became a Mohajir-dominated organisation, which then evolved into becoming the MQM in 1984.

(Courtesy: Dawn)



REVIEW CURRENT ENERGY POLICIES

The questions of onshore wind and solar subsidies must be revisited, along with recent developments in carbon capture and battery technology. Affordable offshore wind must be scaled up. The job losses in Wales are an especially harsh blow after last year's decision to reject the Swansea tidal power project. The problem facing the whole country is that this government's energy policies do not add up. (The Guardian editorial)

# Sensex, Nifty end marginally higher

## RIL shines post Q3 show

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Markets closed marginally higher on Friday after a volatile session as investors largely stuck to index heavyweights despite positive global cues.

The BSE Sensex settled 12.53 points, or 0.03 per cent, higher at 36,386.61. The broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.75 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 10,906.95.

During the week, the 30-share Sensex gained 378.77 points, or 1 per cent and the Nifty rose 112 points, or 1.02 per cent.

Reliance Industries was the biggest gainer on Sensex in Friday's session, spurring 4.43 per cent, after the company became the first Indian private sector company to report a quarterly profit of more than Rs 10,000 crore following record earnings from petrochemical, retail and telecom businesses.

Other gainers included Kotak Bank, HCL Tech, ONGC, Asian Paints, Vedanta, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and TCS, gaining up to 1.41 per cent.

Sun Pharma was the top loser, cracking 8.58 per cent, on reports of fresh allegations by a whistleblower against the



company. Bharti Airtel, L&T, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, ITC, Tata Motors and PowerGrid also fell up to 6.42 per cent.

"Domestic indices failed to absorb the rebound in global market as plunge in pharma stocks and weak rupee dragged the sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. "Global headwinds continue to dictate a range-bound movement in the market while any green shoots in quarter earnings provide opportunity to accumulate," he added.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) purchased shares worth ₹842.13 crore Thursday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers to the tune of ₹727.46 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed.

According to analysts,

global trade tensions and risk of recession will cast a cloud over the sentiment, while lack of major triggers in the domestic market could see range-bound movement in the near term.

The rupee, meanwhile, depreciated 10 paise against the US dollar to 71.13 intra-day.

The benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.98 per cent to \$61.78 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index jumped 1.42 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.25 per cent, Japan's Nikkei gained 1.29 per cent, and Korea's Kospi climbed 0.82 per cent higher.

In Europe, London's FTSE rallied 1.03 per cent, Frankfurt's DAX was up 0.97 per cent and Paris CAC 40 surged 1.29 per cent in early deals.

# Ghosh received 8m euro in 'improper' payments: Nissan

AFP ■ TOKYO

Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn received nearly eight million euros in "improper payments" from a Netherlands-based joint venture, the Japanese car giant alleged Friday, threatening to sue to recover the funds.

Nissan said Ghosn entered into a personal employment contract with Nissan-Mitsubishi BV (NMBV), a company formed "with the mission of exploring and promoting synergies within the Nissan-Mitsubishi Motors partnership."

"Under that contract, he received a total of 7,822,206.12 euros (including tax) in compensation and other payments of NMBV funds," Nissan said, citing an ongoing investigation into alleged wrongdoing by Ghosn.

The firm said the contract was signed without consultation with current Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa or Mitsubishi Motors CEO Osamu Masuko.

"Nissan views the payments Ghosn received from NMBV to be the result of misconduct and will consider measures to recover from Ghosn the full sum," the firm said in a statement.

Since his out-of-the-blue arrest on November 19, Ghosn has been kept in a Tokyo detention centre and has made only one public appearance in court when he passionately rejected the accusations against him.

Ghosn faces three formal charges.

First, he is accused of under-declaring his income by five billion yen (\$46 million) between 2010 and 2015 in official documents to shareholders, apparently to fend off criticism he was overpaid.

Second, he stands accused of continuing this practice for three more years, understating his pay by a further four billion yen.

A third, more complex, charge relates to allegations he sought to transfer personal investment losses to the firm and paid a Saudi intermediary from company funds to stump up collateral for him.

The 64-year-old auto tycoon rejects all the charges, arguing in court that he has been "wrongly accused and unfairly detained based on meritless and unsubstantiated accusations."

He has appealed several times to be released on bail and filed another appeal earlier Friday.

So far, the appeals have all been rejected, with the court reasoning that he is a flight risk and could tamper with evidence.

His lawyers have vowed to lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court against his continued detention, but even his lead attorney has told reporters it is unlikely he will taste freedom before a trial — and that could take six months at least.

Meanwhile, the allegations continue to stack up against Ghosn — once revered as a corporate genius who saved Nissan from the verge of bankruptcy.

# Renault posts record sales as Ghosn successor sought

AFP ■ PARIS

French carmaker Renault unveiled record sales on Friday of nearly 3.9 million vehicles last year, even as it prepares to turn the page on the era of chief executive Carlos Ghosn who remains behind bars in Tokyo on fraud charges.

The company said sales in 2018 were up 3.2 percent from the previous year putting it ahead of its French rival PSA, whose brands include Peugeot, Citroen and Opel.

Sales were driven higher by demand for Renault's low-cost models, including two light utility vehicles manufactured in a joint venture with China's Brilliance, which offset the effect of its pullout from Iran because of renewed US sanctions and a slump in the Turkish market.

Renault's Dacia and Lada brands also continued to book brisk sales, rising seven percent and 19 percent respectively.

Renault said it was aiming for "slight" growth in sales "with an acceleration in the second half of the year" thanks to the launch of new models, including an updated version of its flagship Clio compact.

## Business Corner



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi graced the MSME Pavilion at Vibrant Gujarat 2019 wherein the constituents of the Ministry of MSME displayed live display of their innovative technologies and offering for the Entrepreneurs, Youth, MSMEs. Present on the occasion were Sudhir Garg, CMD, NSIC and P Udayakumar, DPM, NSIC, Manoj Lal, GM (SG), NSIC, Satvinder Singh, CGM, Rajesh Jain, GM and other NSIC officials



Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, Managing Director and CEO of Syndicate Bank presided over a Town Hall Meeting with more than 1000 staff members of Delhi and Faridabad Regions at Mavlankar Hall, New Delhi

# Complexity of Indian financial system warrants robust corp governance in banks: RBI Gov

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said efforts are being made to strengthen corporate governance in the public sector banks to effectively check incidence of financial frauds.

In his first public speech after assuming the charge as RBI Governor in December, Das also flagged challenges that Indian companies may face on account of developments around the Brexit.

Speaking at the 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019, the RBI chief said the central bank is committed to play its role as the monetary authority for maintaining mandated price stability objective while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

As the regulator and supervisor of the banking sector as also payment systems, the Reserve Bank "will take necessary steps to maintain financial stability and facilitate enabling conditions for sustainable and robust growth," said Das, who would be chairing the Monetary Policy Committee meeting for the first time next month.

The RBI governor further said that the growing size and complexity of the Indian financial system warrants strengthening of corporate governance

systems in banks. Citing incidence of financial frauds in recent times, he said such cases further underscore the significance of sound corporate governance standards in banks.

"The government, the Banks Board Bureau and the Reserve Bank are currently engaged in developing an objective framework for performance evaluation and this should refine the contours of corporate governance in the public sector banks (PSBs) with a focus on transparency, accountability and skills," Das said.

The PSBs have been hit by a series of frauds in the recent past, including the much-talked about ₹14,000 crore fraud at Punjab National Bank.

Referring to the problems being faced by the non-banking financial sector, the RBI chief said the debt default of a systemically important NBFC highlighted the vulnerability and need for strengthening regulatory vigil on the sector in general and on asset liability management (ALM) framework in particular.

"The Reserve Bank intends to strengthen the ALM framework for NBFCs and harmonise it across different categories of NBFCs with the objective of enabling the NBFCs to play a vital role in our economy," he said.

In order to allow additional access to funding for the NBFC sector in the wake of the recent crisis, the Reserve Bank has relaxed the norms for NBFCs to secure their loan books, he added.

On challenges before the economy, Das said the foremost priority is to preserve domestic macroeconomic and financial stability, especially in a global environment that is clouded by high uncertainty.

Not only downward risks to global growth, trade and investment have risen, but also the spillover effects on emerging markets due to increase in global interest rates could be profound, he said.

# Wipro announces 1:3 bonus share offer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wipro board on Friday approved an issue of bonus shares wherein shareholders will get one bonus share for every three shares held by them.

"Issue of bonus equity shares in the proportion of 1:3, that is one bonus equity share of Rs 2 each for every three fully paid-up

equity shares held and a bonus issue...Of one ADS for every three ADS held, as on the record date, subject to approval of the Members of the company," Wipro said in a regulatory filing.

The record date for reckoning eligible shareholders (including ADS holders) entitled to receive bonus shares will be communicated later, it added.

# Toyota introduces new Camry Hybrid

## Plans to bring in hybrid technology on other vehicles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Toyota Kirloskar Motor, the Indian arm of the Japanese carmaker on Friday launched the latest generation of their Camry sedan as their latest offering in India. The car will feature Toyota's 'Hybrid Synergy Drive' with a total power out of 178 horsepower. "We are calling this a self-charging hybrid vehicle," TKM's newly appointed Managing Director Masakazu Yoshimura said. "In a hybrid system, the vehicle should be able to run on either the battery or engine alone, that is the definition of a hybrid car," he added hinting at 'Mild Hybrids' sold by other Indian carmakers. The new Camry which has several new features and additional safety with nine airbags has an intro-



ductory price of ₹36.95 lakhs. Yoshimura who arrived in India recently highlighted that 2018 was a good year for TKM with sales of their Innova and Fortuner reaching new heights. He also said that TKM will be looking at launching many new products going forward. "New rules permit manufacturers such as ourselves to sell 2,500 units of a vehicle without requiring

homologation in India and Japanese or European certification will be accepted. This will give us the opportunity to bring in some models to test market in India," he said. No further details of which models were given by Yoshimura who also admitted that TKM will need to work on their entry-level models.

Yoshimura added that Toyota is betting big on hybrids

and particularly such 'self-charging' hybrids as they require no infrastructure. "No need to build charging stations and develop industrial infrastructure, but such hybrids can give major benefits of increased economy and much lower emissions," he said, adding that the long-term goal of electrification remained on track.

**PUBLIC NOTICE - AGENCY TERMINATION**

**ICICI Bank**  
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra - 390007, Gujarat.

Notice is hereby given that ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office as stated above, has terminated the services of **M/s. VCARE WEALTH ADVISOR PRIVATE LIMITED** as its collection agency having its place of business in Delhi and is no longer associated with it in any way.

We were compelled to cancel and terminate the Agreement dated 02/07/2011 as the agency has grossly failed and neglected to perform & observe the stipulated terms & conditions of the said agreement to the Bank's satisfaction and have committed gross breach in due performance and observance thereof.

We have also sent several reminders to return Identity Card (ID) card and the stationery issued by ICICI Bank to its employees **Mr. BAIDYANTH KUMAR JHA** and **Mr. AMAN SEMWAL** however, **Mr. PANKAJ SHRIVASTAVA (Director)** did not take any steps towards it. All individuals coming into contact with the said Collection agency or its representatives are hereby notified that neither **Mr. PANKAJ SHRIVASTAVA**, nor the partners/ directors and/or any of its employees/representatives of **M/s. VCARE WEALTH ADVISOR PRIVATE LIMITED** have any authority to represent ICICI Bank Limited in any manner whatsoever. We further inform the public at large that not to deal in any arrangement with the said **Mr. BAIDYANTH KUMAR JHA**, **Mr. AMAN SEMWAL** and **Mr. PANKAJ SHRIVASTAVA** and same shall not be binding on us as ICICI Bank Limited is henceforth not responsible in any manner for any acts done or representations made by the said agency.

Date: 19 January, 2019  
Place: Delhi/NCR

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**Corrigendum-4**

This is for information of all concerned that the opening date of tender for **NIT No. 327/PD&C/2018** is hereby extended upto 28-01-2019. The tender shall be received & opened on 28-01-2019 at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM respectively. Other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer/ PD&C,  
DHBVN, Hisar

RO NO. 74930 Dt. 18-01-2019

**CMI LIMITED**  
CIN L74899DL1967PLC018031

Regd. Office: Flat No. 501-503, 5th Floor, New Delhi House 27 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110 001  
Ph.: 011-49570000, Fax No.: 011-23739902  
Website: www.cmilimited.in Email: info@cmlimited.in

Notice is hereby given that the Final Dividend of Re 1/- per Equity share for the Financial Year ended on March 31, 2018 has been declared as on 29th November, 2018 at the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Company. In this regard the details are given hereunder:

- Date of declaration of Final Dividend was 29th November, 2018
- Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form as on 22nd November, 2018 i.e. cut-off date shall only be entitled for Final Dividend.
- The Final Dividend has paid either ECS/Demand Draft or Equity Dividend Warrant.
- ECS has been made on 7th January, 2019
- Dividend Warrants, Demand Drafts and ECS confirmation letters have been sent to all share holders as on 15th January, 2019

The share holders who have not received the Dividend Warrants, Demand Drafts and ECS within a period of fifteen days, are requested to contact the Company as per the following details:

Subodh Kumar (Company Secretary)  
Contact No.: 011-49570000  
Email: info@cmlimited.in, cmics@cmlimited.in

Date: 18.01.2019  
Place: New Delhi

For CMI Limited  
Subodh Kumar  
(Company Secretary)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. 11

No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2018-19 Dated 18.01.2018

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under:-

S.No	Depot conducting auction	1st round	2nd round	3rd round	4rd round
1	Alambagh Lucknow	06	16	25	--
2	Shakurbasti	08	19	27	--
3	Jagadhari Workshop	09	18	28	--
4	Sr.DMM/LKO	05	13	21	--
5	Sr.DMM/FZR	08	16	26	--
6	Sr.DMM/UMB	06	14	22	--
7	Sr.DMM/MB	01	09	18	28
8	Sr.DMM/DLI	11	20	28	--

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. 3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at [www.railnet.gov.in](http://www.railnet.gov.in). 4. ireps. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 114/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a Boy namely **Pramod S/o Shiv Chander, R/o B-Block, Near Dispensary, Gokul Puri, Delhi, Age: 22 yrs., Height: 5 ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black-White Colour Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans**, has been missing / kidnapped since 08.12.2018 from his house. In this regard a case **MPR No. 292/18 dated 11.12.2018** has been registered at PS. Khajuri Khas, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Boy but no clue has come to light so far.

if anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped Boy please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in), Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO  
DP/6848/NE/19.  
PS. Khajuri Khas, Delhi  
Ph: 011-22562112, 875087025

# Ordnance Factory Nalanda gets ISO certification

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ordnance Factory Nalanda has got ISO certificate for producing Bi Modular charge System (BMCS) and Nitrocellulose.

The foundation of Ordnance Factory Nalanda was laid down on 14 April 1999 by the then Defence Minister George Fernandes.

In due course, the factory was given its first indent for the production of 50,000 BMCS in 2016-17 by the Indian Army.

BMCS facilitates propelling the munitions fired from 155 mm artillery guns. At present, the factory is producing two variants of BMCS; M 91 and M 92. The M-91 has a range of 7 to 12 kms whereas the M-92 has a range of 13

to 48 kms. Kargil war has enhanced the importance of BMCS as it was extensively used in the artillery guns of the Indian Army.

Production of BMCS is a significant example of the state of the art technology in indigenization. Nalanda Factory is working towards achieving its target of 2 Lakhs module for 2018-19.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that one unknown male, Age 45 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Wheatish, Wearing White colour shirt, mahroon colour coat, black colour jacket, blue colour lower and red colour socks in feet was found dead at Near Railway Under Bridge, Pull Mithai, Pilli Kothi, Lahori Gate, Delhi on 16.01.19. In this regard a DD No. DD No. 28-A dated 16.01.19 has been lodged at PS Lahori Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned.

By Order  
Sh. Devender Kumar Garg  
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, (North-East Distt)  
Room No. 66, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

SHO  
PS: Lahori Gate, Delhi  
Ph.: 23953736, 23955900

# Rupee settles 16 paise down at 71.19 vs USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Friday weakened by 16 paise to close at 71.19 against the US dollar amid rise in demand for the greenback from exporters and unabated increase in global crude oil prices.

This is the second successive week of loss for the Indian currency. During the week the domestic unit registered a loss of 27 paise. In the previous week, the local unit had slumped by 81 paise.

Forex traders said foreign fund outflows, gain in domestic equity market and stronger dollar against its key rival currencies impacted the rupee trading pattern.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market, the rupee opened lower at 71.12 and fell further to touch the day's low of 71.24.

The domestic currency, however, pared some losses and finally ended at 71.19 per dollar, down by 16 paise against its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had settled 21 paise higher at 71.03 against the US dollar.

"Along with rupee, the benchmark government bonds also dropped, as fiscal worries have continued to weigh on markets with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley hinting of a possible 'people friendly' budget ahead of general election," said V K Sharma, Head PGC & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC



Securities.

Domestic equity market closed marginally higher Friday. The BSE Sensex settled 12.53 points, or 0.03 per cent, higher at 36,386.61. The broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.75 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 10,906.95.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.04 per cent at 96.02.

"ICE dollar index steadied during the day but was set for its first weekly rise in five weeks as doubts grew on the ability of other major global central banks such as the European Central Bank to start raising interest rates this year," Sharma

said. Brent crude, the global benchmark, was trading at USD 61.90 per barrel, higher by 1.18 per cent.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) purchased shares worth Rs 842.13 crore Thursday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers to the tune of Rs 727.46 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed.

The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 71.1418 and for rupee/euro at 81.0656. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 92.2946 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 65.04.

# Infra firm REPL bags contract for water supply project in Bundelkhand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infrastructure consultancy firm REPL on Friday said it had got a contract from Uttar Pradesh government to plan, design and prepare a project report for piped drinking water in Bundelkhand.

The company has bagged the contract from the State Water and Sanitation Mission under the Department of Rural Development of the UP government, it said.

"The larger scheme of water supply project of the state government will focus on addressing the acute problem of drinking water supply in Bundelkhand region, and at a later stage, arsenic/fluoride and acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) and Japanese encephalitis affected areas in UP including the Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions," REPL said.

Currently, the rural household needs to travel a great distance to fetch water and people still face the challenge of accessing pure drinking water, the company added.

REPL will prepare a detailed project report (DPR) which includes the overall planning, engineering survey, designing of the supply model of piped drinking water in Banda, Chitrakoot and Hamirpur districts.

"It is a project of overwhelming responsibility as it directly impacts health and daily life of people residing in the area," said REPL chairman and managing director Pradeep Misra.

REPL is working on several important government projects including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Directorate General of Married Accommodation Project (DGMAP) and Smart City projects.

Rudrabhishek Enterprises Ltd (REPL) is an integrated urban development and infrastructure consultant listed on NSE.

# QUICK TAKES

## NIIT TECH Q3 NET PROFIT UP 32.6% TO ₹100.2 CRORE

New Delhi (PTI): NIIT Technologies on Friday posted a 32.6 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹100.2 crore for the December 2018 quarter and said the demand continued to be robust in large markets like the US and Europe. The net profit stood at ₹75.6 crore in the corresponding period of previous year. Sequentially, the net profit declined by 10 per cent on account of lower 'other income' and increased effective tax rate, the company said. The consolidated revenue for the third quarter was up 28.5 per cent year-on-year to ₹971.7 crore helped by "all round growth across verticals and geographies," NIIT Technologies vice-chairman and managing director Arvind Thakur told PTI. Asked about the tightening of visa norms in key markets like the US, Thakur said mobility of people was definitely a "challenge" but the company had, in response, stepped up localisation and set up two nearshore centres. He declined to comment on media reports about Baring Private Equity Asia acquiring a stake in NIIT Technologies in a deal valuing the IT firm at ₹8,000-10,000 crore. The operating profit at ₹180.5 crore marked a growth of 39.4 per cent over the same period last year and 10.4 per cent sequentially.

## WIPRO Q3 NET PROFIT RISES 31.8% TO ₹2,544.5 CRORE

New Delhi (PTI): IT services major Wipro on Friday posted a 31.8 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹2,544.5 crore for October-December 2018 compared to the year-ago period. Wipro's board has also approved an issue of bonus shares, offering one bonus share for every three held by shareholders, a BSE filing said. The net profit in the October-December 2017 quarter was at ₹1,930.1 crore. Wipro's revenue from operations expanded 10.17 per cent to ₹15,059.5 crore during the period under review from ₹13,669 crore in the third quarter of FY2017-18. The company's IT services segment revenue, which accounts for a bulk of

its topline, was at USD 2,046.5 million (around ₹14,555 crore), up 1.8 per cent sequentially.

## LTI NET PROFIT UP 32.8% TO ₹375.5 CR IN DECEMBER QUARTER

New Delhi (PTI): Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) on Friday said consolidated net profit had increased 32.8 per cent to ₹375.5 crore for the quarter ended December 2018 compared to the year-ago period. The company had registered a net profit of ₹282.8 crore in the October-December 2017 quarter, LTI said in a statement. Its revenue grew 31.3 per cent to ₹2,472.9 crore in the quarter, against ₹1,883.8 crore in the third quarter of FY18, it added. On a sequential basis, the net profit declined 6.2 per cent (from ₹400.3 crore), while revenue was higher by 6.1 per cent (from ₹2,331.2 crore in September 2018 quarter). In dollar terms, LTI's revenue was at USD 346.9 million, growing 18.2 per cent year-on-year.

## RALLIS INDIA Q3 PROFIT DOWN 45% TO ₹13.8 CR; REVENUE UP 7% AT ₹423 CR

New Delhi (PTI): Tata group firm Rallis India, which is into crop protection business, has reported a 45 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹13.76 crore for the quarter ended December 2018 on higher tax outgo and other expenses. Its net profit had stood at ₹24.94 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Total income, however, rose by 7 per cent to ₹423.25 crore in the third quarter of this financial year, from ₹393.86 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. "Margins remain constrained owing to higher raw material prices. Expect profitability to pick up going forward following growth-specific initiatives undertaken towards driving growth," Rallis said in a statement. Higher input cost, imports from China resulted in profitability and margin compression, the company said. It is working towards improving product mix - share of value-added/specialty products to offset impact of rising raw material. The company said the revenue grew on the back of steady performances in domestic and global markets.

NIFTY 50					
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10914.85	10928.20	10852.20	10966.95	1.75
RELIANCE	1148.80	1189.90	1135.25	1185.80	51.35
WIPRO	336.00	347.50	333.40	346.55	11.15
KOTAKBANK	1220.10	1243.00	1216.50	1240.20	20.25
HINDALCO	206.65	209.40	205.95	208.95	2.25
HCLTECH	948.60	968.75	946.35	968.00	13.30
ONGC	145.10	147.10	145.10	146.75	1.75
ADANIPORTS	396.50	399.95	392.25	398.70	4.20
VEDL	199.00	200.00	196.25	198.75	1.30
BAFINANCE	2545.00	2555.00	2525.10	2547.95	12.05
MARUTI	7345.00	7379.95	7318.00	7370.00	33.75
TECHM	705.00	714.20	702.35	708.40	2.85
ASIANPAINT	1391.00	1404.75	1383.00	1394.80	5.20
TCS	1881.00	1904.20	1876.00	1899.50	5.20
IBULHSGFIN	822.90	823.95	805.65	818.20	2.05
INFY	730.00	737.20	726.30	734.00	0.65
M&M	734.50	737.90	728.00	735.00	0.35
TITAN	961.55	965.00	954.05	961.10	-0.45
IOC	137.50	138.70	137.15	137.55	-0.10
CIPLA	510.20	513.00	507.30	509.20	-0.40
ZEEL	441.80	445.00	436.20	440.50	-0.40
HDFCBANK	2135.00	2139.00	2114.55	2130.00	-2.30
HDFC	2004.00	2012.60	1989.25	2005.45	-0.50
POWERGRID	194.00	196.70	192.50	193.45	-0.45
HINDUNILVR	1750.00	1768.85	1727.30	1746.40	-5.10
HEROMOTOCO	2916.40	2929.95	2863.00	2894.95	-8.65
GRASIM	828.90	834.55	818.20	825.50	-2.60
BPL	353.90	357.20	351.30	353.90	-1.30
BAJAJ-AUTO	2741.00	2765.50	2696.65	2718.85	-10.00
NTPC	145.30	146.40	144.00	144.30	-0.20
UPL	768.00	771.00	764.00	765.80	-3.25
TATASTEEL	473.55	477.00	468.00	471.05	-2.10
INDUSIND	1523.10	1532.40	1513.00	1515.10	-7.90
TATAMOTORS	185.65	185.65	181.30	183.90	-1.00
ICICIBANK	374.60	376.40	370.35	372.00	-2.60
SBIN	298.75	299.85	294.25	295.30	-2.10
DREDDY	205.00	202.95	199.50	200.00	-19.15
ULTRACEMCO	3859.00	3859.00	3771.60	3815.50	-31.40
ITC	293.25	295.10	290.65	291.10	-2.85
COALINDIA	232.15	232.55	229.60	229.80	-2.25
INFRAEL	280.65	283.40	277.00	277.60	-2.85
ECHERMOT	20400.00	20425.00	19950.00	2031.05	-28.90
YESBANK	202.00	203.05	196.20	198.55	-2.55
JSWSTEEL	288.35	291.85	283.25	285.15	-3.85
AXISBANK	674.90	676.05	661.45	664.25	-12.40
BAJAJFINSV	656.10	657.95	632.00	632.00	-123.00
L1	1550.85	1562.00	1513.00	1519.50	-26.55
HINDPETRO	243.85	245.35	238.25	239.30	-4.90
GAIL	332.40	332.85	320.50	321.50	-10.90
BHARTIARTL	330.50	332.45	304.30	310.55	-21.50
SUNPHARMA	424.05	424.10	370.20	390.25	-36.30

# BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
COALINDIA	232.05	232.90	229.60	230.00	-2.05
SBILIFE	625.05	628.70	609.00	619.80	-5.20
NATIONALUM	61.55	62.00	61.40	61.60	-0.10
OMAXE	214.00	215.55	213.15	213.75	-0.30
TATAGLOBAL	218.45	218.00	213.50	215.95	-2.50
BRITANNIA	3212.00	3225.00	3139.35	3163.20	-48.80
GRASIM	828.30	833.90	818.65	824.00	-4.30
CANFINHOME	276.00	278.40	267.55	268.75	-7.25
VIPIND	519.10	522.25	509.30	512.40	-6.70
DEEPAKFTL	227.20	233.00	220.55	220.55	-6.65
TVS MOTOR	546.00	548.45	532.10	535.85	-10.15
GODREJCP	791.95	795.95	781.20	787.10	-4.85
DIVSILAB	1512.00	1518.45	1487.35	1508.85	-14.15
INFRAEL	280.40	283.10	276.70	278.10	-2.30
BREALSTE	86.50	86.50	84.40	84.95	-1.55
WELCORP	124.90	126.00	119.45	119.95	-4.95
COLPAL	1326.00	1329.00	1305.30	1309.70	-16.30
NTPC	145.60	146.30	144.00	144.35	-0.25
TRIDENT	71.45	71.45	69.75	70.05	-0.10
CGPOWER	43.75	43.90	42.80	43.10	-0.10
IDFC	44.00	44.00	42.85	43.15	-0.10
J&K BANK	39.00	39.00	38.20	38.45	-0.15
M&MFIN	455.00	455.00	437.50	441.35	-3.65
EXIDEIND	252.00	252.20	246.25	246.90	-5.30
NAVKARCORP	51.40	51.80	47.40	48.15	-3.25
GRMINFRA	16.30	16.50	16.15	16.25	-0.25
GUMJAS	140.10	141.00	135.00	135.95	-4.15
POWERGRID	194.00	196.60	192.50	193.25	-0.75
ALBK	44.55	44.60	43.50	44.35	-0.20
BELISSVS	166.85	167.50	160.00	162.80	-4.05
NESTLEIND	11200.00	11312.10	11167.25	11241.05	-87.05
TTAN	961.35	965.10	955.00	960.50	-4.85
INDHOTEL	137.00	138.15	135.50	136.75	-0.35
REDINGTON	81.50	82.00	79.40	79.75	-1.75
BATAINDIA	1152.10	1162.20	1148.65	1155.60	-6.60
BENGLURPETRO	327.00	327.00	326.10	326.10	-0.90
TRENT	2616.80	2631.10	2593.10	2598.95	-17.85
CEATLTD	1247.00	1247.00	1225.65	1232.20	-14.80
NOCL	162.90	164.40	161.25	162.05	-0.85
BALKRISIND	87.30	87.30	86.50	86.80	-0.50
GHCL	258.00	263.00	257.05	258.15	-4.85
MARICO	389.40	389.40	375.59	379.40	-1.90
THERMAX	1084.00	1110.00	1062.15	1091.50	-12.50
CROMPTON	234.90	234.90	227.20	228.15	-6.75
ASTRAL	1114.00	1116.80	1095.00	1100.00	-16.80
MOTILALOFS	685.30	685.30	659.05	673.15	-12.15
BBLBANK	570.00	573.00	561.70	572.00	-1.00
MTMTC	1262.00	1270.00	1244.00	1253.00	-7.00
AIENG	1645.00	1685.95	1645.00	1672.90	-12.05
FRETAL	450.65	455.00	445.00	447.30	-2.35
AGSISLOG	205.15	206.00	196.50	197.30	-0.80
SHK	182.40	189.40	179.30	181.45	-0.95
PIIND	853.45	858.00	845.40	853.45	-0.00
HSNL	132.00	132.00	130.60	130.60	-1.40
KEC	275.05	276.30	273.35	274.55	-1.50
CHAMBERFERT	168.80	168.80	163.30	164.15	-4.65
FINOLEXIND	787.90	787.90	778.85	780.85	-7.05
HEXALOX	564.45	567.95	538.00	541.50	-22.95
SHRECFEM	15730.00	15899.00	15508.00	15664.35	-66.65
VMART	2268.45	2340.85	2230.80	2203.80	-64.65
TATACOFFEE	99.00	99.25	97.10	97.30	-0.10
NATOPHARM*	68.00	69.00	68.00	68.05	-0.05
LUXIND	1333.40	1290.00	1231.00	1315.65	-18.75

# Regretful Brexit backers lobby for another vote

AFP ■ LONDON

Britons who have changed their minds since voting to leave the European Union in 2016 are among those uniting to call for another chance to reverse the decision.

These "Remainer now" voters, former Brexit supporters, are adding their voices to the chorus of calls for a second referendum amid political paralysis in Britain over the issue.

Gary Maylin, 38, from Norwich in eastern England, said he originally backed leaving the bloc after more than four decades of membership because he "wanted sovereignty for the UK".

He recalled facing a barrage of pro-Brexit sentiment at the time which influenced his choice.

"My MP was (pro-)Leave, all the arguments I heard were

for Leave," he told AFP. "So I decided the EU was to blame for a lot of the things that were going wrong - the inability of our government to control our destiny."

The world's fifth-largest economy is in political turmoil and grasping for solutions that could smooth its planned departure from the bloc just 10 weeks from now.

British Prime Minister Theresa May is scrambling to put together a new Brexit strategy after MPs rejected her EU divorce deal, but admitted Thursday that she can not rule out a potentially damaging "no-deal" split.

Maylin was among 51.9 per cent of voters to support leaving the bloc in the nationwide referendum two and-a-half years ago, trumping the 48.1 per cent who voted to Remain.

# Trump declares intent to appoint Indian-American to advisory committee

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has announced his intent to appoint prominent Indian-American financial expert Prem Parameswaran to a key presidential advisory committee, the White House said.

Parameswaran, 50, is the only Indian-American among the 12 members the president intends to appoint to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Based in New York, Parameswaran is the Group Chief Financial Officer and president of Eros International's North America operations.

Trump also announced his intent to designate Elaine L. Chao to be Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the White House said in a statement on Thursday.

# US announces new missile defence system

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has announced a new missile defence policy aimed at addressing the challenges posed by Russia and China, which seeks to displace America in the Indo-Pacific region and has adopted an assertive posture in disputes over territorial boundaries with its neighbours.

In its 'Missile Defense Review' report released Thursday, the Pentagon said Russia and China were developing advanced cruise missiles and hypersonic missile capabilities that can travel at exceptional speeds with unpredictable flight paths which challenge the existing defensive systems.

These are challenging realities of the emerging missile threat environment that US missile defense policy, strategy, and capabilities must address, it said.

"While Russia and China pose separate challenges and are distinct in many ways, both are enhancing their existing

## COUNTER THREATS FROM RUSSIA, CHINA



offensive missile systems and developing advanced sea and air-launched cruise missiles as well as hypersonic capabilities," Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said.

The report presents a comprehensive and layered approach to prevent and defeat adversary missile attacks through a combination of deterrence, active and passive missile defences, and attack operations to destroy offensive missiles prior to launch.

This comprehensive approach to missile defence strengthens America's ability to protect the homeland, allies and partners and deters adversary threats and attacks, Shanahan said.

It assures allies and partners, engages in diplomacy from a position of strength, hedges against future risk and preserves America's freedom of action to conduct regular military operations in defense of its interests, Shanahan said.

# Britain's Prince consort Philip escapes unhurt in major car crash

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, miraculously escaped unhurt in a terrifying accident when a Land Rover the 97-year-old duke was driving flipped onto its side after a collision with another car carrying two women and a baby.



The Duke of Edinburgh was unhurt but the two women in the Kia hatchback were injured in the accident near the Queen's Sandringham estate on Thursday. The nine-month-old baby who was in the back seat of car was uninjured.

Pictures from the scene showed Tata Motors' Land Rover laying on its side with debris scattered around it. It has been suggested that the royal was dazzled by sunlight at a T-junction and his vehicle hit the Kia. Witnesses said the duke was "conscious but very, very shocked and shaken" as he was pulled out from the wreckage of his overturned Land Rover, the Sun reported.

The driver of the Kia suffered cuts, while the passenger sustained an arm injury, police said. Both were treated at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn.

The Press Association reported that there was a passenger in the duke's vehicle who was likely his close protection officer.

A witness said Philip seemed "distracted" and it was a "miracle" he escaped uninjured.

"I saw the car flip," Roy Warne, 75, told daily, adding that he rushed to help free the driver before he "suddenly realised it was Prince Philip".

The duke saw a doctor as a precaution who confirmed he was not hurt. Police breathalysed both the drivers. Police said it was standard policy to breath test drivers involved in collisions and both had provided negative readings.

# 21 die in car bomb attack on Colombian police academy

AFP ■ BOGOTA

Colombia's Government declared three days of mourning on Thursday after at least 21 people died in a car bomb at a Bogota police cadet training academy, and 68 were wounded — the worst such incident in the city in 16 years.

The defense ministry said the "terrorist act" was carried out using a vehicle packed with 80 kilograms (around 175 pounds) of explosives.

"Unfortunately, the preliminary toll is 21 people dead, including the person responsible for the incident, and 68 wounded," Colombian police said in a statement, adding 58

of those injured had been discharged from hospital. The defense ministry had previously reported 11 dead and 65 injured.

"All Colombians reject terrorism and we're united in fighting it," President Ivan Duque tweeted in the aftermath. Later in a statement to the nation, he said he had ordered reinforcements to Colombia's borders and routes in and out of cities.

"I have also requested that priority be given to all the investigations... To identify the masterminds of this terrorist attack and their accomplices," he said. The bomber -- who authorities confirmed was killed

in the attack -- struck at the General Francisco de Paula Santander Officer's School in the south of Bogota during a promotion ceremony for cadets.

No group has claimed responsibility, but public prosecutor Nestor Humberto Martinez named suspect Jose Aldemar Rojas Rodriguez as the "material author of this abominable crime". Martinez said Rojas Rodriguez entered the school compound at 9:30 am (1430 GMT) driving a grey 1993 Nissan Patrol truck, but gave no details about the explosion.

**DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Vinnyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivajik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017.  
Website: www.derc.gov.in  
Telefax: +91-11-26673608, +91-11-41080417

## Draft DERC (Power System Development Fund) Regulations, 2019

In exercise of powers conferred under Section 181 (1) and Section 181 (2) (zo) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Act 36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has prepared the Draft DERC (Power System Development Fund) Regulations, 2019.

The said Draft Regulations are available on the website of the Commission <http://derc.gov.in/>

The stakeholders are requested to forward their suggestions on the said Draft Regulations to the Commission, latest by 5:00 PM on 20/02/2019. The suggestions may be forwarded to Secretary, DERC either by post or through e-mail to [secyderc@nic.in](mailto:secyderc@nic.in)

Dated: 11th January, 2019  
DIP/Shabdarth/2773/18-19 Secretary, DERC

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**  
Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, Head quarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, Publication in newspaper of E-Tender Notices for procurement of Small Track Machines, spare thereof and Spare parts for Track machines has been stopped by the office of Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, Head quarters office. Firm's desires to participate in tenders for procurement of Small Track Machines, spares thereof and Spare parts for Track machines Northern Railway are requested to visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) regularly after registering themselves on this portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only. Notice No. 219-S/1/TMC/2018-19 Dated: 16.01.2019. 109/2019

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Notice for Potential Bidders for Commercial Earning Contracts**  
Fireproof division, Northern Railways is in the process of progressively switching over to E-Tendering for Commercial Earning Contracts from January, 2019. The electronic tenders (E-Tenders) will be uploaded on Indian Railway E-Tendering portal (IREPS) i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and for such electronic tenders the offers shall be submitted by the bidders online on IREPS portal. Submission of manual offers against electronic tenders is not allowed, and any manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. This would inter-alia include all earning tenders viz. parking (Normal and App based), catering, Commercial Publicity, SLR/VPU leasing, ATMs, Pay & Use Toilets etc.

For submission of electronic offers, the bidders will have to get themselves registered on the IREPS portal. Registration in IREPS portal is an online process and no charges are to be paid for such registration. Interested contractors can access online registration form by clicking on **New Vendors/Contractors (E-Tender)** link on the Home page of IREPS portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in))

For Registration, and also submission of electronic offers the Contractors will need a **class III Digital Signing Certificate with Company Name/Individual** issued by any Certifying Authority (CA) authorized by Controller of Certifying Authorities i.e. CCA, India. The list of Certifying Authorities from whom such Digital Signing Certificate can be obtained is available on the website of Controller of Certifying Authorities ([www.cca.gov.in](http://www.cca.gov.in))

Registration on IREPS portal usually takes 3-4 working days. Interested Bidders are requested to arrange the Digital Signing Certificate, and submit their request for registration at the earliest to avoid any inconvenience in submission of offers.

A permanent helpdesk is available to clarify the doubts of the contractors and assist them on various aspects of E-tendering viz. registration, online payments, bid submission etc. Assistance from the Help Desk can be obtained telephonically or through e-mail. The timings of helpdesk, email and telephone numbers etc. can be accessed through Helpdesk link on the Home page of the IREPS portal.

No. MC/38015/PUB/POLICY/18 Dated: 16.01.2019  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 104/2019

**The Executive Engineer, Udaipur Division, PWD(R&B), Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No 16/EE/UDP-DIVN/UDP/2018-19 DATED 07.01.2019**

For Development of Jagannath Dighi at Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura / Development of Waterfront and construction of Toilet block.

With Estimated cost: ₹2,70,64,238.00, Earnest Money : ₹2,70,642.00  
Time of Completion - 12 (twelve) months. Last Date of bidding for bids - 06.02.2019, upto 15.00Hrs

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in/>  
[www.tripuratoday.com/www.tripurainfo.com/](http://www.tripuratoday.com/www.tripurainfo.com/)  
[www.tripuraindia.com/www.neindia.com/www.tripurachronicle.in](http://www.tripuraindia.com/www.neindia.com/www.tripurachronicle.in)

**NOTE: \*NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER\***

Sd/- Executive Engineer Udaipur Division, PWD(R&B) ICA/C-2262/19

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Amit Dhall, S/o Sh. Ramesh Dhall, R/o: D-60A, 2nd floor, Saraswati Garden, Kirti Nagar, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) offence in case FIR No. 107/09 u/s 420/406 IPC registered at P.S. Naraina, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person Amit Dhall cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Amit Dhall has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Amit Dhall of case FIR No. 107/09 u/s 420/406 IPC, at P.S. Naraina, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 22.02.2019.

By Order  
Ms. Manisha Tripathy  
Metropolitan Magistrate-3,  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi  
DP/8083/WD/19

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is publicly notified that residential EWS House No. 125, Block-C, Sector-22, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., allottee of Sh. Kar Hishar Lal Grover S/o Sh. Hari Mal Gover R/o 1-125, Sector-22, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., had sold on the basis of General Power of Attorney to the following person.

The General Power of Attorney was registered on dated 02.12.1905 in the name of Mr. Balam Singh S/o Sh. Kalyan Singh R/o 1-125, Sector-22, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. and Agreement to Sell is executing in favour of Smt. Jamroli Devi W/o Sh. Balam Singh R/o 1-125, Sector-22, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., which is not registered. Because an Agreement to Sell is not registered so it is publicly notified that the transfer of the property bearing residential EWS House No. 125, Block-C, Sector-22, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. is going to be transfer in the name of Smt. Jamroli Devi W/o Sh. Balam Singh R/o 1-125, Sector-22, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. If some one has any objection he/she file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Housing Department(H) of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Balam Singh

**NOTICE**  
A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Achint Jain S/o Mr. Sachin Kumar Jain R/o E-20, Sector-40, Noida and Ms. Priyanka D/o Mr. Mahesh R/o Flat No.106, Florence-C, 1st Floor, Grand Omaze Society, Sector-93B, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 13-02-2019 in the office of the undersigned. Marriage Officer Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My clients Sh. Asha Ram S/o Sh. Sumer Chand and Smt. Geeta W/o Sh. Asha Ram both R/o A-374, Amar Puri, Ram Nagar, Nabi Karim, Central Delhi-110055, have severed their relations and debarred their son Ashok and daughter-in-Law Preeti from all their moveable-immovable properties due to their misbehavior and misconduct. My clients and their family members shall not be responsible for their any act(s) transaction(s).  
Y. K. Sharma (Advocate)  
Karkardoma Court, Delhi

**Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited**  
CIN - U93000BR2018SGC038181  
Registered Office - First Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda  
[biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com](mailto:biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com) +91-6112-232272

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
(<https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>)  
Tender Notice No: BSSCL 11/18-19

Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited, Bihar Sharif invites online Bids on two stage system for the following works:

NIT Reference No.	Name of Project/ Work(s)	Approximate Cost of Project in Crore (Without Taxes)	Bid Security / (Earnest Money) (Rs.)	Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (Rs.)
Tender No: BSSCL 11/18-19	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF MASTER SYSTEM INTEGRATOR FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED COMMAND & CONTROL CENTER AND E GOVERNANCE BASED SMART CITY SOLUTION AT BIHARSHARIF	103.61 (Rupees One Hundred Three Crore Sixty One Lakhs only)	2,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Only)	10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) + Extra Charge (online fee) as per BELTRON web portal

**1. Important Dates of RFB as mentioned below:**

NIT Reference No.	Availability of Tender on-line for Requesting	Last Date & Time for on-line Submission of Bids	Date & Time of opening of tender
Tender No: BSSCL 11/18-19	From: 28-01-2019 1100 hrs. To: 12-03-2019 1700 hrs.	13-03-2019 1700 hrs.	19-03-2019 1500 hrs. To be Notified.

**2. A Pre-Bid meeting is as mentioned below:**

NIT Reference No.	Meeting Schedule	Venue
Tender No: BSSCL 11/18-19	Date: 11-02-2019; Time: 1100 hrs.	Place: 1st Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda, Bihar

**3. Last Date and Place for submitting the DD for Bid Security / (Earnest Money), Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (Original Copy) and another documents as per RFP.**

NIT Reference No.	Schedule	Venue
Tender No: BSSCL 11/18-19	Date: 19-03-2019; Time: 1300 hrs.	Place: 1st Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda, Bihar, PIN - 803101

**1. For additional details such as estimated cost, important date, detailed information, qualification and eligibility criteria, visit website <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON> for downloading of RFB**

**2. For participating in the above e-tender, the bidders shall have to get them registered with <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON> and get user ID, password, Class 2 or 3 digital signatures Certificate (DSC) is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification/ difficulty/ regarding e-tendering process bidders can contact helpdesk on the phone numbers mentioned in the Website.**

**3. The bidders should keep checking the website for any addenda/corrigenda and the bidder should incorporate the same in their bid documents. No addenda/corrigenda shall be published in the newspaper.**

**4. RFP document can also be downloaded from link given below (but bid can only be processed through website <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>):**

NIT Reference No.	RFP document download link
Tender No: BSSCL 11/18-19	<a href="https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/biharsharif/c_ache/SHOW_DOCS/RFP_ICT.pdf">https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/biharsharif/c_ache/SHOW_DOCS/RFP_ICT.pdf</a>

5. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए [www.prdbihar.gov.in](http://www.prdbihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
Chief Executive Engineer  
Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited  
अवैध शराब एवं मादक द्रव्य को संवर्धन में सिकायत टोल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करे।  
PR No. 15076 (NL.NI.) 2018-19

SHORT CIRCUITS



**EMRAAN HASHMI**  
#Metoo is a great movement but there has to be a due process. We just jump the gun and start making accusations. We understand that the accusations have been made but there has to be some kind of process where there is some kind of investigation, so I hope that gets done for the girl.



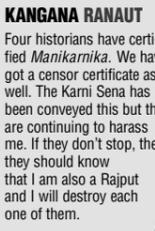
**ANKITA LOKHANDE**  
I owe every bit of my career and appreciation I have been receiving to my parents, they have been my pillars of strength through all the ups and downs. Every time I was low, they were there to boost my self-esteem. Now I am finally here making my Bollywood debut, I have never seen them happier. I thank them for being the best parents.



**VARUN DHAWAN**  
It's my fourth film with Alia Bhatt. It always feels like it's new. She is amazing in the film. And one thing that she has done great is to run very well, and I'm proud of her. She knows she is my favourite but Shanaya, Kavya, Vaidehi and... wait for it, people are going to be as blown away as I was by her and her performance.



**MIKE POSNER**  
My album is about pain, loss and the joy that comes with it. It's about getting a call that my father has a tumour the size of a tangerine in his forehead. It's about falling in love after his death. It's about having that relationship fall apart and not really knowing why. It's about somehow finding peace through it all.



**KANGANA RANAUT**  
Four historians have certified *Manikamika*. We have got a censor certificate as well. The Karni Sena has been conveyed this but they are continuing to harass me. If they don't stop, then they should know that I am also a Rajput and I will destroy each one of them.

ENCOUNTER 30 MINUTES

# A WINK AND A WONDER

One of the most under-rated actors, ARSHAD WARSI is at equal ease in both comic and serious roles. But it is the box-office window that frames the identity of a true artiste, says SAIMI SATTAR



**D**ressed in black, actor Arshad Warsi is pacing the expanse where the entire wall is made of glass. He wants to know if there is a place where he can step out or if there is a window pane which can be opened. When the person replies in the negative, he immediately says, "It is such pleasant weather. I would have loved to enjoy the cold," which sounds a little strange coming from a person who is essentially from Mumbai, a place which is not necessarily known for the mercury plummeting. Outside, it is blustery grey, even though it is way past noon. Still he would rather have a breath of fresh air. Rather he would find it despite all the greyness.

But then Arshad is known to take his own road. His latest comedy *Fraud Saiyaan* released yesterday, a genre that has a way of finding the actor. Even though he has been a part of many many comedies, notably *Munnabhai* and the *Golmaal* franchise, each of his characters has quirks that set them apart. He says, "I have been asked that each of my roles looks different compared to those essayed by other actors in comedies. First, I am lucky to get characters which are colourful and have layers even in their behaviour and eccentricities. I simply follow my director. I ask the writer what the character is like and with that information, I add a little bit of me to develop it further. Five different writers write five different characters and if I follow their vision, then I would be playing each one distinctly. Otherwise where is the fun?" In the same breath, the 50-year-old, who never tires of a good laugh, goes on to add that he would never play a role similar to Circuit, the much-loved sidekick of Munnabhai, again. "I was inundated with similar roles after the film but I did not take any of them up," he specifies.

When one prods him further about what went into his iconic character, he confesses that he had no idea that Circuit would have such a mass appeal. "I didn't expect anything of it. I went to Raju and told him 'why are you making me do this? It straightaway takes me away from hero, second hero or even sup-

porting cast and categorises me straightaway into a character role. He replied, 'it is good for me but it might not be good for you. I did it because I like Raju. I knew it was a good film and would do well. But if I give you the script, you will know why I am saying that I had no hopes for the character,' he adds.

In hindsight, he feels fortunate as an actor that a character that he has played despite his better judgment will be remembered for eternity. "It does not happen very often and such roles can actually be counted on your fingers," he says.

Coming to his latest role, he says that he plays an out-and-out bad guy as people like to see such characters on the big screen. "It is inspired by the real life of a person who married several women and was living off them. The writers picked that idea and wrote the script," he says. There were several reasons why Arshad, who says that he is extremely picky about his choices, did this film which could teeter on the edge of misogyny, according to critics. "A comedy film from Prakash Jha was interesting as he does credible stuff. There can be no buffoonery because he does not work like that. I heard the script and liked it. For instance, there is one shot which is also featured in the promo where he is trying to woo a woman in a strange language and manner. If you mute that scene, it seems to be serious but when you put on the volume, it is an utterly ridiculous conversation. It is the language, mentality and sensibility of the person which is funny," he says.

Arshad points out that though he appears to be doing a lot more comedies than serious films, he defies categorisation. "The comedies that I am doing are the ones that are sequels and I am obliged to do these. Truth is that most scripts which are coming to me are terrible. On my way from Mumbai to Delhi, I read five scripts, one more terrible than the other and I got off the plane and rejected all of them," he says.

But with the change and improvement in content, isn't better work coming to him now considering the fact that he has been called one of the most underrated actors by

the likes of Naseeruddin Shah? "The truth is great scripts come from good writers who incidentally have access to big stars, the likes of Shahrukh, Salman and Aamir, so why will they cast me? That is the reality," he says nonchalantly with a shrug. He goes on to add that the last interesting film that he acted in was *Jolly LLB*, which released in 2013.

He believes that the audience is not stupid and can tell a good film apart from a bad one. "They can say this is a good film and that one made a lot of money but was not great," he says but further explains, "All of us want to see a film with stars and stardom won't die. But looking at the trend last year where the big films without content flopped, the stars will have to pick up scripts that are worthy of them being in it."

The audience is a lot more discerning and can pick out the good films from the bad as they are exposed to all kinds of cinema from all over the world. "Even children know what is good and what is bad," he says. He believes that this is the reason that many of the so-called stars are also doing interesting content-driven films. "In a *Dangal* for instance, an Aamir will get into a *dhoti*, go to a village and shoot which is the way it is supposed to be done. Earlier, this would have been called an art film but now the gap is being bridged. There were two kinds of films earlier — commercial and art and that is now merging into content-driven films. But five or 10 years ago, we would have called it an art film. Now everything is on the same level, waiting to be taken by everybody."

The actor is, therefore, working on a web series for giving full play to his creative energies, *Asura*, on Voot, which is a psychological thriller murder mystery and will be out by May. And there is *Total Dhamaal* releasing next month. "I start working on *Pagalpanti* which is Anees Bazmi's film with John, Illeana, Saurabh and Pulkit. It is a silly comedy which people love and which will make a lot of money," he says. Arshad has dabbled in serious films as comfortably but hasn't had a recall though. "I don't have a fear of acting. There are a lot of actors who say *Humse comedy hoti nahin*. I do both happi-

ly without getting stressed. I just listen to the script and I go ahead if I like it. My serious stuff happens on the web and my funny stuff on the big screen. So all is good," he says.

He goes on to add that it takes a lot to get him out of the house and "so it should be worth it. I do not want to keep going on and on to realise that my whole life has gone without doing anything besides work. My son is 14 and my daughter is 11. In some years they won't need me. But work will keep on happening," says the actor who made his debut with the film *Tere Mere Sapney* in 1996.

Incidentally, it was the *tapori* number, *Ankh Marey*, from this film that was recently featured in *Simmiba* starring Ranveer Singh and Sara Ali Khan. He unabashedly admits that he is happy that people like the original better and recalls that his friend Tisca Chopra called him during the screening to tell him that people were clapping, singing and whistling when he came on screen. "They clapped not because I appeared on screen; I think they clapped because I would be gone in 10 seconds," he says, underplaying the moment of glory.

And since no interview can be completed without references to the #MeToo movement, particularly when it concerns one of his favourite directors, Raj Kumar Hirani, he says, "Of course, no predatory behaviour should be tolerated. But it works both ways. Women use their sexuality to get ahead and there are women whose sexuality is abused. Having said that, let me say that such incidents are difficult to assess. I have worked with him (Hirani) in two films. Never was there a hint of anything going wrong. He is such a positive guy. It just hit me really hard," he says.

Of course, he negotiates the question of nepotism rather well. "Let us be honest, if you are a doctor or a builder and help your son become one, then it is acceptable. So why are the same standards not applied to the industry?" he counters questions. But as an outsider, who has a hard time side-stepping clichés to keep himself relevant, he knows what entitlement can do to a fine actor like him.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 40 MINUTES

The exhilarating journey of the Winchester brothers continues as *Supernatural* enters its 14th season. Sam (Jared Padalecki) and Dean (Jensen Ackles) have spent their lives on the road, battling every kind of supernatural threat. Over the years, after countless adventures, they have faced vampires, ghosts, demons, shapeshifters, angels and fallen gods — but what will the brothers encounter next?

**What is the underlying theme of season 14?**  
In the previous season, the theme was essentially about bringing the family back together. It was about finding Mary (Samantha Smith) and bringing Jack (Alexander Calvert) into the fold. Now the family is back together, but Dean is missing. He is the rock upon which people have relied since the dawn of the show. What happens when he's gone? How does that affect everyone? How and when he does come back, how does that affect everyone? Season 14, in that sense, is the prodigal son's story.

**In the season 13 finale, Dean agreed to become Michael's vessel. Will Dean be Michael in season 14?**  
No. He will not be Michael the whole season but it's not something that we're going to tie off by the end of episode two. It will take a while.

**What challenges did you face while writing Michael's character?**  
As much as our guys evolve every season, Michael has also changed a little by the end of the previous season. We peeled back the onion. This warlord of apocalypse in the first episode of season 13 was very different from the character at the end of the season. You soon realised that he's actually quite disappointed with how things worked out. He comes to our world with a second character. In that sense, it's the same character — but presented in a different way.

**How much did you enjoy writing for Jensen Ackles?**

## The prodigal son's story

While the makers are waiting for the ratings game to decide whether to end *Supernatural* or not, writer ANDREW DABB has some surprises. By TEAM VIVA



When you're writing for someone like Jensen, you know that whatever you're writing, he's going to make it better. That's across the board, no matter what it is. When you're writing for Dean, there's a temptation to put jokes in there — but that's much harder to do with Michael. He's not very pop culture-savvy. He's not a laugh riot. He has a mean sense of humour, so there's been a little bit of an adjustment — but anything we give Jensen, he knocks out of the park.

**Besides Michael, are there going to be any other 'big bad' characters in season 14?**  
I think Michael is going to be the big problem. When you've got someone like him on the loose, suddenly the werewolf alpha doesn't seem like too

much of a concern. That will be the focus for everyone.

**How does the fact that Michael is on the loose impact the happenings in heaven and hell?**

The Michael we saw in *Apocalypse World* had a very crystallised view towards all the different factions. Angels were on his side. There were no rogue angels fighting Michael. Those have been weeded out. Demons were the enemy and they have largely been eliminated. Humans are really the only thorn in his side but they were in the process of being eliminated. When Michael comes to our world, he's got a problem. There are only five angels left in our world, so making an angel army is impossible. The demons are a bit in disarray because Crowley (Mark

Sheppard) is gone and there's really no clear leadership. Humanity is as it always is, which is chaotic and weird. So you've got a Michael who wants a similar thing. He wants a power base. I think there's a question of where that power base is going to come from, because his go-to place, heaven, is really not in position to help him in the way he'd like to be helped.

**There are fewer episodes in season 14. Does it point towards the show's end?**

There are a lot of shows that have far fewer episodes than we do. There are shows with six, eight and 10 episodes. Most shows now are closer to 13, which include almost every streaming show, so we still have significantly more than everyone else. I think Jared and Jensen want to spend more time with their families, which I think is admirable, but we will change up the storytelling a little to accommodate the shorter run. For us in the writer's room, we have to crank back a little bit on the mythology because we can't do quite as much — but that's not always a bad thing. And then we are going to have to crank back a couple of the standalone mysteries, which again is not always a bad thing. Our hope is to create 20 episodes that are better than the 23 that came before, but there's going to be a different rhythm to the season, which is something we're still trying to figure out.

**Do you have any message to the fans to assure them that season 14 isn't the final season of *Supernatural*?**  
At this point, I would certainly hope that we would get a really strong heads up if this was our final season. We have not received that, so we're not going into

it thinking this is the last year. You never know. The ratings gods are fickle. But should it happen to be the final season, we have ideas to wrap it up. However, I would be very surprised if this was our last season.

**There were some amazingly crazy storylines in season 13, including the Scooby-Doo episode. Will there be anything similar in season 14?**

I don't know if we could ever go as crazy as Scooby-Doo again. That episode was 18 months in the making. I think we have some interesting meta things in mind for season 14; some are more on the comedic side and some are more on the heartfelt side, but there's nothing quite as crazy as Scooby-Doo. We think the stuff coming up is pretty cool.

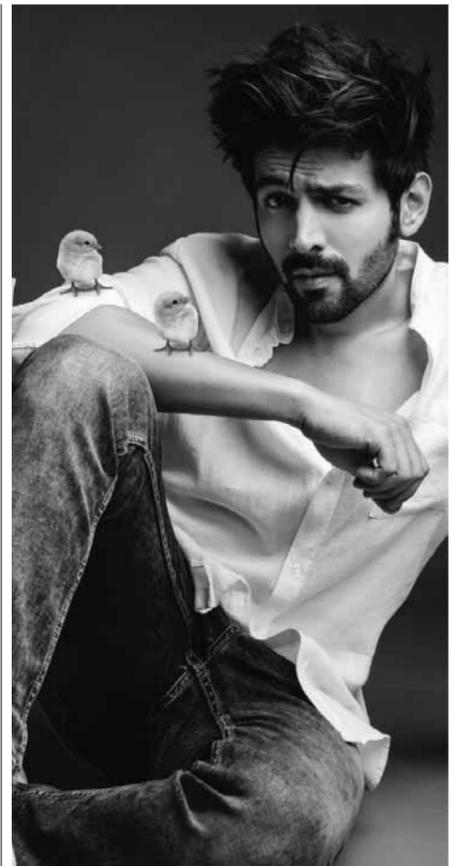
***Supernatural* will celebrate its 300th episode in season 14. Have you planned anything special for the occasion?**

The 100th episode of *Supernatural* was a very conventional episode. There were very few nods that it was anything special at all. For the 200th episode, we went in the exact opposite direction. It was very meta and very fan-based. For the 300th episode, we want to split the difference.

**What can you tease about the story of the 300th episode?**

A writer named Meredith Glynn came up with the seed of the idea. Sam and Dean live in this bunker. They've lived there for a number of years. This bunker is in a place called Lebanon, Kansas. We've never seen what the people of Lebanon think of Sam and Dean; these two guys that come to the bar, who drive the car through the town and go to the laundromat with their shirts covered in blood. We're going to explore that world. It becomes a story about Sam and Dean but it allows us to make it a bit of a love letter to them. It's going to be fun.

(The show airs from January 31 at 10 pm on AXN.)



"Chicks love a vegetarian." A new tongue-in-cheek campaign by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, features heartthrob Kartik Aaryan. "It only took one video of animals suffering and dying in the meat industry to convince me to go vegetarian. The kindest thing anybody can do for cows, pigs, chickens, and all animals is to stop eating them," the actor said.

WEB WORLD 60 MINUTES

MUSIC MAKER 25 MINUTES

# GIRL GANGS AGAIN

Four young actors didn't shy away from revealing their lovable imperfections while navigating the perils of modern life in their path-breaking new show, says AYUSHI SHARMA

Hindi movies of yore would have you believe that it was only men who knew how to have long-term friendships that saw you through the highs and lows of life. So it took a good 18 years after *Dil Chahta Hai* and seven after *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* that we finally had *Veere Di Wedding* and an online series *The Trip*, a definitive film on female-bonding where four women didn't shy away from revealing their lovable imperfections while navigating the perils of modern life. And close on its heels follows a series, *Four More Shots Please*, starring, Kirti Kulhari, Sayani Gupta, Bani J, Maanvi Gagroo and Lisa Ray which will be streamed on Amazon Prime from January 25.

The storyline features four friends. Anjana (Kirti) is a single mother who hasn't had sex since the birth of her four-year-old daughter. Damini (Sayani) is a journalist who prefers pleasuring herself to a relationship. Umang (Bani) is bisexual and looking for adventure, while Siddhi (Maanvi) is a virgin whose love life is closely scrutinised by her mother. All these women are also juggling their careers alongside their personal lives.

From the storyline, the series appears to be quite similar in content to *Veere Di Wedding* and *The Trip*. However, Kirti and Maanvi interestingly shared that "we had already finished shooting for the series and the film was released much later. When the first look of the film came we were like oh my god, it's so similar to our show, what do we do now. But trust us, besides the fact that there are four sassy, funny and glamorous girls, our show is completely different. It also packs an emotional punch which tugs at your heart when you least expect it."

Kirti insisted, "I don't understand same *kya hota hai?* There are just four girls and the similarity ends then and there itself."

Maanvi further added to Kirti's point, "Haven't you seen *Dil Chahta Hai* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara?* Both had three men but were poles apart, right?"

They explained that a story is not a situation but rather it is a view of what



the director brings out from the characters. Though the structure might be similar to *Veere Di Wedding*, or *The Trip* but how the characters are treated, portrayed and executed is different.

In this series the characters are very distinct from each other without being perfect. Rather they celebrated their flaws and were even aspirational.

Sayani agreed that comparisons are

bound to happen because a lot of time people watch a film and say, "this movie reminds me of that film. It's a natural process, to get associations."

Having said that she explained why they ended up saying yes to this one was because they had not seen or heard anything of this sort before.

Sayani's somebody who does not like to overtly publicise her political views but prefers to let her work represent the ide-

“ IN ART THERE CANNOT BE ANY KIND OF CENSORSHIP BECAUSE IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF THE ARTIST. IF YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY IN THE WAY YOU WANT TO, GO AHEAD AND DO IT ”

ology she believes in. Her character Damini is extremely advanced, detailed and complex. She says, "I have done a lot of female-centric work but it's the kind of role that any actor would like to sink her teeth into," she said.

Recently, there were reports that the centre is planning censorship on the digital medium as well. Bani and Sayani stand completely against any kind of censorship.

Sayani believes that in art there cannot be any kind of censorship because it's an expression of the artist. If you want to tell your story in the way you want to, go ahead and do it. But if somebody else is making a film who are you to object to it? She said, "Online platforms also have +13 and +18 certification, which is great. By that, one gets to know which show comes under what category. But watching a show depends on personal conscience and interests. I think nobody can tell you how to make your art. I love the criteria of self-censoring, it's brilliant."

On the other hand, Bani feels the same, she said, "With great freedom comes great responsibility. I might understand why there's a need to put censorship on digital medium, but it's the responsibility of the makers, the writers and the audience as well. Just be a little more in charge of the projects you choose and how you execute them. Be sensitive to the fact that we are still living in a third world country where there are some very conservative people. At the same time, we also have a large population of youth and we need to cater to them in a responsible fashion."

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



## The fire within

British-Indian singer-songwriter SHAHIN BADAR's new single *Jaag* celebrates womanhood and liberation. By CHAHAK MITTAL

Music is an indirect medium of communicating ideas that need attention. As feminism increasingly crawls into lyrics of songs, one such is UK-based British-Indian singer-songwriter Shahin Badar's newest single, *Jaag*.

For her, the song signifies the strength of womanhood. She says, "With disrespect on the rise, every woman needs a brother in society who acknowledges her strength and beauty." It astutely studies power equations and admonishes a misogynistic society. The term, that means to 'wake up' or 'rise', in Hindi, celebrates women empowerment and encompasses the themes of "liberation and self-love." Shahin explains that it brings to the fore the idea of waking up and recognising self-beauty, love and freedom from the negative remarks of the society against women.

Through her experiences and conversations, she realised, that because of all the socio-economic changes there has been a lot of manipulation. "Lines were crossed and many things shouldn't have been tolerated. There is also a need for spirituality and humility among both men and women so that each of us can rise above the afflictions caused by negative forces," she says.

The singer says that she has mostly worked on songs which were sent to her by music production companies. However, she penned *Jaag* keeping in mind the idea of womanhood and respect.

The versatile award-winning singer has collaborated with a number of Indian and internationally-acclaimed music composers, exploring global music genres like EDM, Pop, Trance, House, Sufi, as well as the Indian music scene.

She says that she was enriched by Arabic music as she grew up in Kuwait. "However," she says, "In UK, I got connected to an environment where there were different kinds of dance and music. I met people who opened the doors of music and production for me. Since then, I started exploring various genres and collaborating with many UK-based artists." And combining them led to the creation of sounds that could be termed "eclectic."

The singer says that she didn't wish to be "generalised" or even "confined" to one thing. Hence, "I decided to put all my ideas to paper and then record it."

For someone, who has never had direct encounters with the culture of India, developing an interest in the country's music is intriguing. Shahin attributes it to her teacher and *ghazal* writer mother, who she is a huge source of inspiration. She was officially known to be the 'second Lata Mangeshkar' in her town in Gujarat. "And she used to sing the Indian National Anthem in the state on All India Radio (AIR). However, her conservative family never let her pursue her dream of becoming a musician." With such a background it is not surprising that she was drawn towards Hindustani classical music which expanded her vision further.

In fact Shahin's teenage years prominently featured Indian music that was "usually played all day long in the house and I would always sing along with my mother. She helped me to sing better. There were social gatherings especially to celebrate music where I would meet producers and composers."

It was in 2004 when *Dol Dol* from *Aayutha Ezhuthu* had released and everyone noticed the singer's collaboration with composer AR Rahman. Shahin says that it was "a dream come true. I was very honoured to have worked with him."

The multiple awards-winning artist says that the most important thing is the person behind that award who shows respect and humility towards one's work and voice. She says, "I find it very intriguing. Winning awards has been the most uplifting part of my career. It makes a person reach out to the soul so that ideas and enthusiasm just come naturally."

Among all the other music genres, she has loved the Indian music scene the most. She says, "I feel it gives you the freedom of expression."

However, she opposes certain trends that the Indian music industry and even the audience are adopting these days. "Many music composers in India say that people today wanted to hear tracks that are similar to the other hit songs. And that is why you see the rise of the remakes. It was very disheartening. Hence, I would say that the industry is yet to evolve. This is just ignorance. Old songs are anyway a hit, they don't need remakes to be retold," she says, as she signs off.

FASHION LOG 60 MINUTES

## Queen's necklace

A Jaipur-based group has been roped in to design the jewellery for *Manikarnika, The Queen of Jhansi* which combines the flora and fauna found in Maratha region



The trend of using a particular jeweller's ornaments in Bollywood films isn't new. Any film that showcases the rich Indian legacy and heritage, has to begin with antique ornaments. It's something that the ancient rulers had cherished the most. Films like *Jodha Akbar*, *Baahubali*, *Padmaavat*, *Bajirao Mastani* are a few examples.

Well, with film — *Manikarnika, The Queen of Jhansi* — a yet another jeweller has come to fore. Amrapali Jaipur is the official designer for all the jewellery that the characters in the Kangana Ranaut-starrer wear.

Tarang Arora, creative director, says that the pieces derive inspiration from the Maratha grandeur and the 19th century. He said, "According to the briefs given by the costume designer Neeta Lulla and production house about the look, we have developed motifs which are a combination of the flora and fauna found in Maratha region as well as Jhansi."

He said that the entire collection has been specially made to create the fierce, dual persona of the fearless warrior and queen, Rani Laxmi Bai. "Each piece



has been handcrafted to achieve the preciseness and quality that the film had demanded," said he.

As per the designers, the film's script was decoded to create jewellery that "elevates the visual journey for the viewer and lends credibility to the characters."

It took around 1.5 years and 30 *karigars* (craftsmen) to create an expansive collection of 955 pieces in approximately 700 different styles. From royal *sarpechs*, delicate hair and nose pins to extravagant head ornaments, the jewellery was handcrafted in gold-plated silver and studded with semi-precious and precious stones.

"Our designers and artisans have worked tirelessly for over a year to achieve the desired aesthetics that the script demanded," said Rajiv Arora and Rajesh Ajmera, co-founders.

The price of the ornaments range from ₹2,000 to ₹40,000.

Along with Kangana, the rest of the film's cast will also be seen wearing the jewellery.

# SHARAPOVA SENDS WOZNIACKI PACKING

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Maria Sharapova stunned defending champion Caroline Wozniacki to sweep into the Australian Open last 16 on Friday and join ice men Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, who clinically disposed of their opponents.

The Russian five-time Grand Slam winner, who has struggled since returning from a drugs ban in 2017, was at full throttle in ending the Dane's dream of a second major title.

Sharapova won 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 with the roof closed on Rod Laver Arena and will next play in-form local hope Ashleigh Barty, who bounced Greece's Maria Sakkari, for a berth in the quarter-finals.

"I thought the level was quite high. I knew it would be a tough match," said the 2008 champion, who has been in sizzling form at the tournament as she chases her first Slam title since Roland Garros in 2014.

"These types of matches are what I train for and it was really rewarding to win that last point," added the 30th seed.

Second seed Nadal called young Australian Alex de Minaur "one of the best in the world" ahead of their evening clash, then proceeded to hand him a tennis lesson, dismantling the teenager 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

"I hit a good serve and played a solid game," said the 2009 champion who is searching for an 18th Grand Slam title.

He paid tribute to De Minaur, who saved six match points. "He's a big fighter and super quick. Alex has an amazing future."

Nadal's reward is a meeting with Tomas Berdych, who rallied



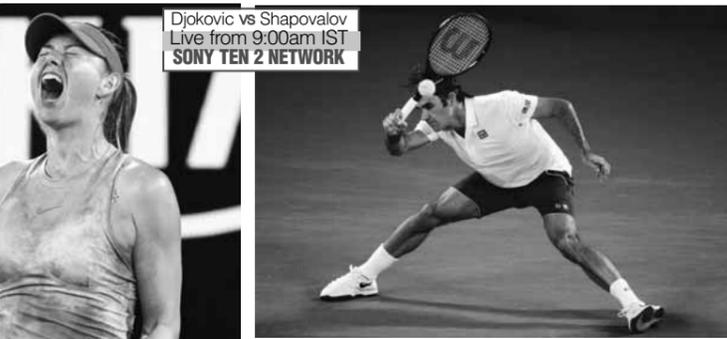
Maria Sharapova celebrates a point win over Caroline Wozniacki during their third round match at the Australian Open championship in Melbourne

to beat Argentine 18th seed Diego Schwartzman 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

The Czech veteran reached the semi-finals in 2014 and 2015 but is unseeded this year as he returns from a back injury that almost forced his retirement last year.

Swiss great Federer was also on fire in taming big-serving American Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 to stay on track for a third successive title at Melbourne Park and a 21st Grand Slam crown.

On a rain-affected day that



Djokovic vs Shapovalov  
Live from 9:00am IST  
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK



become the first man ever to claim seven or more crowns at two Slams, having already won eight Wimbledon.

Next up for him is fiery Greek 14th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who beat Georgia's 19th seed Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

The man who lost to Federer in the final last year, Marin Cilic, battled back from two sets down, surviving two match points to beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco in a 4hr 18min epic.

## 'MY BRAND OF TENNIS'

Barty beat Greece's Sakkari 7-5, 6-1, with the 15th seed yet to drop a set in her best performance at Melbourne Park.

She has won seven of eight matches this month to back up a title victory in Zhuhai late last year to shape up as a dangerous oppo-

nent for Sharapova. "It's getting to the point now where I'm feeling more and more comfortable on the court and can play my brand of tennis, which when I execute I know it works against the best in the world," said a confident Barty.

No Australian woman has won the season-opening Grand Slam at Melbourne Park since Christine O'Neill in 1978.

Germany's second seed Angelique Kerber, the 2016 title winner, steamrolled Australian youngster Kimberley Birrell 6-1, 6-0 as the Wimbledon champions continued her under-the-radar progress.

Meanwhile, unseeded American Amanda Anisimova continued her dream run, ousting 11th seed Aryna Sabalenka in straight sets. The 17-year-old will play eighth seed Petra Kvitova for a place in the quarter-finals.

Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova also advanced, crushing Aliaksandra Sasnovich for a showdown with fifth seed Sloane Stephens.

# EAST BENGAL SECURE 1-0 WIN AGAINST ARROWS

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A Jamie Santos Colado strike in the second half helped East Bengal beat Indian Arrows 1-0 to jump to the second place in the I-League here on Friday.

Santos scored the all-important goal in the 48th minute at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.

The Kolkata giants now have 22 points -- five shy of leaders Chennai City FC -- from 12 matches.

The Arrows remain at eighth position with 13 points after an equal number of games.

East Bengal's Spanish coach Alejandro Garcia made two changes to the starting eleven from their previous game against Chennai. Regular Lalrindika Ralte was suspended and Kamalpreet got a start while Samad Ali Mallick sat on the bench as Lalram Chullova came back after suspension.

The Arrows coach Floyd Pinto fielded an unchanged side from their 3-0 victory against Shillong Lajong in their previous game.

It was Santos who had the first shot at goal in the 12th minute when he latched onto a second ball but his attempt was off target.

He then fed Joby Justin from the right flank but the striker's header was well collected by Prabhukhan Gill at the Arrows goal. The closest East Bengal came to scoring in the first half was when Frenchman Kassim Aidara's scorching from 20-25 yards out off a loose ball hit the right upright and came back.

The winning goal came just three minutes into the second half. Joby latched on to a ball on the right flank, just a minute after he had attempted another wonderful cross from the same position, but this time cut the ball back into the box instead of driving it across.

The ball seemed to have been intercepted by the Arrows defence, but they fumbled and Santos, lurking around, pounced on the opening and blasted it into the net.

The Arrows then had a couple of chances but KP Rahul's shot hit the side-netting in the 81st minute.

In the 84th, Joby again found Santos with a cross after darting inside the box but the Spaniard could not connect it.

Defender Borja Gomez was adjudged Hero of the Match and left-back Manoj Mohammad saw red in injury time as the game drew to a fiery close.



# Lukaku on outside looking in new-look Man Utd

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Romelu Lukaku's Manchester United future is in the spotlight as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer plots to maintain his 100 percent winning record against Brighton on Saturday.

Solskjaer is the first manager in the club's history to begin his career with six straight victories and the feel-good factor is back at Old Trafford after a miserable spell under Jose Mourinho.

A former super-sub himself, Solskjaer warned his players when he took over from Mourinho that some would have to take the opportunities given to them from the bench, and Belgium striker Lukaku has been one of the losers from the switch in tactics and positive vibes that have arrived under the Norwegian interim boss.

Mourinho stood loyally by the 25-year-old despite a drop in form and productivity during a season that eventually cost the manager his job.

Solskjaer's own decision about the forward positions was made for him when he took over at Old Trafford before Christmas, with Lukaku on leave from the club for personal reasons.

That meant the

Norwegian was able to play with a more dynamic, versatile and speedy forward line for his debut game at Cardiff, and he has not looked back since that 5-1 victory.

Marcus Rashford has been the main beneficiary, starting all five league games under Solskjaer and scoring four goals while operating as the focal point of the United attack.

Behind him, Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard have also made telling contributions, with French international Martial, in particular, appearing to benefit from an end to his fraught relationship with Mourinho.

As part of that tactical reshuffle, Solskjaer has also been able to get more out of Martial's compatriot Paul Pogba by pushing him into a more advanced midfield position. It has left a question mark over Lukaku's role in this new attacking set-up.

Despite his recent lack of playing time, Sanchez would appear to be a better fit for Solskjaer's preferred style of play than Lukaku, with his versatility and mobility meaning he can fill a variety of attacking roles.

Reading. Lukaku has been making his mark as an impact substitute but that is not the usual role of a player bought for 75 million pounds (\$97 million), plus add-ons.

Alexis Sanchez will also present Solskjaer with an issue when he is finally fully fit from hamstring troubles that have limited him to just one start in the past two months. Chilean Sanchez is unavailable for Saturday's visit of Brighton alongside defenders Chris Smalling and Marcos Rojo.

The 30-year-old was sidelined when Solskjaer took over but played his way back to fitness, playing 27 minutes in the 2-0 win at Newcastle at the start of the month.

A recurrence of his hamstring injury, in the win over Reading a few days later, once again sent him to the treatment room, although he could be back for United's visit his former club Arsenal in the next round of the cup.

## SUBSTITUTE ROLE

Lukaku has played just 64 league minutes since Solskjaer's arrival, although the striker has managed to score twice in that time and bag a goal in his only start to date under the Norwegian, the 2-0 FA Cup win over

# FABREGAS BRACED FOR HOME DEBUT

AFP ■ MONACO

Cesc Fabregas is set for his home debut as a Monaco player, while Paris Saint-Germain look for revenge against their recent Cup conquerors Guingamp in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Cesc Fabregas got his first taste of the unusual experience of a matchday in Monaco in midweek, but the Spain star had to watch from the stands as Thierry Henry's side drew 1-1 with Nice, coached by another former Arsenal star in Patrick Vieira.

Signed from Chelsea last week, Fabregas impressed on his debut in a 1-1 draw at Marseille, but the 31-year-old was ineligible against Nice, a match that was originally due to be played in December before being postponed.

Just hours after admitting to journalists it had been a wrench to leave the Premier League, Fabregas sat next to fellow new signings Naldo, Fode Ballo-Toure and William Vainqueur to watch the Cote d'Azur derby.

Now the new signings are available again as Monaco host Strasbourg still searching for a first home win of the season as the relegation-threatened side look to climb the table.

"With the new signings we are going to do some interesting things in the weeks ahead. I am convinced of that," said



Monaco's French World Cup-winning full-back Djibril Sidibe.

On Saturday, PSG -- still unbeaten in Ligue 1 this season and 13 points clear atop the table -- host bottom-of-the-table Guingamp with revenge on their minds.

Guingamp visited the Parc des Princes just last week and won 2-1 in a League Cup quarter-final, inflicting a first domestic Cup defeat on Paris in five years.

Meanwhile the derby between Saint-Etienne and Lyon is the most authentic in the French game, and can be one of the most fiery anywhere in Europe.

Les Verts are still unbeaten at home this season and lie third in the table, two points better off than Lyon, who need to do some interesting things in the weeks ahead. I am convinced of that," said

# Saina tames Okuhara; Srikanth exits

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Saina Nehwal scripted a hard-fought straight-game win over former world champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to enter the women's singles semifinals but a fighting Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of the \$ 350,000 Malaysia Masters on Friday.

Seventh seeded Saina, who

had a 8-4 head-to-head record against Okuhara before Friday, fought back from 9-15 and 14-18 down in the two games to extend her dominance over the second-seeded Japanese with a 21-18, 23-21 win in a 48-minute quarterfinals at the Axiata Arena.

"Again a great match with @nozomi\_o11. Nice to be on the winning side .21-18 , 23-21



Saina Nehwal reacts after winning quarterfinal match against Okuhara

#quarterfinals #malaysiamasterssuper500," tweeted Saina after the match.

The 28-year-old from Hyderabad, who had won the title in 2017 and was a runners-up in the 2011 edition, will face a tough test next when she faces three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain on Saturday.

Saina has defeated Marin five times and has lost to the Spaniard as many times in the last 10 meetings.

However, Srikanth squandered a one-game advantage to go down 23-21, 16-21, 17-21 to fourth seed Korean Son Wan Ho in the men's singles quarterfinals that lasted an hour and 12 minutes.

The women's singles match started on an even keel as both Saina and Okuhara fought hard, moving together till 9-9. Okuhara registered six straight points to create a huge gap but Saina showed her mettle as she slowly erased the deficit and grabbed a 17-16 lead at one stage.

Okuhara made it 17-17 before Saina closed out the opening game by grabbing the remaining points. The Indian was 4-2 up early on in the second game but Okuhara jumped to a 8-5 lead before Saina wrested a 11-9 advantage at the break.

After the interval, Saina led till 14-12 but Okuhara reeled off six points to take a comfortable 18-14 lead. But Saina again slowly started dominating the rallies and clawed her way back to 19-19.

Okuhara then squandered two game points before Saina converted the first match point that came her way to secure the semifinal berth.

Srikanth, who was on an unbeaten run at the recently-concluded Premier Badminton League, had recovered from a 4-11 deficit to pocket the first game but he couldn't breach a 4-9 gap in the second game to allow Son to take the game into the decider.

The seventh seeded Indian then wasted a 5-1 advantage in the third game to allow Son march ahead after leading 11-10 at the break.

# Dembele nets brace in Barca's win

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona overturned a first leg defeat to beat Levante in the Copa del Rey but could yet be thrown out of the competition after being accused of fielding an ineligible player.

Barca won 3-0 at the Camp Nou on Thursday, with Lionel Messi setting up two Ousmane Dembele goals and then scoring himself to seal a 4-2 victory on aggregate.

Their place in the quarter-finals, however, is under threat after Levante president Francisco Javier Catalan confirmed shortly before kick-off that the club would lodge a complaint to the Spanish Football Federation on Friday.

Levante claim Barcelona defender Juan Brandariz 'Chumi' played illegally in the first leg as he should have been serving a suspension.

Chumi was banned after he received a yellow card playing for Barcelona's B team in the Segunda B division.

Barcelona, however, insist a change in the rules in November means the suspension does not carry over into the Copa del Rey.

Levante may feel precedent is on their side after Real Madrid were disqualified from the Copa del Rey in 2015 for fielding Denis Cheryshev, despite the player being suspended.

Madrid had overlooked Cheryshev receiving three yellow cards while playing for Villarreal in



Lionel Messi, centre, reacts after missing a chance during a Spanish Copa del Rey match between FC Barcelona and Levante at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona

the competition the previous season. before bundling the ball into the net.

Messi started, along with fellow regulars like Jordi Alba, Clement Lenglet, Ivan Rakitic and Arthur. Luis Suarez, Gerard Pique, Sergio Busquets and Marc Andre ter Stegen all began on the bench.

Barcelona were dominant from the outset, as a curling Messi free-kick was pushed wide and Philippe Coutinho, excellent again, shot over.

Messi and Arturo Vidal both went close and finally in the 30th minute, Dembele made the breakthrough, latching onto Messi's pass

# Fabinho eases burden on Reds injury-hit defence

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

An untimely series of injuries to defenders has left Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp short-handed at the back as he tries to keep the Premier League leaders on track for a first title in 29 years at home to Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold joined a growing injury list with a knee problem picked up in the warm-up ahead of last weekend's 1-0 win at Brighton that could keep the English international out for up to a month.

Centre-backs Joe Gomez, Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip are still working their way back to fitness, while the decision to let Nathaniel Clyne leave on loan to Bournemouth earlier this month has been questioned.

However, Klopp has been able to rely on the versatility of summer signing Fabinho to cover both at the heart of defence alongside the commanding Virgil van Dijk, and at right-back.

The 25-year-old, signed for nearly 40 million (\$ 51 million) from Monaco, took his time to adapt to English football, something Klopp predicted would happen as far back as July when Fabinho made his pre-season debut against non-league Chester.

But recent weeks have shown that Klopp's vision for Fabinho to serve as a vital and versatile cog in his championship-challenging squad have come to fruition.

"Fabinho is a brilliant player. To have a good footballer in that position when you have the ball is great," said Klopp.

"He has a defensive brain and can play in a lot of positions." Fabinho had played at right-back, where he has recently started for Brazil, and as a defensive midfielder for the Ligue 1 side, where he caught Klopp's eye.



important at Brighton.

Alongside the immaculate Van Dijk, Fabinho turned in a mature display as Liverpool kept a 13th clean sheet in 22 Premier League games to maintain an important four-point cushion over their closest rivals Manchester City.

"Some weeks ago, I knew this could be an option because we had some players injured and we only had two centre-backs available," Fabinho told the Liverpool website.

"When Dejan got injured, I knew it would be logical that I'd play in that position.

"I had some training sessions playing in that position, which helped me adapt better and pick up certain aspects, like positioning and movements you need to be natural at to play in this position." Fabinho had to be patient to make an impact on the Premier League.

Not until late October at struggling Huddersfield did Klopp hand him his league debut off the bench and a first start followed a week later against Cardiff in his more natural midfield role.

But the Brazilian has since started a further eight league games and his adaptability and versatility suggests he will have a considerable role to play in Liverpool's bid for honours both in the Premier League and Champions League with Van Dijk suspended for the first leg of their last-16 tie against Bayern Munich next month.

# INDIA FINISH OFF IN STYLE

Chahal clinches career best 6/42 before Dhoni and Jadhav star with bat to help India win maiden bilateral ODI series in Aus



Dhoni said: "It was a slow wicket, so it was difficult to hit whenever you wanted to. No point going after the bowlers who were bowling well, so we wanted to take it deep and that was the plan."

"Of course supported brilliantly by Kedar, who plays unorthodox shots. He did a great job in executing."

India captain Virat Kohli praised the team for the win.

"It wasn't a great wicket to bat on, so we had to take it deep, but they were professional in getting the job done," he said.

"Kedar with bat and ball is always handy. Kuldeep had played a few games, so you don't want to make things too predictable. So we brought on Yuzvendra Chahal, and he played beautifully."

It is the first time India remained unbeaten on Australian soil in all three formats and balanced as a side with the World Cup in mind," he said.

"It's been an amazing tour for us. We drew the T20 series, won the Test and the ODI series. We are feeling confident and balanced as a side with the World Cup in mind," he said.

Playing his first match in the series, Chahal sizzled with a maiden six-wicket haul to be adjudged the Man of the Match.

Meanwhile, Australian captain Aaron Finch said: "We took it down to the wire. Our batting in the first couple of games was very good. Maybe we should have set our targets lower on those sort of pitches."

"When you give great players a couple of chances, it's always tough... We did put down chances, but the boys gave it their all. Their batting in the first couple of games was very good."

## 'Dhoni is a superstar and all-time great'

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian coach Justin Langer paid tribute to Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a superstar and an all-time great of the game after the veteran wicketkeeper-batsman produced a master class run-chase in India's ODI series clinching win.

Langer was amazed by Dhoni's fitness at the age of 37 and said that playing against him has been a rich learning experience for his young side.

"He (Dhoni) is 37 years old. His running between the wickets is elite, and his fitness is elite. For him to run between the wickets for three days in a row, it was 40 degrees the other day, and play like that, he is a superstar of the game and that's what Australians should be aspiring to be — superstars of the game," Langer said at the post-match press conference.

"MS Dhoni, like Virat Kohli, like Cheteshwar Pujara in the Test series, they give us really great role models. MS Dhoni, his record, everything speaks for itself as a captain, batsman, wicketkeeper. He is literally an all-time great of the game and it has been, as hard as it is to lose, a privilege to play against those guys."

Dhoni was dropped twice — when on 0 and 74 — and Langer said that cost his side the match. He also said that Dhoni gave his young side a batting tutorial on how to go about in such a run chase.

"You drop MS Dhoni a couple of times and you don't win. You don't give great players chances. We did that tonight. We get down the 49th over and MS is there again. It was a great lesson for our squad. We talk about match winners, getting the job done — he showed us again. It is a great tutorial for our batters," he added.

"If M S Dhoni can come out and run between wickets like that after keeping wickets for 50 overs, that is the level the whole world should be aspiring to. I would be amazed if they (Australian players) don't learn from playing against those guys. For a young squad, there is no better lesson and learning to rub shoulders with great players. I'm glad we have had the experience," he said.

Dhoni copped a lot of criticism from all quarters for his slow strike-rate at the start of the series, but has sounded back with three half-centuries in three matches to be adjudged Man of the Series.

## Mahi's caliber can't be replaced: Shastri

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Ravi Shastri has seen Sachin Tendulkar get "angry at times" but not Mahendra Singh Dhoni, "a once in 40 years player" who will be very difficult to replace once he bids adieu to the game, according to India's head coach.

The 37-year-old Dhoni showed glimpses of his golden days by anchoring India to a series win with unbeaten knocks of 55 and 87.

"He is a legend. He will go down as one of our great cricketers. I have never seen an individual so sound. I have seen Sachin at times get angry. Not this man," Shastri told the 'Daily Telegraph'.

Shastri made it clear that a player of Dhoni's calibre can't be replaced.

"You can't. Such players only come once in 30 or 40 years. That is what I tell Indians. Enjoy while it lasts."



When he goes you will see a void that will be very hard to fill," he said.

The coach is hopeful that Rishabh Pant would live up to the hype surrounding him but insisted that Dhoni is something else.

When former England captain Michael Vaughan asked if Pant could be Dhoni in the next 20 years, Shastri replied: "I would love to. He has the talent. His hero is MS. Every day he is on the phone to MS. I think during the Test series he must have spoken more to MS than anyone else."

### BEST AVERAGE IN SUCCESSFUL RUN-CHASES

(min 1000 runs)					
Batsman	Country	I	Runs	AVG	100
MS Dhoni	IND	73	2783	103.07	2
Virat Kohli	IND	78	4899	97.98	21
Michael Bevan	AUS	45	1725	86.35	3
AB de Villiers	SA	59	2566	82.77	5
Joe Root	ENG	34	1556	77.80	4
Michael Clarke	AUS	53	2142	73.86	3

Melbourne. Batting at number four, Dhoni, who generally bats at number six, anchored India's chase with a 114-ball 87 not out which was studded with six boundaries.

"I am happy to bat at any number. The important thing is where the team needs me," said Dhoni, when asked where he wants to bat.

"Whether I play at 4 or 6, we need to see if the team balance can be retained. I'm happy to bat lower down at 6. I can't say I can't bat at No 6 after playing 14 years," he said after the match.

Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav shared a 121-run partnership for the unconquered fourth wicket while chasing a tricky target of 231.

Asked what the game plan was,

**DHONI'S UNBEATEN 87 OFF 114 BALLS WAS A TESTIMONY TO HIS HIGH QUALITY MATCH AWARENESS AS THE STREET-SMART KEDAR JADHAV (61 NO, 57 BALLS) DONNED THE ROLE OF A FINISHER**

AP/PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal took a record 6-42 to propel India to a seven-wicket win over Australia in the third one-day international and a 2-1 series win on Friday.

Chahal's return was not only a career-best, beating his 5-22 against South Africa, but matched the best figures in an ODI in Australia, a record held since 2004 by his compatriot, India fast bowler Ajit Aragkar.

Chahal, who missed the first two ODIs, helped India to bowl out Australia for only 230 after captain Virat Kohli won the toss on a rainy afternoon in Melbourne.

After fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar removed both Australia openers, Chahal ran through the middle and lower order to end the innings with eight balls left in their 50 overs.

Peter Handscomb's 58 from 63 balls was the only substantial contribution from an Australia batting order struggling to find consistency.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni once again closed out India's match and series victory with an unbeaten innings of 87 from 114 balls in a perfectly

paced run chase, completing the win with four balls to spare for the second consecutive match.

After putting on 54 for the third wicket with Kohli (46), a century-maker in the second ODI, Dhoni completed India's win in an unbroken partnership of 121 with Kedar Jadhav, who finished 61 not out.

Dhoni scored half-centuries in all three matches and was named man of the series. His unbeaten half-century in the second match at Sydney also saw India to victory, chasing Australia's 298, with four balls to spare.

Australia bowled exceptionally well in defense of a mediocre total. Jhye Richardson bowled his 10 overs for 27 runs, dismissing Kohli, and spinner Adam Zampa's 10 overs cost only 34 runs.

### 'CAN BAT AT ANY POSITION'

Former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Friday said he has no preference in the Indian batting order and is ready to bat at any position as per the need of the team.

Dhoni was adjudged the Man of the Series after he guided India to a comfortable seven-wicket win in

## No 4 spot need to solidified: Kohli

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India captain Virat Kohli on Friday said the number four slot in the batting line-up is still to be "solidified", months after he backed Ambati Rayudu for the position till this year's World Cup.

The skipper said that there has been a lot of experimentation at number four, and while the batting line-up at Adelaide, where Rayudu batted at four, was an ideal one, they would like to keep things mixed up until someone assumed responsibility at number four.

"If you look at that last game, Ambati Rayudu batted at four, Dhoni at five and Dinesh Karthik at six. Because we brought in Vijay Shankar and Kedar Jadhav, we didn't want Karthik to change his spot because he is doing a good job," he said after the third and final ODI of a historic tour of Australia.

Rayudu was backed for the position by Kohli during the home series against West Indies last year.

"...The middle order we saw in Adelaide is pretty much the most balanced if you look at it. The number four position, again, has been a sort of an area which we want solidified," he said.

"But because of the combinations we want to play, sometimes you have to make those changes. Anyone who



Ambati Rayudu reacts during practice session

know that there is no one more committed to Indian cricket than Mahendra Singh Dhoni and batting at number five is the ideal spot for him, said Virat Kohli in stout defense of the former captain.

Dhoni faced criticism for slow batting in the ODI series-opener in Sydney before redeeming his pride and reputation with match-winning contributions in the Adelaide and Melbourne ODIs.

Acknowledging Dhoni's contribution in the historic series-triumph in Australia, Kohli defended the former captain, saying he should be allowed breathing space.

"I think firstly as a team we are very happy for Dhoni. That he is amongst the runs, because it is very important to get runs under your belt to get that rhythm and get that confidence back. Especially when you have not been playing so much international cricket," said the India captain at the post-match press conference.

"Many things happen on the outside. People say a lot of things but as an individual we

## 'No one is more committed to Indian cricket than Dhoni'

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Virat Kohli, right, celebrates scoring a century against Australia with teammate Mahendra Singh Dhoni during the second ODI

know that there is no one more committed to Indian cricket than Dhoni and people should let him have his space because he has contributed so much for the nation.

"They should let him figure out things on his own and what he needs to do. He is one of the most intelligent cricketers and he is not someone who is not aware about what needs to be done. As a team we are totally in sync with what he is doing and we are all very happy for him," said Kohli.

The skipper also reckons that the just-concluded Australia series has proved that number five is the most logical spot for Dhoni.

"Dhoni batted at number four in 2016 for a while. But after that he has been pretty happy playing at five and six for the team. We felt that number five was the ideal position for him. And if you saw him bat at Adelaide as well he was pretty comfortable in that position because that allows him to do a bit of both — get some game time as well as finish games off, attacking as and when required," Kohli said.

# Karnataka knock out Rajasthan, enter Ranji semifinals

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Captain Manish Pandey and Karun Nair cracked brilliant half centuries as Karnataka registered a comprehensive six-wicket win over Rajasthan to storm into the semifinals of Ranji Trophy on Friday.

Pandey (87) and Nair (61) shared an unbeaten 129-run partnership for the fifth wicket in just 24.5 overs on the fourth and final day to help Karnataka chase down a tricky 184-run victory target.

Karnataka will now meet either Saurashtra or Uttar Pradesh in the semifinals.

Rajasthan had scored 224 in their first innings, riding on fifties by skipper Mahipal Lomrov (50) and Rajesh Bishnoi (79).

In reply, Karnataka put on 263 all out before returning to bundle out Rajasthan for 222 in their second innings, thus setting themselves a 184-run target.

Karnataka were 45 for 3 in 18 overs at stumps after day 3.

Starting the final day needing 139 runs to win with seven wickets in hand, the hosts lost nightwatchman Ronit More early in the morning which forced Pandey to walk into the middle.

Pandey spent some time on the wicket, before taking on the formidable Rajasthan bowling lineup.

He unleashed an array of delightful shots, cobbling up a match-winning knock in 75 balls, which was embellished with 14 boundaries and two sixes.

Karnataka chased down the remaining 14 runs in five balls as Karnataka players started to celebrate the fantastic win in the dressing room.

Nair gave an able support to Pandey, who remained unbeaten on 61, a knock decorated with six boundaries off 129 balls.

Though Pandey hogged the limelight on fourth day, Vinay Kumar's unbeaten 83 in first innings was an equally important innings as it forced Rajasthan to concede lead for first time this season.

Vinay also bagged two wickets in



Rajasthan's first innings to bag the Man of the Match.

**Brief scores:** Karnataka first and second innings: 263 all out in 87.4 overs and 185 for 4 in 47.5 overs (Manish Pandey 87 not out, Karun Nair 61 not out (Aniket Choudhary 2/32)

Rajasthan first and second innings: 224 in 77.1 overs and 222 all out in 67.2 overs (Robin Bist 44, Mahipal Lomrov 42; Krishnappa Gowtham 4/54; Shreyas Gopal 3/52, Abimanyu Mithun 2/26).

**VIDARBHA IN CONTROL**  
NAGPUR: Reigning champions Vidarbha were in complete control of their quarter-final against

Uttarakhand after taking a huge 274-run first innings lead and then striking big blows later on the fourth day of the game.

At stumps, Uttarakhand were struggling for survival at 152 for 5 in their second essay with India pacer Umesh Yadav having grabbed three of those wickets in

a fiery exhibition of fast bowling.

The visitors were adrift by 122 runs with five wickets in hand and would need to bat out of their skin to force a draw which will, however, be enough for Vidarbha to enter the semis.

Earlier, resuming at their overnight score of 559/6, Vidarbha added 70 runs to their tally before their innings ended with a massive tally of 629.

After Wasim Jaffer (206) and opener Sanjay Ramaswamy (141), Aditya Sarvate became the third centurion for the hosts when he made 102 in 185 balls, striking 11 fours, after resuming at his overnight score of 67.

Batting for the second time, openers Vineet Saxena (27) and Karnaveer Kaushal (76) gave the visitors a steady start by putting up 72 for the first wicket.

But Yadav trapped Saxena in front to end the partnership and Vidarbha bowlers came on top.

One-down Vaibhav Bhatt (0) became Yadav's second victim, while Kaushal was cleaned up by slow-left arm orthodox bowler Sarvate as Uttarakhand were reduced to 3 for 152.

Avneesh Sudha, who hit a valiant 91 in the first essay, could not repeat the feat and fell for 28 and then Vidarbha took another wicket at the far end to reduce the Ranji debutant to 152 for 5.

When stumps were drawn, first innings centurion Saurabh Rawat (0 not out) was at the crease.

While in the other quarterfinal game in Lucknow, Saurashtra need 177 runs in the final day to reach last four against Uttar Pradesh.

Chasing 372 to win, Saurashtra is batting at 195 for two wickets in 67 overs.

**Brief scores:** Uttarakhand 355 and 152 for 5 (Karnaveer Kaushal 76, Avneesh Sudha 28; Umesh Yadav 3-22) versus Vidarbha 629 (Wasim Jaffer 206, Sanjay Ramaswamy 141, Aditya Sarvate 102; D K Sharma 3-101).