

OPINION 8
FORGET THE
BRAG, GET REAL

WORLD 12
WITNESS ATTACKS 'FICTIONAL
NARRATIVE PROPAGATED BY RUSSIANS'

SPORT 15
SPURS FACE WEST
HAM IN PREMIER LEAGUE

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 15 Issue 315
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



GAVASKAR,
MY FAVOURITE:
RANI MUKHERJEE
13 VIVACITY

Cong, NCP OK Uddhav as CM

Deliberations to continue on Saturday to fix unfinished Govt agenda

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As the talks among the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress over Government formation in Maharashtra remained "inconclusive" on Friday evening, NCP president Sharad Pawar said that there was "unanimity" among the three parties over Sena president Uddhav Thackeray's choice as the Chief Minister. Senior leaders of the Congress and the NCP said they have reached "conclusions" on many issues.

At the end of a two-hour meeting among the leaders of the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress at the Nehru Centre here, there appeared to be loose ends regarding issues discussed and decisions taken in matters relating to the Government formation.

The leaders of the three parties will meet once again on Saturday to deliberate on the unfinished agenda and decide on when to stake claim for a three-party Government.

Though Pawar said there was consensus among the leaders of three parties that Uddhav would head the "Maha Vikas Agadhi" Government in the State, there was no formal confirmation from the Shiv Sena president.

Emerging out of the meet-



Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and others arrive to attend a meeting aimed at giving momentum to install a non-BJP Government in Maharashtra, at Nehru Centre in Mumbai on Friday

ing first, Pawar said, "The leadership issue settled now. There is unanimity over Uddhav Thackeray's choice as the Chief Minister. The discussion is going on other issues. After the leaders are through with the discussions, they will address a joint Press conference tomorrow and announce all the details relating to the Government formation."

On his part, Uddhav did not say anything on Pawar's

announcement about the consensus having been reached on his name as the Chief Minister of the three-party Government.

Later, Shiv Sena spokesperson Santosh Saluja was quoted by a leading Marathi channel as saying that upon the insistence by the leaders of the two alliance partners, Uddhav has agreed to accept the CM post.

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, who was to leave for

Delhi, has cancelled his trip, anticipating a meeting with the leaders of the three parties during the weekend.

NCP's national spokesperson Nawab Malik said, "Both the NCP and Congress have obtained signatures of their respective MLAs. We can go with the Shiv Sena leaders any time to the Governor and give our letters of support to the Maha Vikas Agadhi Government."

D/N pink fever pitch at Eden Gardens



Cheteshwar Pujara avoids a rising delivery during the first day of the second test match between India and Bangladesh in Kolkata on Friday

PTI ■ KOLKATA

It was a party in pink at the "City of Joy" as India began its tryst with Day/Night Tests in front of political bigwigs, galaxy of sports stars and a sell-out crowd, which ensured that Sourav Ganguly's promise of a spectacle lived up to its hype.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rang the Eden Gardens Bell ahead of the toss

here on Friday but it was the famously enthusiastic Kolkata fans, who gave the match its character.

After being reluctant for four years, India finally embraced the Day/Night format for Test cricket, following a strong push from new BCCI President Ganguly and Kolkata proved to be the perfect host.

Four days of the game are already sold out.

Tickets are also reportedly up for sale in black market

at five times their original prices, which start from Rs 150.

Spectators, a lot of them clad in pink, thronged the iconic stadium, making for the kind of carnival-like atmosphere that is now seen mostly in T20 games. The last memory of such overwhelming response to a Test was the epic 2001 game that India played against Australia and won by 171 runs following-on at the same ground.

At the BC Roy Clubhouse,

it was a pink carpet welcome for the invited dignitaries, which included the two greats of Indian sport — cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and Olympic hero Abhinav Bindra — among a host of others.

From the 50-odd groundsmen in pink-coloured clothing to a giant pink balloon hovering over the Eden sky, it was a carnival-like atmosphere that greeted anyone who cared to walk in to the Eden Gardens.

Row in Assembly over paddy procurement policy

Opp demands statement from Minister

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Assembly on Friday witnessed pandemonium and was adjourned twice due to protests by Opposition Congress and BJP members over the Government's "changed" paddy procurement policy.

Though the Question Hour was smooth, the Opposition members raised the issue during the Zero Hour and demanded a statement from Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain regarding the "changed" policy.

"Let the Minister make a statement in the House. The Labour Minister (Sushant Singh) has yesterday said the centralised token system (for paddy procurement) would be relaxed for the farmers in the Hirakud Dam command area. Is it the Government's stand?" Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik (BJP) asked.

Senior BJP member Jayanarayan Mishra also criticised the Government for making policy announcements outside the House when the Assembly is in session.

Congress Legislature Party

Leader Narasingha Mishra also raised the same issue and slammed the Government for adopting two policies in paddy procurement. "How the Government will have one policy for the farmers of Sambalpur and Bargarh districts and another for rest of the districts. Will the farmers of Kalahandi and Balangir also enjoy the same facility given to the farmers of the Hirakud command area?" Mishra asked.

Labour Minister Sushant Singh along with Deputy Government Chief Whip of Assembly Rohit Pujari had on Thursday announced in Sambalpur that the farmers can sell their paddy even without having the centralised token, a mandatory for sale of paddy in the market yards.

Both Singh and Pujari had rushed to the agitating farmers in Sambalpur and Bargarh where National Highways were blocked demanding withdrawal of the centralised token system.

Government Chief Whip Pramila Mallick said, "Relaxation for farmers in the Hirakud command area may be personal views of the Labour Minister and the Deputy Chief Whip. Both of them have not

come to the House today."

The centralised token generated from Bhubaneswar is being given to the farmers. The farmers, who get the centralised tokens, can only sell their paddy in the market yards. However, the farmers of Sambalpur and Bargarh were protesting the system and demanding its withdrawal.

Senior Congress member Santosh Singh Saluja demanded a statement from the Government, saying, "The concerned Minister does not know what the other Minister decides on the paddy procurement policy," said Saluja, adding that the House should be apprised about the development.

The Opposition members rushed to the Well of the House and shouted slogans. Unable to run the House, Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro adjourned the proceedings twice. However, normalcy returned in the House after Patro asked the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister to make a statement.

"I will collect facts and inform the House about it (change in the paddy procurement policy) on Monday," Minister Swain said.

Politicising cases relating to women is 'inhuman'

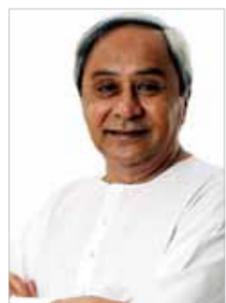
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In his bid to silence the Opposition over the mysterious death of panchayat official Smitarani Biswal in Jajpur district, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday said politicising human tragedy relating to women is "inhuman".

Patnaik was replying to the debate on the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure of the Home Department in the State Assembly. "Politicising any human tragedy especially relating to women is inhuman," Patnaik said in response to the Opposition members' daylong allegation on rising crimes against women, particularly, the death of Biswal.

Both Leader of Opposition Paridipta Naik (BJP) and Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra along with their parties' members during the debate referred to Biswal's death case and accused the Government of shielding the culprits as ruling BJD leaders are allegedly involved in it.

Patnaik in his reply said the matter should not be politicised. "Today, I am not going to make a regular statement. Forget that I am Chief Minister for 19 years or that I am president of the Biju Janata Dal," he said in



an apparent bid to keep himself above politics while speaking on the crimes against women.

Referring to the allegations, Patnaik said, "This kind of politics will never give any return. We are a mature democracy. We represent the four and half crore people of Odisha. Let us set high standards of political discourse both in the Assembly and outside."

Describing rape, murder, death of women as "extremely sad events", he said politicising them multiplies the trauma and gives a very wrong message to the people at large and young people in particular.

Patnaik said in case anyone is not satisfied with the investigation, there are legal recourses as alternative.

He assured the House that

a Government office or not for any service or entitlement. The people would get online service through common service centre or door delivery. "This is one of the biggest targets we have taken for the Government sector under the 5T character," he said.

The next big transformation the Government would like to achieve is payment of wages through banks in all the works, he said, adding that this is another huge target of 5T. "People, especially poor labourers, will be hugely benefited by this," he stated. He sought cooperation of all to take the State to next level of an empowered Odisha.

Earlier, both Pradipta Naik and Narasingha Mishra had demanded that the Smitarani Biswal death case be handed over to the CBI or a court-monitored SIT probe, registration of the case under Section 302 instead of 306 of IPC, action against the Jajpur SP for allegedly assassinating character of the dead woman and removal of Chairperson of the State Commission for Women for allegedly siding with the BJD people involved in the case.

They also came down heavily on the Government over a series of rape cases that took place at Pipli, Kunduli, Kalahandi and other places.

- ◆ Forget I say this as CM, says Naveen
- ◆ 'Take legal recourses if not satisfied with cop probe'

Banned notes worth ₹26L seized from Manipur ex-CM Ibobi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After filing a case against former Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh and others for allegedly misappropriating ₹332 crore from development funds in Manipur, the officials said on Friday the CBI carried out searches at nine locations in three cities and during searches at Singh's residence, it recovered ₹11.47 lakh in cash and ₹26.49 lakh in old demonetised currency — a crime with may lead to penalty of five times the recovered currency.

Also, the CBI seized ₹10 lakh old currency from another accused and former Project Director of MDS Y Ningthem Singh. The agency searched the residences of Singh and former IAS officers who were part of the Manipur Development Society in Aizawl, Imphal and Gurgaon, they said. As many eight luxury cars, including Audi, Mitsubishi, Honda and Hyundai were found during the searches at Singh's residence.

Singh, the then chairman of the Manipur Development Society (MDS), during his tenure from June 30, 2009 to July 6, 2017, in alleged conspiracy with others, misappropriated Government funds to the tune of ₹332 crore out of the total amount of ₹518 crore which was entrusted to them for the purpose of executing development work, the CBI said in a statement.

BBSR-Surat flights from January 20

BHUBANESWAR: The much-awaited flight services between Bhubaneswar and Surat would commence from January 20, 2020, informed Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi on Friday. In a letter to the Director of the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here, the Air India has proposed to provide the services twice a week.

As per the proposal, the flight would leave BPIA on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.40 am and reach Surat Airport at 10.40 am. Similarly, the flight would depart from the Surat airport on Fridays and Sundays at 8.30 am and reach Bhubaneswar Airport at 10.30 am.

HIGH DRAMA ON platinum year fest

- Rescued after 3 hours by Fire Services personnel
- Was under stress after losing job

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

High drama was witnessed in the Utkal University campus here on Friday, a day before the platinum jubilee celebrations of the institution on Saturday. A man climbed atop the Parija Library in the university premises and threatened to commit suicide by jumping off the building.

He was finally rescued after a three-hour-long operation by Fire Services and police personnel.

Man climbs atop Utkal Varsity building, threatens to end life

The man, identified as Subodh Barik was earlier employed with the Postal Department, is said to be a resident of Praharajpur under the Pattamundai police station of Kendrapada district. He was under severe mental stress after losing his job. Sources said he was missing for the past one month from home and a complaint in this regard had also been lodged at the Nayapalli police station in the city.

A large number of students, locals and scribes gathered near the library to watch the man, who refused to climb down though he was repeatedly cajoled and coaxed to do so. Earlier getting information, Fire Services personnel and Saheed Nagar police had rushed to the campus and launched a massive rescue operation to save the man.

While Fire Services personnel first tried to get closer to the man by using Bronto Sky lifts, still the man refused to come down and threatened to commit suicide. Drone cameras were also used to keep an eye on the situation and the man's movement. Nets were also spread around the building for any eventuality. Besides, a psychiatrist was also roped in to negotiate with him, but all efforts failed.



Later, some Fire Brigade personnel managed to reach atop the building and managed to nab the man and brought him to safety.

Immediately after the man was rescued, he was rushed to the Capital Hospital for his medical examination.

SOARING ONION PRICE

Govt claims keeping watch on market

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Friday claimed that it is keeping a close watch on the market as the price of onion has reached ₹80 per kg against ₹20 barely four months ago. "The administration is keeping an eye on the traders who may cheat consumers in the name of enhanced onion price. The officials have been asked to take stringent action against unscrupulous traders," Food Supplies and Consumer

Welfare Minister Ranendra Prasad Swain said.

He said the Government has, meanwhile, opened 284 fair price shops in different parts of the State for supply of onion to consumers at an affordable price. Unseasonal rains have affected the onion cultivation in the States, from where this essential vegetable is imported, he said.

Meanwhile, members of the Chhatra Bazar Byabasi Sangha in Cuttack said that the price of onion could touch

₹100 a kg as red onion stocks now hardly come from Nasik in Maharashtra. The price of red onion is ₹7,000 per quintal, they said. The Government, on the other hand, expects that the onion price will come down once they are harvested in Kurnool and Gudum districts of Andhra Pradesh and Nasik.

While the onion is sold in Bhubaneswar at the price of ₹80 to ₹90 a kg, its price is ₹70 to ₹76 in Cuttack and ₹80 in Baleswar, Brahmapur, Rourkela and Puri.



5Ts given go-bye in works dept

- ❑ Scam-tainted officials continue in city even after 10 years
- ❑ All developmental works come to a standstill

SAROJ MISHRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Of late, it has come to light that there is a scam of more than ₹100 crore in the various divisions of Works Department in the guise of repair of Government quarters in the State capital.

But surprisingly though the State Government is repeatedly stressing on the implementation of 5Ts, it seems the authorities are selective in doing so. No action has been taken by the authorities against the coterie of officials responsible for bending every rule in the book to fatten their pockets. No efforts have been made to make the officials accountable for the ₹100-crore loss to the State exchequer.

It is alleged that false bills were submitted and contracts were awarded without work orders. In the process the official-contractor nexus siphoned off more than 100 crores in Division-I, Division-III, Division-IV and Division-V. In many places, no work has been done but false bills have been generated.

But what has raised many eyebrows is that the guilty officials are still continuing in the same posts. To make matters worse, some of them are still posted in the city even after 10 years. On October 30, 2019 though 94 engineers were transferred, these Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) were not touched and they continue in their posts.

Some examples are Division IV Executive Engineer SK Nasirula, Division-I, Sub-Division-I SDO SK Panda, who is also in-charge of Sub-Division-III, Division-III, Sub-Division-I AEE RR Mohanty, Division-III, Sub-Division-II AEE PC Dalei, Division-IV Sub-Division-II AEE Dilip Sahu, Division-IV Sub-Division-III AEE Akshay Sahu and Division-V Sub-Division-II AEE Ashok Panda.

Besides, there are three to four Juniors Engineers in each of the divisions are posted in Bhubaneswar for over 10 years. Further, there is no coordination between the Works Secretary and the officials. As the Secretary is an IAS officer and has no technical knowledge it has become easy for these officials to hoodwink him and continue with their unscrupulous activities.

So, it is no surprise that all the developmental works carried by the Works Department have come to a standstill. Some of the aforesaid officials have taken a plea that as they are nearing superannuation they should continue in the same posts.

Knowledgeable sources said that though these coterie of officers should be allowed to continue in the department, they should be posted at the head office instead of the field and a person with engineering background should head the department to ensure that normal functioning of the department is restored, transparency is maintained and all works of the department are expedited.

Scribe gets ₹2 lakh as health aid

BHUBANESWAR: Media and Public Relations Advisor to State Government Manas Ranjan Mangaraj presented a cheque of ₹2 lakh to journalist Aditya Panda for his kidney transplantation from the Working Journalist Welfare Fund in his chamber on Friday.

Besides, Mangaraj was felicitated by 'Capital Poster' editor Surendra Sahoo on his appointment to the newly-created post of the Government's Media and Public Relations. PNS



Electrical JE held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Electrical Junior Engineer (JE), Bhabani Shankar Mohanta, posted at the Godisahi Electric Section, was caught red-handed by the Vigilance police while he was demanding and accepting bribe of ₹10,000 from a person to facilitate electricity connection to a house located near Trisulia in Cuttack district.

According to official reports, a Vigilance team laid a trap to nab the JE following a complaint by one Bijaya Patra, a resident of Malasahi under the Mangalabag police limits.

A Vigilance case has been registered against Mohanta in this connection.

Craftsmen, weavers hold demo before Assembly



With various demands

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Thousands of artisans from across the State under the banner of the Odisha Shilpi Mahasangha held a demonstration before the Assembly here on Friday.

The craft persons and weavers alleged that the Government did not fulfil a single promise it made for them.

They said just 9,000 arti-

sans in Puri have got cyclone Fani assistance of ₹8,200 while thousands others in 13 districts have been ignored.

About 60,000 weavers and 70,000 craft persons were affected by the storm.

Similarly, the Government on March 5 last had announced a monthly financial assistance of ₹800 to ₹1,000, though it could not provide the same to a single person so far. The Mahasangha demanded that the assistance be increased to ₹3,000 and all artisans (women

of 40 years of age and men of 50 years age) be included. The Mahasangha further lamented that ₹20 crore received by the Handlooms and Handicrafts Development and Promotion Council last year was not spent for the welfare of the artisans. Besides it highlighted raw material and procurement difficulties faced by the artisans. Mahasangha president Udaya Mohanty, secretary Priyaranjan Kar and chief advisor Padmashri Sudarshan Sahu, among others were present.

Women, girl children unsafe in State: BJP DEMANDS SIT PROBE INTO HINJILI GIRL RAPE

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP Mahila Morcha on Friday said women and girl children are unsafe in the State as everyday they are being made victims of rape, molestation and eve-teasing.

Addressing a Press meet here, BJP Mahila Morcha vice-president Pinky Pradhan questioned how a 65-year-old man raped a girl at Kabisuryanagar under the Hinjili police station, which is in the Chief Minister's

constituency. How the police was unable to know about the incident, she further asked.

Stating that the 5T has totally failed, Pradhan demanded police protection and compensation to the victim's family. She also demanded formation of an SIT to probe the mat-

ter and arrest the ruling party leaders, who are allegedly backing the accused. Notably, a girl was raped at Kabisuryanagar in Ganjam district on November 16. However, due to unlawful societal pressure, the family had not come forward with a complaint.

Salia Sahi residents hold demo against eviction

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Hundreds of residents of the Salia Sahi slum here staged a demonstration at PMG Square on Friday protesting the eviction drive undertaken by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in their area for road to construction. Tension ran high in the slum as residents stiffly protested the demolition drive. Hundreds of them gathered at the eviction site and protested the move.

They then took out a pro-

cession from the area to PMG Square. They said they would not move an inch from their places unless they are allotted land to construct alternative houses.

Notably, the eviction drive has been undertaken by the BMC to clear illegal encroachments to construct some roads in the area. But due to stiff protests from the slum dwellers, the enforcement team of BMC and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) had to go back.



Maintain 'legendaries' statues: U Sammilani

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utkal Sammilani celebrated the birth anniversary of the Saheed Laxman Naik paying floral tributes at his statue at Kalinga Hospital Square here on Friday.

Sammilani Mancheswar branch president Dilip Dashsharma, presiding over the programme, demanded that the Culture Department take steps to repair and maintain the statues of legendary leaders.

He said that the statues of Laxman Naik and many others and their surrounding have been damaged in the Cyclone Fani but have not been repaired even if six months have elapsed.

Sammilani VP Nirakar Sital Chandra Mohanty, joint secretary Ashok Paltasingh, Maheswar Biswal, Basanti Tripathy, Prasanna Rath, Niranjan Patra, Sidharth Sankar Gagnayak, Akhaya Kumar Jethi and Prakash Kumar Samal also paid tributes to martyr Naik.



Unregulated social media can pose a threat

Difficulty lies in balancing freedom of expression under Art 19(1) and reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2)



S JYOTIRANJANA

Conversations are happening whether you are there or not," as one quotes Kim Garst; it appears to be so much inevitable about the ever awake and perpetually active social media. There is no denying that God and social media don't sleep; but while the former is infallible, the latter, when

unregulated, becomes an apparent threat and hovers almost beyond the reach of law enforcement agencies. Fact is it can neither be eliminated nor can be absolutely regulated; it is no less than the Albatross of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" as it enjoys Constitutional immunity of freedom of expression and utilitarian indispensability of the contemporary times.

There have been umpteen numbers of examples of egregious abuse of social media platforms, like spreading of fake news of kidnapping etc., which has resulted in around twenty nine instances of mob lynching last year, and subsequent internet shutdowns. The major players remain, firstly, the users and secondly, the intermediaries (social media platforms and aggregators),

while law is clear regarding the accountability of the users, the intermediaries often are left with impunity by virtue of Section 79 of Information Technology Act, 2000.

It is understood that intermediary liability protection is a healthy business practice since it is not possible to do a background and content screening of billions of constituents of the internet traffic, but a complete let off without responsibility and accountability will be fatal. Under the current legal regime safe harbour is extended to intermediaries with respect to third parties, but not to the content fed and modified by the intermediaries themselves and the intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate Government or its agency.

Infringement of an individual's right to privacy is a regular business in social media, but after the Justice KS Puttaswamy judgement in 2017, where Right to Privacy was declared to be intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty as under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, the State's onus has increased manifold in devising apparatus to ensure no such brazen infringement of privacy rights of citizens takes place in social media.

The difficulty lies in balancing the Right to Freedom of Expression as conferred under Article 19(1) of the Constitution and imposing reasonable restrictions as under Article 19(2) for greater public interest and national security while regulating social media transactions. The now struck down Section 66A of the IT Act

CONTEMPORARIES

was of some hope in regulating offensive and spurious news and communications via social media but failed the test of constitutionality before the Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India, (2013) 12 SCC 73, owing to its draconian language and its arbitrary and unreasonable application by law enforcement agencies. This was after the Palgarh case where two girls were arrested for their comments on social media as Mumbai was shutdown following the death of Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray. However, Section 69A of IT Act, 2000 gives considerable powers to State to direct any intermediary to block public access of objectionable information or

content in the national interest or to avoid breach of national security or religious or social harmony or to avoid occurrence of any crime.

The thorny part in the entire issue is the global presence of the internet and social media, which makes it difficult to control, regulate and fix accountability for material uploaded from abroad and viewed in India and the absence of the physical presence of the intermediaries in India.

Last year, i.e., on July 26, 2018 while speaking on "Calling Attention Motion" discussion in Parliament, on "Rising incidents of violence and lynching in the country due to misuse of social media platforms", IT Minister Ravi

Shankar Prasad had unveiled the Government's proposal to amend the provisions of Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 to ensure that the intermediaries (social media platforms) have physical presence in India so that they can be meaningfully brought under Indian law to enable and mandate the online intermediaries to trace the source of origin of fake news and malicious messages which destabilise social order, national security and incite crime and violence.

The necessary takeaway is that, the Government's intent in bringing the change in law to contain the inherent malice in social media transactions is bona fide but nonetheless, it is not completely free from the issues raised by the rights activists, who have concerns and suggestions equal to that of

UN's Special Rapporteur David Kaye's report on 'Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression', submitted on October 9 this year.

In the report, he has been highly critical of various world Governments' attempt to promote proxy social media censorship via intermediaries especially in the pretext of containing hate speeches.

The jurisprudence behind freedom of speech and expression is so robust that it at times has taken toll of justice itself, which requires a reasonable moulding and restriction to harmoniously accommodate varying social interests, especially on social media platform.

(The writer is a lawyer. He can be reached at sjyotiranjana3@gmail.com)

12 accident-prone spots in NHs in Odisha

Gadkari informs in LS on Oram's query

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has identified 789 black spots (accident-prone places) in National Highways and Expressways across the country and 12 of them are in Odisha.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed this to the Lok Sabha while responding to a question of Sundargarh MP Jial Oram on November 21.

Oram sought to know the details of the accident-prone National Highways (NHs) in different States, including those in Odisha, the reasons thereof and the total death tolls on each of such NHs during last year, besides the steps taken by the Government to make such NHs safe.

Gadkari replied that of the 789 black spots identified, 395 black spots have been rectified. While 510 black spots are under the jurisdiction of the NHAI, 150 black spots are under the jurisdiction of the State PWD (NH) and remaining 129 black spots are under State Governments



□ Sundargarh MP Jial Oram sought to know the details of the accident-prone National Highways (NHs) in different States, including those in Odisha, the reasons thereof and the total death tolls on each of such NHs during last year, besides the steps taken by the Government to make such NHs safe

□ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari replied that of the 789 black spots identified, 395 black spots have been rectified

□ While 510 black spots are under the jurisdiction of the NHAI, 150 black spots are under the jurisdiction of the State PWD (NH) and remaining 129 black spots are under State Governments

diction of the State PWD (NH) and remaining 129 black spots are under State Governments. The NHAI has rectified 276 black spots under it.

Out of 150 black spots under the jurisdiction of PWD (NH), 119 have already been rectified, the Minister informed.

He told that 12 black spots are in Odisha and four of them have been rectified.

'State's new Film Policy to boost tourism'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Film Development Corporation (OFDC) Managing Director Nitin B Jawale has said the State's new Film Policy providing incentives for movie shootings would boost tourist footfalls.

In March this year, the Government unveiled the policy, which aims to provide subsidy up to ₹2.5 crore to a film that promotes the State, its culture, heritage as a tourist destination, Jawale told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

He said operational guidelines have been prepared for filmmakers, informing them about dos and don'ts to avail the benefit of the subsidy. The response for the subsidy has been good as more than 20 filmmakers have already submitted their proposals, he said.

OFDC Chairman Satyabrata (Kuna) Tripathy said the Odisha film industry is 83-year-old; and annually, 30

□ In March this year, the Government unveiled the policy, which aims to provide subsidy up to ₹2.5 crore to a film that promotes the State, its culture, heritage as a tourist destination, Jawale told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa

□ OFDC Chairman Satyabrata (Kuna) Tripathy said the Odisha film industry is 83-year-old; and annually, 30 to 40 films are produced.

State Tourism Director Sachin Jadhav said, "Be it the virgin environs of Odisha's sea beaches and Chilka lake, the tranquility of the Diamond Triangle, Buddhist Circuit, the unique synthesis of the modern and traditional in Smart Temple City of Bhubaneswar or the spiritual ethos of Puri, shooting films in the State is sure to give filmmakers greater cinematic output at a lower cost."

Minor raped in Cuttack dist, hospitalised

2 DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A minor girl was allegedly gangraped in the Nemala area of Cuttack district late on Thursday night. Two persons have been detained by police for interrogation in this connection.

Sources said two persons working with a Jatra troupe had called the nine-year-old victim on pretext of teaching her dance at night. When she went there, the accused took turns to rape her and dumped her near a bush before fleeing from the spot.

On Friday morning, her family members found the minor in unconscious state under a tree and rushed her to the Nischintakoli Community Health Centre (CHC). Doctors said the condition of the girl is stable and if required she would be shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital here.

Following a complaint by the victim's family, the Nemala police have detained two persons of the Jatra troupe for interrogation.

INBRIEF

DURONTO EXP STRANDED FOR HOURS IN BALESWAR
Baleswar: The Howrah-Yesvantpur Duronto Express train was stranded at the Rupsa railway station for at least three hours on Friday as one of its coaches hit equipments kept for track repair work, as a result of which a gas tanker of the coach got detached and fell down. The tools were mistakenly left near the track by workers before the arrival of the train. Passengers expressed displeasure over the delay in restoration work. Till last reports came in, the train was yet to depart from the station.

12 COBRAS RESCUED FROM BHADRAK MAN'S HOUSE

Bhadrak: As many as 12 cobras were rescued from a house at Anharpur village under Dhamanagar block in Bhadrak district on Friday. The venomous snakes were rescued by snake catcher Mirza Mohd Arif from the residence of Kapilendra Bai. The family members had approached the snake catcher after they spotted some snakes playing in the house. Following the snakes' rescue, Mirza handed them over to the Forest Department. Notably, hundreds of baby cobras had been rescued in Bhadrak district recently.



PPL GETS KALINGA SAFETY AWARD

Bhubaneswar: The Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has once again been recognised for its effort in maintaining industrial safety. It was conferred with the Kalinga Safety Award (Silver) in the Chemical & Fertiliser Category. Ranjit Singh Chugh, Chief Operating Officer, and Nihar Kanti Rout, Joint GM (Fire & Safety) received the award from Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) Managing Director Pradeep Jena at a function of the Odisha State Safety Conclave-2019 on Friday.



ADANI FOUNDATION HOLDS EXHIBITION 'AASAYEN'

Dhamra: To make students aware about the importance of education and other creativities, the Adani Foundation conducted an annual exhibition 'Aasayen' at the Adani DAV Public School recently. Kuamara Cluster CRCC Gorachanda Majhi inaugurated the programme. Guests glimpsed various projects showcased by the students and praised their creativity.



TENNIS PLAYER KABIR BAGS LAUREL FOR STATE

Bhubaneswar: Odisha-based tennis player Kabir Hans bagged laurel for the State in the ITF World Junior Ranking Tennis Tournament (Group-5) held from November 18 to 22 at the All Assam Tennis Association Complex in Guwahati. For the first time, an Odisha boy bagged this prestigious title.



All S'garh schools to get benches, desks

DEO directs primary, upper schools to submit list of students

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

The students of Government run primary and upper primary schools of Sundargarh district will get benches and desks in their schools from coming academic session.

As many as 2,700 Government run primary and upper primary schools of the district will be benefited by a recent initiative of the Government to provide the furniture.

District Education Officer (DEO) Ranjan Kumar Giri in a letter dated November 19 has asked all blocks of Sundargarh district to submit a detailed list of students of all the Government schools (from Class I to Class X) of their area in order to provide the furniture for the schools. Giri asked the school authorities to submit the list by November 23.

All the students of primary and upper primary schools (Class I to Class VII) are sitting on floor whereas in some high schools, there are desks and benches. "As per the direction

of the Collector, Sundargarh, I have asked for a detailed list from the schools of all blocks of our district and accordingly, requirement of desk bench would be decided," said DEO Giri.

Sources said the Sundargarh unit of Odisha Primary Teachers Association had raised a demand for desks and benches for the students of all Government schools recently in presence of School and Mass Education

Minister Samir Dash, during a conference in Sundargarh. The association had argued that the students of the Government schools are developing an inferiority complex among themselves, particularly when the students of private schools are availing better facilities.

"We welcome the initiatives taken by Sundargarh Collector to provide desk and bench to all Government schools," said Sundargarh Primary Teacher's Association general secretary Gobinda Chandra Suar.

In Ganjam: Anti-ganja plantation drive opposed

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Tension prevailed in the Bhanjanagar area in Ganjam district on Friday when locals opposed a drive against illegal ganja plantations by Excise Department and police officials in the region.

According to sources, the Dharakote and the Badagada police reached Khajuripada area in Bhanjanagar to destroy a cultivation of ganja spread over 40 acres of land. During the raid, the locals opposed the move of the police tooth and nail and gheraoed the officials.

Following this, tension erupted in the locality. Taking note of it, five platoons of police force deployed in the area to maintain law and order. Besides, the Aska SDPO and Ganjam DSP are also present at the spot to review the arrangements.

2 warships to reach Paradip before Navy Day



PNS ■ PARADIP

Two warships of the Indian Navy will arrive at the Paradip Port ahead of the Indian Navy Day to be celebrated on December 4.

The Indian Navy will

throw open INS Rana and INS Gharial for public viewing on November 24 and 25 as part of the Navy Day celebrations.

The two warships will anchor in the prohibited region of the port. Civilians can get an opportunity to undertake a

guided tour of the two frontline warships for two days.

According to reports, the visitors will have to undergo a security check at the Gopabandhu Stadium here. Later, they will be taken to the prohibited area by a special bus

to see the warships.

Notably, INS Rana is a Rajput-class destroyer active in service with the Indian Navy since June 1982.

INS Gharial is a Magar-class warship, one of the largest vessels in the Navy.

Cop sacked for drug peddling in city

Bhubaneswar: A Constable of the Commissionerate police (CP), who was earlier arrested on charges of drugs peddling in Bhubaneswar, was dismissed from service on Thursday.

City DCP Anup Sahoo dismissed Constable Janaki Ballabha Bharimalla following an inquiry into the allegations. The accused constable, Bharimalla who is cooling his heels behind bars, was arrested by the Nayapalli police on November 13. Reports Bharimalla was accused of peddling brown sugar in different parts of the city.

Preliminary probe reveal that Bharimalla used to lead a lavish lifestyle and his picture of riding a cruise motorcycle had also gone viral on social media. Notably, the accused constable was earlier arrested in 2015 in connection with a kidnapping and murder case. But he was later acquitted due to lack of evidence following which he rejoined the service.

5 students ill after taking JEV in JSpur

PNS ■ JAGATSinghpur

Five students fell ill after being administered the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine (JEV) in the Jogendranath Upper Primary School at Manapur, six km from here, on Thursday.

Report said the ailing students were admitted in the District Headquarters Hospital. The condition of the students is stable and they are recovering quickly, said the DHH officials.

Sources said that the JEV drive was undertaken in the Jogendranath UP School on Thursday after students consumed mid-day meal. Soon after the JEV vaccination, one Soumya Ranjan Ojha, a Class-III student, started vomiting and went unconscious. Later a Class-VI student

Report said the ailing students were admitted in the District Headquarters Hospital

□ The condition of the students is stable and they are recovering quickly

Sapan Kumar Panda and girl students Rajalaxmi Parida, Archita Moharana and Subhalaxmi Mallick were seen with same symptoms and were rushed to the DHH.

The DHH officials said that all admitted students are recovering quickly and would be discharge soon.

As the JEV is an inactivated vaccine and is very effective at preventing infection, schools have given priority for administering the vaccination through the drive, which is underway in the district, added DHH officials.

IN BHAWANIPATNA Bank accounts hacked, ₹57K debited Case registered after FIR by victim

BIKASH KHEMKA ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The Town police station of Bhawanipatna has registered a case following a complaint made about hacking of three saving accounts of a customer of a nationalised bank and debit of ₹57,000 from them.

The complainant is a lecturer, Pallishree Pattnaik, who works in the Government Autonomous College of Bhawanipatna.

He told the media that from one account around ₹53,000 and ₹2,000 each from two other accounts were withdrawn consecutively.

Pattnaik said a day before the hacking, her husband had received a message in his mobile to update the know your customer (KYC) details in

□ The complainant is a lecturer, Pallishree Pattnaik, who works in the Government Autonomous College of Bhawanipatna

□ He told the media that from one account around ₹53,000 and ₹2,000 each from two other accounts were withdrawn consecutively

the bank account.

He had transferred the message to her, asking her to update it as required by the bank. "I listened to my husband but I did not touch the link. However, next day I received a phone call at 10.15 am. The man from the other side, who was talking to me in Hindi, asked me about my date of birth, which I answered."

She suspected foul play when her daughter phoned her about insufficient balance while purchasing a product online the same day. "I checked my balance from the banking app and knew that my account has been debited," she said.

She allegedly said that when she went to the bank for inquiry, the banking officials took the matter casually and asked her about lodging an FIR with the police station. "After five hours, I came to know that my accounts have been hacked," Pattnaik said.

Town PS IIC Basudev Chhatra said cyber crime cell is investigating the case and efforts are on to nab the culprit.

A bank official requesting anonymity said, "The bank always sends messages to the customers not to reply the details if asked by someone but here she replied and fell victim to the cyber crime."

ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM Youth rescued by Rayagada cops; 6 held

Gun, bullets, vehicle seized

PNS ■ RAYAGADA

Five unidentified miscreants on November 19 abducted a 19-year-old youth of Subarnapur, who was travelling through Rayagada by train and threatened his family members that if they didn't pay a ransom of ₹10 lakh for his release, the youth would be physically harmed.

Finding no alternative his father approached the Rayagada police, following which a team was formed to detect the sensitive case.

After continuous operation of 48 hours, police team successfully rescued the boy from the clutches of the abduc-



After continuous operation of 48 hours, police team successfully rescued the boy from the clutches of the abductors and arrested six persons, including three juveniles, for the crime

moment when the boy was handed over to his father and uncle.

Rayagada SDPO Tapan Narayan Rath IIC Rayagada PS Nihar Ranjan Pradhan, SI Rigan Kindo and Kiran Chandra Patra were instrumental in the detection of the case. Further investigations are underway.

tors and arrested six persons, including three juveniles, for the crime.

Lethal weapons including a gun as well as cartridges were

seized from the possession of the accused. Vehicles used in committing the crime were also seized.

It was an emotional

Amway celebrates Children's Day in BBSR



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Continuing its focus on helping people live better lives, the Amway India celebrated the Children's Day recently across India with 12 NGO partners as part of Project Sunrise, which aims to promote the overall wellbeing of underprivileged

children in India by providing them access to education, health and hygiene.

In Bhubaneswar, the Amway celebrated the day in association with the Palli Unnayan Seva Samiti by organising a tour to the Regional Science Centre as part of the knowledge building exercise of

the children in which over 300 children participated.

They went for the day-long trip which concluded with the children all excitedly sharing their experiences with each other. The day was all about fun and learning for the children of the Samiti.

Amway East VP Chandra

Chakraborty said, "We are proud to collaborate with the Samiti and will continue to extend our support for the welfare of the children."

Samiti secretary Swati Suchishmita Patra said, "We wholeheartedly thank Amway for organising a fun-filled day for the children."

Jatra troupe man held for raping minor

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A choreographer of a Jatra troupe was on Friday arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl at Jhadeswarapur village under the Nemala police limits in Cuttack district. The accused was identified as Ramakant Singh (19) of Baleswar.

According to reports, the troupe was performing at the village for the last few days while Singh took the victim to a secluded place on the pretext of teaching her dance on Thursday evening.

He allegedly raped her there, following which she fell unconscious.

After the girl gained consciousness and narrated the ordeal to her parents, a complaint was lodged in this regard with Nemala police, on the basis of which Singh was arrested. A case was registered in this connection and investigation was underway.

The accused and victim have been sent to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for medical examination, said police.

Bhapur RMC godown turns haunted house

PNS ■ BHAPUR (NAYAGARH)

The godown of the Regulated Market Committee (RMC) at Bhapur in Nayagarh district is lying abandoned for the last four years. Even though crores of rupees were spent for its construction, why it is not being made functional has raised many eyebrows.

The locals alleged that the godown, which was construed by the Food and Civil Supplies Department with an aim to provide facilities farmers and development of agricultural sector, has been locked from the day and has turned into a haunted house.

They also said that even if they have brought the matter before the former Collector during the Grievance Redressal Camp. But the block authorities have turned a deaf ear to it by which the building is not beneficial to the farmers.

Fitting finale to BBSR national music festival

SHYAMHARI CHAKRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

As expected, the third and final evening of the Bhubaneswar Music Circle-hosted annual national music festival staged at the Rabindra Mandap here witnessed a fitting finale with a captivating concert by Vidushi Kalapini Komkali on Thursday.

Being the daughter and disciple of iconic Kumar Gandharva and veteran vocalist Vidushi Vasundhara Komkali, Kalapini had, obviously, raised much excitement and expectations among the city's musicians and connoisseurs. And she lived up to their expectations while proving her own identity beyond the shadows of her parents. The total silence that reigned in the auditorium throughout the concert spoke volumes of her impact upon the intimately-involved audience.

Endowed with a bold and distinct voice that is rooted in the rich music tradition of Malwa region, where her illustrious parents had also evolved as icons of Indian music, Kalapini, who performed in the city years ago, chose the



rarely-heard raag Nand as the focus of her concert. Each of the three segments, vilamvit, madhyalaya and drut (slow, medium and fast tempo), were rendered with complete command and clarity.

The drut segment Aab To Aa Ja was a popular composition by her father.

Her other shorter renditions included a Rasia, a distinct music genre that has derived its name from rasa (emotion) is popular in Uttar Pradesh region and a popular Nirgun bhajan of Saint Kabir sunta hai guru gyani. Brilliant and restrained were her two young but highly-talented accompanying artists Abhishek Shinkar on harmonium and Ramendra Singh Solanki on tabla.

Earlier in the evening, Puri-based vocalist Achyuta Maharana, the lone artist to represent host Odisha's own Odishi music tradition in this national platform, performed. Though his concert had four typical songs including the unique Harachandi-Malashree and 'Sari Bari Vihara, the song that describes the rituals of the Jagannath Temple, he failed to impress. Since Odishi music is striving to establish itself as an Indian classical music tradition, the hosts could have chosen one of Odisha's accomplished vocalists to establish justification of Odishi's claim to classical fame.

State to launch oral hygiene drive: CM Inaugurates Orthodontic Conf



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while inaugurating the 54th Indian Orthodontic Conference here on Friday, said, "The State Government is planning to launch the Oral Hygiene Programme with provision of Model Dental Vans."

He launched an app on the occasion attended by distinguished dental professionals, including Orthodontic Association president Dr Pradeep Jain and secretary Sridevi Padmanabhan, among others.

Asserting that, "Healthcare is a top priority of my Government," Patnaik said, "We are in the process of formulating Vision 2025 with a goal to provide quality and affordable healthcare to all. In the current Five-T model of governance and the Mo Sarkar initiative, healthcare has been at the top of our agenda."

He further told, "In Odisha, we have created 437 centres at peripheral hospitals to provide dental healthcare at remote areas. These peripheral units are also carrying out awareness activities and conducting screening and treatment of oral diseases."

State revenue collection up 9% by Oct-end

Depts asked to utilise 60% of allocations by Dec

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State's revenue generation has shown an upward trend up to the beginning month of the third quarter of

the current fiscal year. By October-end, the total revenue collection has grown around 9% over the corresponding period of last financial year.

This was known from an All Secretaries Meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy here on Friday wherein Finance Secretary Ashok Kumar Meena outlined the financial updates

of the State for discussion. Reviewing fiscal performances of various departments up to October 2019, Tripathy directed the departments to utilise at least 60% of the budget by end of December. Meena said there had been remarkable progress in avoiding parking of funds by the departments as a result of which the actual expenditure is getting reflected on the

common treasury portal. The review showed the revenue generation from non-tax sources grew around 12.24% by October-end in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year with a total collection of around Rs 7,399 crore. The revenue generation from mining royalty and water cess increased around 11% and

46%, respectively. The total collection from mining royalty was around Rs 6,054.93 crore against last year's collection of Rs 5,436.54 crore by October end. Similarly, the revenue generation from own tax sources also increased by 7.56% with a total collection of around Rs 17,510 crore against last year's collection of Rs 16,279 crore.

In real terms, the total revenue touched Rs 24,909 crore by October-end. Keeping in tune with the revenue generation, the budget utilisation by end of October grew around 16 per cent over last fiscal year. The total expenditure by October end of current fiscal was around Rs 60,848.21 crore against the last year's expenditure of Rs 52,525.40 crore.

2 die in separate road mishaps in B'patna

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The Sadar police station of Bhawanipatna has registered two road accident cases on Friday. A retired teacher and a working teacher died in two separate incidents. Both were the native different colonies of Bhawanipatna.

Police said Satyabadi Pradhan (67), a retired teacher, died after a biker hit him when

he was returning home after a morning walk. He was declared brought dead in hospital.

In another incident, Ranjit Sabar (37) died when a truck hit him. Sadar PS, IIC of Bhawanipatna, Pradeep Dharuan said Sabar, a teacher, was going to the Talbelgaon village school on his bike when a truck from the opposite ran over him. Both bodies were sent for the post mortem.

'Industrial safety can increase productivity'



Odisha Safety Conclave begins

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A smarter approach to industrial safety can increase productivity and enhance safety and economic sustainability, said Institute of Quality and Environment Management Services (IQEMS) CEO and OSSC convener Debabrata Panigrahi at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day 10th Odisha Safety Conclave organ-

ised here on Friday, organised by the IQEMS, Bhubaneswar, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad and supported by the Odisha Labour and ES Department. Panigrahi said smart safety can use the same concepts as smart manufacturing, industry, 4.0 such as seamless connectivity and real-time analytics and extends them to industrial safety efforts. This can not only help better monitoring and managing safety performance but also transform oper-

ations in a systematic manner. Conclave with theme of "Smart Safety-Economical Sustainability" was inaugurated by chief guest Rural Development Secretary and Special relief Commissioner PK Jena. Labour Commissioner and Factories and Boilers Director Niranjana Sahu, Director of Mines Deepak Mohanty, Odisha State Productivity Council president Abasara Bueria also spoke. OSSC chairman Vinod Kumar delivered the welcome address.

On being informed, the fire personnel and police rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation.

The Maoists are reported to have sprung a surprise attack on the police personnel who were on patrol duty.

Three police personnel, including a sub-inspector, were killed in Naxal attack in Latehar district of Jharkhand on Friday, officials said.

PROPERTY FEUD Bombs hurled at house in Cuttack

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Two unidentified miscreants hurled bombs at a house in Odia Bazaar under the Dargahbazar police station here on Friday evening and escaped in a motorcycle, police said.

"The miscreants came in a motorcycle around 6 pm and threw bombs at the house of Sheikh Babu of the locality," police said, adding that no one was injured.

Sources said the motive behind the incident could be a previous rivalry between Sheikh Babu and his brother, who are at the log-headers for the past few days over a family landed property dispute.

The police had intervened to settle the dispute among the warring brothers in October. The city police have launched a massive manhunt to nab the culprits.

Cuttack ex-ACF gets jail in DA case

CUTTACK: Former Assistant Conservator of Forest, Utilisation Division, Old Secretariat, Cuttack Rabinarayan Nayak was on Friday convicted in a disproportionate assets case and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for a period of two years and pay fine of Rs 20,000.

The trial was held in the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack. Nayak who is retired now will have to undergo RI for a further period of four months in default of paying fine. Nayak's residential Government quarter and office room at Cuttack and house at native village at Madhupada, Kendrapara had been searched in 1993 on the strength of search warrants. On completion of enquiry, a case had been registered by the Vigilance. Nayak possessed assets to the tune of Rs 3,45,391 which was disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Building collapse in K'put: 3 of family trapped

PNS ■ KORAPUT

As many as three members of a family, including two women, were trapped when an

abandoned building collapsed at Bariniput village under the Sadar station in Jeyapore on Friday.

The mishap took place on Friday evening when five members of the family were present near the building. While two of them were rescued, three others were trapped

under the debris.

2 short films from U'khand nominated in Asia's biggest green film festival

Dehradun: Two short films from Uttarakhand have been nominated in the 10th CMS Vatavaran international film festival to be held from November 27 to 30. Kotibanal directed by Shrinivasi Oli and The Forbidden Fruit directed by Rushika Radhakrishna Tyabji have been nominated in the film fest. Said to be the biggest green film festival in Asia, this event will be organised in the national capital by CMS Vatavaran with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.

The film Kotibanal is a documentary about traditional architecture in the Himalayan region. The whole Himalayan region is very sensitive to seismic activities. In some areas of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, there has been a tradition of earthquake-resistant architecture.

Tusker found dead in Khordha

PNS ■ KHORDHA

A tusker found dead in a farmland near Gunri river in Rameshwar Chhak under the Tangi forest range in the district on Friday.

The locals spotted the carcass lying in a farmland and informed the forest officials. Forest officials reached the spot and seized the jumbo carcass for autopsy and are trying to ascertain the cause of death.

Notably, elephant herds have continued to wreak havoc in Pokharia, Rameshwar, Bhushandapur, Ratamati, Kamaguru and Mangalajodi areas under Tangi forest range since few days causing extensive damage to houses and crop.

The locals had also held dharna in front of the forest office.



3 J'khand cops killed in Naxal attack in Latehar

PTI ■ LATEHAR (JHARKHAND)

The Maoists are reported to have sprung a surprise attack on the police personnel who were on patrol duty.

"Our police party was ambushed and three casualties occurred," Additional Director General of Police Murari Lal Meena said.

Some home guard personnel are also reported to be in the casualty list. The police were ascertaining which Naxal group was involved in the ambush.

HIMACHAL CM IN DELHI Rohtang tunnel likely to open next May: Rajnath



PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Rohtang Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh will be opened to the traffic in May next year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday in New Delhi.

Thakur called on Singh and urged him to get the work of the Rohtang Tunnel expedited to ensure proper connectivity to the landlocked Lahaul-Spiti district.

Singh assured the Chief Minister that best efforts will be made to make the tunnel operational by May 2020, a statement by the State Government said. The Chief Minister also requested him to explore possibilities to allow usage of tunnel by residents of Lahaul-Spiti for transportation this winter as the road route has been officially declared closed due to heavy snow.

He also requested for improving the conditions of roads maintained by the Border Roads Organisation as they are not in good condition and sought release of funds for them. The Union Minister assured to provide all possible assistance to state and complimented the Chief Minister for holding state's first Global Investors' Summit this month in Dharamshala.

CM DEMANDS EARLY CLEARANCE OF CHINTPURNI PRASAD PROJECT

Thakur also met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel and requested the Minister to provide funds for virtual reality project for installing digital walls showcasing tourist destinations of Himachal Pradesh at suitable locations for attracting tourists. The Minister asked the State Government to send the project for immediate clearance. The Chief Minister also requested for speedy clearance of ₹45 crore Chintpurni Prasad project and providing funds for strengthening infrastructure at Rewalsar under religious tourism circuit.

Thakur also demanded funds for erecting gateways at entry points to State and assured the Union Minister that the separate project under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) for developing the temples and pilgrims near entry points with provision of exquisite and heritage gateways at entry point will be sent to the Ministry for consideration. Further, Chief Minister stressed on improved tourism infrastructure in the State.

NMDC LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Balidilla Iron Ore Mines, Bachi Complex, Dist: Dantewada - 494553 (CG)
Tel: 07857-230079/230751, Fax: 07857-231253
Email: m5materials@nmcd.co.in, m5materials@gmail.com, jrb@balidilla.nmcd.co.in
Corporate Identity Number: L11100UP1986000167 / GST Reg: 722AAEN2325125

NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER

Tender is invited for the following items for Bachi Complex Post Bachi - 494553 Dist. Dantewada (CG) as per details furnished in the Tender documents.

Sl No.	Description of item	Display & Download of Tender document	Last Date/Time for submission of Offer	Tender Fees in Rs.	EMD in Rs.
Tender Ref. No. NMDC/Bachi/195/19-20/ET/592			Date 17.11.2019 (P/F:5/313 dt: 02.08.2019)		
1.	Supply of Drones, Complete HD UAV with all its accessories. (Detailed technical specification in our tender document)	17.11.2019 to 17.12.2019	17.12.2019 upto 12.00 PM	Nil	25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand)

The detailed information of the tender can be obtained from our website <http://www.nmcd.co.in> under Tender Section, Central Public Procurement (CPP) portal www.eprocure.gov.in and MSTC portal www.mstccommerce.com/eprocure/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp.

Bidder may submit their offer through ON-LINE Tender only.

THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS SHOULD DOWNLOAD THE TENDER DOCUMENTS AND SUBMIT THE ONLINE OFFER THROUGH MSTC PORTAL ONLY WITHIN THE DUE DATE AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

Note: Any addendum/corrigendum/bid clarifications/time extension shall be issued on the above said websites only & will not be published separately. Prospective Bidders should visit the above websites from time to time to note the corrigendum. If any contact for further query on 07857-230751, 9685423579

Jt. General Manager (Materials)

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
Bid Identification No. RWS/34/2019-2020
Letter No. 5717 Dated 19/11/2019

1. The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sums bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for execution of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes in Kendrapara District.

2. Name of the work : Execution of RPWS Schemes in the district of Kendrapara.

3. No. of Work : 1 (One No)

4. Value of the Work : ₹ 80.00 Lakhs

5. Concerned tender inviting authority : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara

6. Security amount (Rs.) (Online) : ₹ 80000

7. Cost of Bid documents (Rs.) (Online) : ₹ 10000.00

8. Class of Bidder : "B" & "A"

9. Period of Completion : 8 Months

10. Availability of bid documents in the website : From date, 04.12.2019 at 10.00 A.M to date, 18.12.2019 5.30 P.M

11. Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : Up to 13.12.2019 at 5.30 P.M

12. Date of Opening of Bid : On date, 19.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M onwards.

The bidders have to participate in the tender through ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be had from the website i.e <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall only be appeared in the above website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Kendrapara

25004/11/0012/1920

LOST CERTIFICATE

It is notified for the information that my original Grade Sheet cum Certificate of Performance of Secondary School Examination 2014-16 bearing S.No. SSE/2016/0278610 with Roll No. 6114106 and Redg. No. B615/53078/0048 issued by CBSE has been actually lost.

Name of candidate:
TULIKA PRADHAN
Full Address/Tel:
D/O - D. Pradhan
Plot No. 1191, Nayapalli
Bhubaneswar - 12.
Mob : 9437197557

Army issues WhatsApp advisory

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With Pakistan resorting to social media to trap Indian services personnel to gather sensitive intelligence, the Army has issued an advisory to all its personnel to change their WhatsApp settings to make sure they are not automatically added to any group. This caution comes weeks after the Army warned its officers and men to be beware of fake spiritual gurus trying to entice them through social media.

The latest advisory comes after an Indian Army officer was reportedly added to a group by a Pakistan based mobile number. As per the advisory, the alert officer showed the presence of mind, took a screenshot of the group and exited it. It noted that there had been attempts to target Army personnel on messaging

apps such as WhatsApp in the past. Thereafter, it listed the steps to change the WhatsApp settings to avoid such incidents in the future, sources said here on Friday.

Some days back the Army had warned officers holding sensitive posts in operational areas, all headquarters, divisions and brigades to stop using WhatsApp for official communication as it was vulnerable platform.

The advisory also noted that social media website Facebook could be used for collecting intelligence and personnel were advised to refrain from using their Facebook accounts, sources said here on Friday.

Amongst other precautions to be taken, officers and men were advised not to upload their pictures in uniform or discuss about their posting, officials said adding even the families of those post-

The advisory also noted that social media website Facebook could be used for collecting intelligence

ed in sensitive areas were also cautioned to refrain from talking about the whereabouts of their family members serving in the armed forces.

Moreover, the armed forces have been asked not to link their Gmail accounts to multiple applications as that could compromise information on the email account.

Recently, the Army warned its jawans and officers to be alert as fake spiritual gurus and

babas are reaching out to personnel in an attempt to seek military information. The Army has also issued an advisory to its personnel cautioning them about fake social media sites as nearly 150 such sites used by Pakistan Intelligence Officers has come to light.

Issuing this warning, the Army also alerted its personnel from refraining unknown social media sites that are being used by adversaries for honey trap to extract sensitive information, sources said.

Elaborating upon the threat posed by fake spiritual gurus and babas, they said these persons through the social media try to trap gullible and vulnerable soldiers undergoing some issues thereby depressed and their families.

After gaining their confidence over a time, these so-called gurus then try to seek information about movement of

troops and other sensitive military information.

Explaining the modus operandi about the Pakistani intelligence officers using the fake sites, officials said families of the soldiers are also targeted and sometimes they may inadvertently given information about the posting of their relatives.

The threat is more prominent in civil areas with the army coming in contact with the public and the men in uniform may give out sensitive information.

Some of the fake identities pose as nurses or claim to be from the Army Headquarters seeking details about the whereabouts of the personnel from their families.

The fake profiles are generally 2-3 years old. So, they do not raise suspicion and appear to be authentic. It is then that they started targeting, officials added.

Shah holds meeting with PSMC over onion price hike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With onion prices showing no signs of decline, the Modi Government on Friday brainstormed over the issue to get root cause to the problem which giving sleepless night to the people.

The Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a meeting of Price Stabilization Management Committee (PSMC) involving all stakeholders to discuss the strategies to cool down onion prices. Union Ministers Ram Vilas Paswan, Piyush Goyal and Narendra Singh Tomar and senior officials of ministries and intelligence agencies were also present.

Currently, retail onion prices across the country have been hovering around ₹80 to ₹90 per kg, even crossing the

₹100-mark in some places. The wholesale onion price has increased to ₹79.50 per kg at Lasalgaon and ₹82 per kg at Pimpalgaon in Maharashtra on Friday. Daily onion arrivals have dipped to barely 10-15 percent of arrivals a year ago. Traders say the situation is expected to remain till December end due to shortage of onion.

Onion prices have come under pressure due to 26 per cent fall in the production to 52.06 lakh tonnes during the kharif output late-kharif seasons of 2019-20. The Government is also facilitating private imports and also relaxed phytosanitary and fumigation norms till December. PSMC reviews prices of essential commodities whenever they shoot up and figures out the reason behind

the surge and then decides on measures to be taken to rein them in. Since August, these officials have become a regular fixture at the meetings of the government's PSMC Officials of intelligence, enforcement and income tax department work in tandem with the agriculture, commerce and consumer affairs ministries to ensure that onion prices are kept under check.

The central Government has been holding regular meetings on ways to check the rise in the price of onions. The Union Cabinet had on Wednesday approved import of 1.2 lakh metric tonnes onion in view of high prices of the essential commodity in the market. The Government has been trying to tackle the issue since August when prices first touched ₹40 per kg.

FROM THE PARLIAMENT

Opp says BJP receiving crores from firm being probed by ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Friday accused the BJP of receiving crores in donation from a company being probed by the ED for allegedly buying properties from Iqbal Mirchi, an accused in the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts, and asked whether or not it was a case of "treason".

Parliament witnesses uproar over electoral bonds issue with Congress attacking the Government and asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come clean on the allegations surrounding the electoral bonds scheme and accused the Government of legalising corruption.

Opposition parties led by the Congress, which protested in Parliament premises and described the issue as a "threat to democracy", sought to raise the matter in the Rajya Sabha but were not allowed to do so by the Chair. The CPI(M) along with the CPI also hit out at the government over the issue of electoral bonds and said it was "legalised political

corruption". Several senior Congress leaders, including leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari, protested against the Government inside Parliament House premises.

The MPs held placards asking the prime minister to break his silence on the issue, raised slogans against the government and called for ending the electoral bonds scheme. The issue of electoral bonds has snowballed into a political flashpoint following a report by a news portal that the Reserve Bank of India and the Election Commission had reservations against them but were overruled by the Modi government.

Citing the same report, Congress general secretary



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said it has made four disclosures in the case of donations through electoral bonds. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury also attacked the government on the matter.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala cited a media report claiming the BJP took a large donation from a firm being probed by the Enforcement Directorate for carrying out transactions with and buying properties from the late Iqbal Mirchi, an accused in the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts and a close aide of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim. There was no response from the BJP on the allegations.

Govt introduces Bill to ban e-cigarettes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ignoring the demand for reconsideration of the ban imposed on e-cigarettes and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), the Government on Friday introduced a Bill in this regard in the Parliament.

The proposed Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Import, Export, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs aims to replace the Ordinance that was promulgated in September 18.

Introduced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, the bill makes the manufacturing, production, import, export, distribution, transport, sale, storage or advertisements of such alternative smoking devices a cognizable offence, attracting a jail term and a fine.

First-time violators will face a jail term of up to one year and a fine of ₹1 lakh. For subsequent offences, a jail term of up to three years or a fine of ₹5 lakh, or both.

The storage of e-cigarettes shall also be punishable with imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to ₹50,000, or both, it said.

The government had cited health risk to people, especially youth and issued an ordinance to ban such products.

The bill authorised officials to conduct searches in premises, stating that where such searches were not permissible, authorities might attach properties, stocks of e-cigarettes or records maintained by the manufacturer, producer, exporter, transporter, importer, stockist against whom a complaint had been made. It said the owner or occupier of the place that stocks e-cigarettes should voluntarily prepare a list of such stock in his possession and without delay submit the stock to the nearest authorised officer.

However, e-cigarettes promoting trade bodies, users and other stakeholders have been opposing government's move to ban "alternative" smoking device, alleging it was a "draconian" step taken in haste to protect the conventional cigarette industry.

'Notices will lapse if RS gets disrupted'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said that notices given by MPs for raising issues of public importance during Zero Hour will lapse if the proceedings of the House in the morning session are adjourned due to disruptions.

Usually, notices are carried over to the next day in case of adjournment of proceedings of the House during Zero Hour, which is scheduled every day from 1100 hrs to 1200 hrs. However, Naidu said some notices can be allowed the next day after taking special permission.

"Some people have developed a habit of disturbing the House in making their point of view and insisting it beyond a point and thereby stalling the House for a variety of reasons. Then the Chairman adjourns the House because I don't want ugly scenes to be seen by the people," he said.

Members think that automatically if they (notices) are

not taken up today, they will be taken up tomorrow. Hereafter, except by taking special permission, they will not be repeated again," he ruled.

The Chairman also directed that no placards, newspaper articles, air purifiers or masks should be displayed in the House. "Nothing should be displayed in the House," he said, and warned of action against it.

Naidu objected to letters written to him being leaked in the media even before he receives it and said the Chair would not come under such pressure tactics. He warned against running commentary by MPs and defying the Chair, saying he will "name" such members.

Naidu said it is the Chairman's prerogative to allow or disallow discussions under a particular rule. Observing that Rajya Sabha is currently holding its 250th session, the Chairman said members should cooperate in running proceedings of the House in a smooth manner.

Left, BJP spar over JNU fee hike in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of Left parties and the BJP on Friday clashed in Rajya Sabha over the issue of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students' protest against a hike in hostel fees and a draft hostel manual which imposes dress codes and curfew timings.

At the backdrop of issue rocking in the Parliament ever since the Winter session started, HRD Ministry appointed three-member panel to recommend ways to restore normal functioning in JNU, concluded its meetings on Friday and will submit its recommendations next week.

Through a Zero Hour mention in the upper house, K K Ragesh of the CPI (M) raised the matter and sought a judicial probe into police action against agitating students. Immediately after this, Prabhat Jha of the BJP raised the issue of "defacement" of a yet-to-be-unveiled statue of Swami Vivekananda on the JNU campus.

Modi Govt plans to merge 2 UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After reorganization of J&K, the Narendra Modi Government has decided to merge two Union Territories - Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli into one and a Bill to this effect is expected to be tabled in Parliament next week. The merged UT is likely to be named as Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and its headquarters could be Daman and Diu.

The move comes three months after reorganization of J&K into two UTs - J&K, and Ladakh. Union Minister Arjun

Meghwal on Friday said in the Lok Sabha that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill 2019 is part of the proposed Government business for the next week.

Officials said the merger of the two UTs, located along the western coast near Gujarat, will be done for better administration and check duplications of various work.

So far, both the UTs have separate budgets and different secretariats even though they are just 35 km apart. Dadra and Nagar Haveli has just one district while Daman and Diu has two.

India, China to hold 70 celebratory activities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China will jointly hold 70 celebratory activities to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The modalities for celebration was agreed to during last month's informal summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The activities, including parliamentary exchanges, will demonstrate the historic connect between the two civilisations as well as their growing bilateral relationship over the

years, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on Friday.

They will further deepen people-to-people exchanges between the two countries at all levels, including between their respective legislatures, businesses, academics, cultural and youth organisations as well as the defence forces, the MEA further said.

The two sides will also engage in cooperative projects in studying ancient maritime links between India and China through the establishment of sister-state relations between Tamil Nadu and Fujian Province, it added.

RTI applications increase by 11% in PMO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) received a slight drop in receiving RTI applications during 2018-19 compared to 2017-18 - from 12,500 to 12,143. And the ministries of Tribal Affairs and Home Affairs topped the list in rejecting the most number of RTI applications filed by the public to seek information from the Government.

However, the overall number of applications has increased by 11 per cent in 2018-19 as compared to previous year 2017-18. According to the Central Information Commission's (CIC) annual report 2018-19, 64,334 applications, which come to 4.70 per



cent of the 1.37 million applications received during 2018-19, were rejected.

The report says of the total 12,143 applications, 2,000 applications went to the first appeal while only 259 preferred to go to the second appeal. As per report, a total of 12,787 applications were filed with the PMO in 2016-17 as against 11,138 in 2015-16 and 12,674 during 2014-15.

As many as 7,077 such queries were raised in 2013-14 and 5,828 during 2012-13.

According to report, of the total applications, 26.54 per cent applications rejected was reported by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and 16.41 per cent by the Home Ministry.

The report says as many as 13.70 lakh RTI applications were received by the registered Central Public Authorities (PAs). This is higher by 1, 36,922 or 11 per cent than the previous year 2017-18. A total 64,344 applications processed during 2018-19 showing a downward trend in rejections which have come down by 0.43% from the 5.13% reported in 2017-18.

The report shows highest number of application was received by Ministry of Finance (2.11 lakh), followed by

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (1.47 lakh), UT of Delhi (1.28 lakh) and Ministry of Railways (1.28 lakh).

The RTI Act allows Indian citizens to seek governance-related information from Government departments in a time-bound manner. The Act has provisions to raise appeal in case the applicant is not satisfied with the response provided by the Government department concerned.

The CIC disposed of 17,188 Second Appeals and Complaints cases in 2018-19. A total of 22,736 cases were registered during the same period. At the end of the year the Commission had 29,655 cases pending before it.

25,000 tonnes of plastic waste generated every day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Increasing use of plastics by the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector among others is posing huge environmental hazards with more than 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste being generated every day. More alarmingly, 40 per cent of this plastic waste remains uncollected and littered in the environment, the Government informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

In a written response to a question in the Lower House, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar also talked about a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 60 major cities of India, which estimated that around 4,059 tonnes per day of plastic waste is generated from these cities.

The Minister said the demand of plastic has increased significantly due to its increased use in the FMCG sector, which has indirectly resulted into the challenge of plastic waste man-



agement. "With continued economic development, the demand for consumer goods is increasing. Among the various factors driving this growth, one of the most significant factor is increasing use of plastics by FMCG sector."

"Due to its durability, strength, inert behaviour and low cost, plastic emerged as one of the most reliable packaging material for the industries. As an outcome, the increase in demand for plastic has indirectly resulted into the chal-

lenge of plastic waste management," Javadekar said.

The Government aims to rid the country of single use plastic by 2022 as part of the Clean India (Swachh Bharat) part two campaign. Replying to another question on developing green alternatives to plastic, the Minister said due to its cheap cost, finding an alternative was a "challenging task".

"Due to various positive factors including cheap cost associated with plastic packaging, finding an ecologically sustainable and green alternative to plastic is a challenging task."

It is estimated that around 25,940 tonnes/day of plastic waste is generated in India. There are 4,773 registered plastic manufacturing/ Multi-Layer Plastic manufacturing/ recycling units in the country. Approximately 15,384 tonnes/day, which is 60 per cent of the total plastic waste is collected and recycled. This recycled plastic is used in manufacturing of several products. The remaining 10,556 tonnes/day of the plastic waste, which is estimated to be approximately 40 per cent of plastic waste generation, remains uncollected and littered in the environment," Javadekar said.

The Minister informed that an expert group has been constituted by Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) with respect to research and development for compostable or biodegradable technology on plastic.

It is the job of the MEA that if there is any important development in India, then we should engage others on that, and if there is any request from the diplomatic community - asking us what happened and why did it happen - then it is our job to engage them and put our perspective," Kumar said. Kumar said India engaged with some countries in Delhi itself or through Indian missions abroad on the matter of the Supreme Court's Ayodhya judgment.

MEA: Ayodhya judgment explained to other countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has satisfactorily explained the Ayodhya judgment to other countries and the engagement with them on this matter has been "largely successful", Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said on Friday.

It is the job of the MEA that if there is any important development in India, then we should engage others on that, and if there is any request from the diplomatic community - asking us what happened and why did it happen - then it is our job to engage them and put our perspective," Kumar said. Kumar said India engaged with some countries in Delhi itself or through Indian missions abroad on the matter of the Supreme Court's Ayodhya judgment.

SC to examine validity of amended law allowing private firms to use Aadhaar data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to examine the constitutional validity of amended Aadhaar law and the regulations allowing private entities to use the 12 digit unique number as proof of identity of consumers for opening bank accounts and getting mobile phone connections.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justice B R Gavai issued notices to the Centre and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on a PIL which alleged that the amended law and the regulations were violative of fundamental rights such as right to privacy of the citizens. A 5-judge Constitution bench, by a majority verdict of 4:1 in September last year, held the Centre's Aadhaar law as "constitutional" with certain caveats.

It held however that Aadhaar would not be manda-



tory for opening the bank accounts, mobile connections or school admissions.

The government then brought the amended Bill which was passed on July 8 by Parliament and the amendments provide for use of Aadhaar number for KYC authentication on voluntary basis under the Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

The amendment and the regulations allow voluntary use of Aadhaar number for authentication and identity proof in

opening bank accounts and procuring mobile phone connections. The fresh PIL filed by S G Vombatkere, a former Army officer and Bezawada Wilson, a social activist has challenged the validity of the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Aadhaar

(Pricing of Aadhaar Authentication Services) Regulations, 2019 on grounds including that they are violative of fundamental rights of privacy, equality and freedom of speech and expression.

Protest ends in BHU, Sanskrit dept reopens

PTI ■ VARANASI (UP)

A group of Banaras Hindu University students protesting against the appointment of a Muslim professor at the Sanskrit literature department ended their 'dharna' on Friday.

The university had announced on Thursday that classes at the department would resume, indicating that the stir against the appointment of assistant professor Feroze Khan had ended.

"The Faculty of Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan, Banaras Hindu University, has reopened," the BHU tweeted on Thursday.

But the protest by a small group, mostly from the RSS-affiliated student's union ABVP, continued for some hours for the 15th day on Friday till an announcement by the agitating students themselves. The group had insisted that a Muslim cannot teach Sanskrit, a stand opposed by other students.

The dharna was called off following an assurance by the dean of the Sanskrit literature department.

According to BHU student and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) leader Chakrapani Ojha, the dean of the Sanskrit literature department met the students on



The dharna was called off following an assurance by the dean of the Sanskrit literature department

Friday and assured them of an inquiry.

Ojha said they would again resume their protest if no action was taken within 10 days into the "irregularity" in the appointment process of the assistant Sanskrit professor in the SVDV.

Meanwhile, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh said it did not agree with the students' protests.

In a statement, RSS leader Jai Prakash Lal said a meeting

was held with organisation leaders in Varanasi, in which they held that the opposition by a section of BHU students was wrong.

Lal added that they do not support the students staging dharna in the campus on this issue. A BHU spokesperson said several rounds of talks were held on Thursday in the vice chancellor's office by students, teachers, chief proctor.

It was decided to open the classroom and hold classes from the next day. Soon after the meeting, the classroom's locks were opened, the spokesperson said.

Earlier, some of the students also burnt the effigy of the vice chancellor to protest against the appointment of Khan. The protesters had demanded for a high-level probe of CBI in the matter.

Unlike his BHU brother, new Sanskrit teacher of Belur college enjoying job

Kolkata: At a time when students of the Banaras Hindu University are up in arms over appointment of a Muslim Sanskrit teacher, a man from the minority community selected as an Assistant Professor of Sanskrit by a city-based college on Friday said he was overwhelmed by warm welcome from students as well faculty members.

Ramzan Ali has been chosen to teach Sanskrit at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira in Belur, on the outskirts of the Bengal's capital. He joined his new assignment on Tuesday last. He earlier taught at a college in north Bengal for nine years.

Ali said he was overwhelmed by the kind reception he received from the students

and faculty members.

"I was welcomed by principal Swami Shastrajnandaji Maharaj, and everyone... Maharaj told me that my religious identity was not important, what mattered was my grasp over the language, my in-depth knowledge and my ability to share it with the students," Ali told PTI.

The Belur based institution is a fully residential degree college for boys affiliated to the University of Calcutta. It was founded in 1941 by the Ramakrishna Mission.

It got the 11th NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) in the college category in 2018-19 academic session from Union HRD ministry.

Asked about the agitation

in Uttar Pradesh based BHU, Ali said he would not like to make any comment about another educational institution, but "I believe Sanskrit embodies India's inclusiveness, its rich culture. Don't forget Sanskrit is the mother of all languages. How can anyone bar people from other religions from learning and teaching Sanskrit?"

A section of students at BHU has been demonstrating against the appointment of Feroze Khan as the assistant professor of the varsity's Sanskrit department.

Although the BHU authorities backed him, Khan has not been able to take classes.

The university tweeted on Thursday that the faculty of Sanskrit vidya dharna vinyan

has reopened after days of protests.

Unlike the BHU professor, Ali, who is in his early 40s, said he never faced any discrimination as a Sanskrit teacher.

"I never felt that I was out of place or unwanted while studying or teaching Sanskrit. Here, at the Belur college, the management has arranged for my accommodation and ensured that I do not face any inconvenience," the assistant professor maintained.

A student of the Sanskrit department at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira said he was looking forward to attending Ali's classes.

It is "unfair" to question the religious identity of a teacher, he said.

"Ali sir has just joined, so

far I haven't had the opportunity to attend any of his classes. I am looking forward to it," the student added.

The principal of the college could not be contacted for his comment.

Ali said since the time of joining the college on November 19, he is liked by students and has even joined their 'adda' after class hours.

"I have already taken classes of first and second years and the students have showered me with love. Some of them have even commented why I did not join before the Teachers' Day on September 5 so that they could have shown me their love and respect. And I tell them my greatest reward will be if they follow teachers' words." PTI



Devotees feed gulls flying over the Ganga River, in Varanasi on Friday

Country united on temple construction: Shahnawaz Hussain

Jaipur: BJP national spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain said here on Friday that the entire country is united in supporting the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The former Union Minister said two big issues — the removal of Article 370 from Kashmir and the case of the Ayodhya Temple — that were going on since independence have been resolved after the Modi government came to power at the Centre.

"Today the whole country is united to build Ram temple," he said.

"Iqbal Ansari, who was fighting in Supreme Court on the issue of construction of the Ram temple, has also accepted this decision. But Asaduddin Owaisi is not ready to accept the court verdict. There has been solidarity with the temple construction in the country, brotherhood has increased." PTI

Alwar police asks 9 Muslim cops to shave beards, withdraws order day later

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The police in Rajasthan's Alwar ordered nine Muslim members of the force to shave their beards, only to withdraw its instructions a day later.

The original order on Thursday said the nine policemen were asked to cut their beards so that they acted and looked "unbiased".

As the news spread, on Friday Alwar SP Anil Paris Deshmukh withdrew own order. Police said they had earlier given permission to 32 Muslim personnel to sport beards. Thursday's order withdrew this permission for nine of them.

The remaining 23 policemen were allowed to continue

Telangana HC rejects plea against privatising bus routes in State

Hyderabad: In a breather to the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led TRS Government, the Telangana High Court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the State Cabinet decision of privatising over 5,000 bus routes.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A Abhishek Reddy, dismissed the petition of PL Vishweshwar Rao, vice-president of the Telangana Jana Samithi, challenging the cabinet's November 2 decision to privatise permits of 5,100 TSRTC (Telangana State Road Transport Corporation) routes.

Advocate General BS Prasad said he gave an under-

Bengal Governor calls for dialogue over para-teachers' stir, TMC MP denies death

Kolkata: With the indefinite fast by para-teachers in West Bengal to press for a hike in their salaries entering its eighth day on Friday, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar appealed to all sides concerned to initiate a dialogue for resolving the issue.

Over 1,000 para-teachers, who are contractual teachers in Government-run schools, are on a sit-in since November 11.

At least 37 of the protesting teachers are on an indefinite fast from November 15 and about 10 of them have fallen sick, the organisation which is spearheading the para-teachers' movement said.

"@MamataOfficial, I appeal (to) all sides for dialogue at the highest level as over 1000 para-teachers are on a sit-in since November 11 and 37 of them are on an indefinite fast from Friday," he tweeted.

Referring to the death of para-teacher Revati Raut in West Midnapore district, Dhankhar tweeted, "Reported death of Revati Raut, in West Midnapore and illness of others worrisome."

Raut, a middle-aged para-teacher who had taken part in the demonstration by para-teachers here for several days, died at her residence at Debra in West Midnapore on Thursday. Bhagirath Ghosh, co-convenor of the 'Para-Teacher Oikyo Manch' which is spearheading the movement, said. TMC Lok Sabha party leader Sudip Bandopadhyay denied that a para-teacher has died and claimed it as "a false propaganda by BJP". PTI

Amid BHU row, AMU teachers recall their institute's Sanskrit connect

Aligarh (UP): Amid a row at Banaras Hindu University over the appointment of a Muslim professor at its Sanskrit department, teachers at Aligarh Muslim University recalled their institute's contribution to the subject.

An AMU scholar was the first Muslim to earn a PhD in Sanskrit. Two of the nine faculty members at the Sanskrit department now are Muslims, they reminded.

At BHU, a group of students has been protesting against the appointment of Feroze Khan, saying a Muslim cannot teach Sanskrit. The BHU has backed the professor.

AMU spokesperson Rahat Abrar told PTI that when Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College turned into a university in 1920, its Sanskrit department was among the most prestigious at AMU.

The second vice-chancellor of AMU, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan, in his inaugural address at the varsity in 1924 had highlighted the importance of Sanskrit.

"Sanskrit literature is a record of Hindu civilisation and culture and it is our aim to produce Muslim scholars who would enrich our culture by a contribution from this source," he is quoted as saying.

"It is proposed to award special scholarships to Muslim students for the study of this subject," he had said. PTI

Cong wants a 'grand temple' to be built in Ayodhya: Pilot

Jaipur: The Congress wants a 'grand temple' to be built in Ayodhya, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said on Friday, days after the Supreme Court cleared the way for the construction of the shrine in the Hindu holy town.

He also said the court's decision was acceptable to all and people should now stop doing politics on the issue.

In its verdict announced on November 9, the Supreme Court backed the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya, and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot be allotted for building a mosque in the town.

"Everyone has welcomed the decision and the Congress

KERALA SNAKEBITE CASE — Principal, Vice Principal suspended, protests mount

Wayanad: Amid mounting protests, the Kerala Government on Friday suspended the principal and vice-principal of the school where a 10-year-old girl had died of snake bite inside the classroom, as students hit the streets vowing not to enter their classrooms till justice was delivered to their schoolmate.

Various student organisations also took out protest marches to the district collectorate at Kalpetta demanding action against those responsible for her death.

Protests were also held at Thiruvananthapuram.

The state education department suspended principal AK Karunakaran and vice-principal KK Mohan of the Government vocational higher secondary school at Sulthan Bathery in Wayanad district.

After a preliminary probe, a teacher, Shijil, was suspended for alleged lapse on Thursday.



The school authorities came under attack after teachers failed to ensure that the fifth standard student, Shehala Sherin, who was bitten by a snake inside her class on November 20, was rushed to hospital.

Though her parents rushed her to four hospitals, no antivenom was administered and they were told to take the child to the Kozhikode Medical college hospital, which is about 90 km from Sulthan Bathery.

Shehala's father said she died before reaching the medical college.

The deputy director of the education department has dissolved the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). PTI

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.SSA/TT&P/EPB/351/2019/10280 Date : 22.11.2019

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (under Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class - I & II (Four Line and Square Line).

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. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/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

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU

EXTENSION - IST

Subject : (i) Providing and laying Wet Mix, 50mm thick Bitumen Macadam and 25mm semi dense bituminous concrete on Jagti Tanda and allied links. (under Langushing Programme). (ii) Providing and laying Wet Mix, 50mm thick Bitumen Macadam and 25mm semi dense bituminous concrete on Nandani Tara to Madrasa road in Km Ist RD 0-1000 and km 2nd RD 0-500. (under Langushing Programme).

Reference :- Short e-NIT No. 99 of 2019-20/Div-2 dated 11-11-2019. The following changes to the critical dates of the above said works are hereby made as under:-

Please read	Instead of
Bid submission end date 27-11-2019 (1800 hours)	Bid submission end date 22-11-2019 (1800 hours)
Bid opening date 28-11-2019 (1400 hours)	Bid opening date 23-11-2019 (1400 hours)

All other terms and conditions remains same. Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu

No. DIP/J-9555/19 Dated:- 21.11.2019

AXIS BANK PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLE

Whereas pursuant Order dated 02.11.2019 passed by Ld. Arbitrator (Sh. S.C. Rajan) in the Arbitration proceedings bearing ARB Case No. 4290/2019.Mis Axis Bank Ltd. proposes to sell the below mentioned vehicle (secured assets in the name of the Corporate Debtor i.e. M/S Shilpi Cable Technologies Ltd., Company under liquidation proceedings) on "As is where is" and "As is what is" and "Whatever There is" and "No recourse" basis for realization of Bank's dues by inviting Bid proposal Form/offer document from public at large latest by 30-November 2019 between 9:30 AM to 5:30 AM at Axis House, 2nd Floor, Tower-2, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Landmark Jaypee Greens wish town, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for inviting Bids in an open public auction to be conducted on 02-DEC-2019 at 11:00 A.M. having same venue.

Borrower/Co-Borrower Name	NPA Date	Description of Vehicle	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Ernest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Outstanding dues as on 30-May-2019 (in Rs.)	Last date and time for submission of bids	Date and Time of opening of bids.
M/S Shilpi Cable Technologies Ltd.	04-Aug-2017	Registration No.: DL 1CX4219 Engine No.:CYC007079 Chassis No.:SCBEN53W8FC050093 Model: BENTLEY CONTINENTAL FLYING SPUR V8	Rs. 1,21,21,000/-	Rs. 12,12,100/-	1,15,82,668/-	30-NOV-2019 between 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	02-DEC-2019 at 11:00 PM

Terms and conditions of the said open public auction:-

- Offerors shall have to give complete offer.
- Each bid offer shall be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equal to 10% of the Reserve Price amount, by D.D. / Pay Order drawn on a Scheduled Bank in favour of Axis Bank Limited payable at Delhi. D.Ds / P.Os should be purchased by the Auction bidders on his/her/their behalf only.
- The offer in the prescribed Bid proposal Form/offer document shall only be considered and free copy of the same can be obtained from the Authorized Officer of the Bank. This bid proposal form shall be put in an envelope which should be sealed and super scribed with "Offer from M/s/Ms. for purchase of the Secured Asset(s)/Vehicle of "M/S Shilpi Cable Technologies Ltd."
- The said envelope be dropped during normal working hours in the BID BOX kept at Axis House, 2nd Floor, Tower-2, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Landmark Jaypee Greens wish town, Noida (U.P.)-201301 on or before 30-Nov-2019 between 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Bid proposal Form/offer document received after the due date & time shall not be considered under any circumstances.
- The successful bidder(s) shall deposit 100% of the bid amount (including 10% deposited before bid) immediately or on next day of the sale being knocked down in his/her/their favour. Remaining payment to be made only in the form of Cheque/DD/PO drawn in favour of "Axis Bank Limited" payable at Delhi. Cash payment shall not be accepted. In case of default in payment, entire amount so deposited shall be forfeited without any further reason and notice and the vehicle shall be resold forthwith. In such case the successful bidder shall forfeit all claims in regard to the vehicle or to any part of the sum for which it may be sold subsequently. Further, all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank on account of such resale shall be borne and paid by the defaulting purchaser who shall also be bound to make good any deficiency arising on such resale and he/she/they shall not be entitled to make any claim in the event of the secured asset(s)/vehicle realising higher price on such resale.
- Inter-se Bidding to all the eligible bidders is allowed.
- The Bank reserves its right, solely at its discretion and on such terms & conditions it may stipulate, to extend the aforesaid time limit.
- Bid proposal Form/offer document will be opened by the Authorized Officer of the Bank on 02-DEC-2019 at 11:00A.M. at Axis House, 2nd Floor, Tower-2, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Landmark Jaypee Greens wish town, Noida (U.P.)-201301 in the presence of the borrowers, Co-borrowers, mortgagors (if available) and the prospective buyers or their authorized representatives who may choose to remain present at the day and time as aforesaid, inter alia, for negotiations, for raising/reviving their respective offers.
- Respective Offerors, and/or their authorized representatives, may remain present at the time of opening of the Bid proposal Form/offer document. The offerors will have an opportunity to increase their offers at this time if they so desire. They are, therefore, advised to remain present themselves or through their duly authorized and empowered representatives. The amount by which the bidders are to be increased shall be determined by the officer conducting the sale.
- Any disputes/differences arising out of sale of the vehicle/secured asset(s) offered for sale shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Courts / Tribunals at Delhi only.
- The secured Asset(s)/vehicle is/are offered for sale on "As is Where is", "As is What is", "Whatever There is" and "No Recourse" Basis. The Bank does not undertake any responsibility to procure any permission/license etc. in respect of the secured asset(s)/vehicle offered for sale or for any dues/charges including, dues of the RTO and/or any other dues of the authority, taxes, if any, in respect of the said movable secured asset(s) / Vehicle.
- The Authorized Officer of the Bank reserves his right to accept or reject highest, any or all offer (s) without assigning any reason and in case all the offers are rejected, either to hold negotiations with any of the Offerors or to sell the secured asset(s)/vehicle through private negotiations with any of the Offerors or any other party / parties. The Bank's decision in this behalf shall be final.
- The amount by which the bidders are to be increased during negotiations held, if any, shall be determined by the Authorized Officer conducting the sale.
- It is to be noted that against the said corporate debtor, liquidation proceeding has been commenced pursuant Order dated 01.05.2019 passed by Hon'ble NCLT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the case No. CA 1144(PB)/2018, titled as "Macquarie Bank Ltd. Vs Shilpi Cable Technologies Limited" and during the pendency of the said liquidation proceedings, Axis Bank Ltd. had realized its security interest and accordingly, Ld. Liquidator has and/or physical possession of the said Vehicle to the Bank. However in view of Regulation 37 (2) of The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016, Axis Bank Ltd. has to inform the Ld. Liquidator about the highest bidding price and in turn, Ld. Liquidator will inform the Axis Bank Ltd. within next 21 days if any other person is willing to buy the said vehicle higher than the intimated price, therefore confirmation of sale by Axis Bank Ltd. shall be subject to confirmation of Ld. Liquidator and highest auction purchaser have to mandatorily wait till next 30days for confirmation.
- It is also to be noted that in such cases where, bidding will not confirm during the said 30days' period, the highest auction purchaser (s) will not be entitled to claim any interest on EMD and balance sale consideration already paid by him/her/their.
- Final sale conclusion shall be subject to confirmation by the Authorized Officer of the Bank.
- For inspection of the vehicle, the intending bidder may contact Mr. Kamendra Kumar Rajput @ 9811990890 / Mr. Tanu Parashar @ 7840025009 Mr. Manish Jain @ 8475001008 at Axis House, 2nd Floor, Tower-2, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Landmark Jaypee Greens Wishtown Noida (U.P.)-201301 during office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is advisable that intending bidders should take prior appointment before reaching to the said Office. The bid is non-transferable.

Date : 23-11-2019, Place : New Delhi

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No. 30/19 dt.22.11.19 SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.reps.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14:30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. "For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.reps.gov.in

75.18.1252B	THINNER
82 19.0069	SECUKINUMAB 150MG INJ
82 19.1391	CITICOLINE 500MG TAB
38 19.1016A	Yoke for CBC
84 19.1169	Nature Fibre THERMOSET COMPOSITE
30 19.1301	Silent Block for anchor link
83 19.1537	Pre-Printed Thermal (Automatic Ticket Vending Machine)
83 19.1531C	PRS Ticket with Advertisement
Money Value Item	Running Contract for Machine Numbered Money Value Books & Forms
30 19.1801	Mirror Assembly
30 19.1211	Hydraulic shock absorber
30 19.3460	Lavatory door arrangement
33 19.5011	Supply, installation & Commissioning of pressurized flushing system in L/H Coaching
25 19.1003	Brake shoe complete

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening: S.No. 01 to 03 on 13.12.19; S.No. 04 on 16.12.19; S.No. 05 on 17.12.19; S.No. 06 to 09 on 20.12.19; S.No. 10 to 13 on 23.12.19; S.No. 14 on 01.01.2020.

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, A1914 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.reps.gov.in <http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in>

Sharad Pawar outwitted Chanakya of politics, NCP takes a jibe at BJP

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar has finally "outwitted" the "so-called Chanakya of the Indian politics", the party said on Friday, as it inches closer to forming a Government with Shiv Sena and Congress in Maharashtra.

The NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik also reiterated that the throne of Delhi could not make Maharashtra bow before it.

"@PawarSpeaks Sahab has finally outwitted the so-called Chanakya of Indian politics. The throne of Delhi could not make Maharashtra bow down before it. Jai Maharashtra," Malik tweeted, without naming anyone.

It is believed that Malik's jibe was directed at Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah, who is often credited for being instrumental in the BJP's victories in several polls and Government formations in the country.

The BJP and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena had contested the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls jointly and won 105 and



56 seats respectively.

However, the saffron partners fell out after the Sena persisted with its demand for sharing the Chief Minister's post on rotational basis.

Now in a bid to form a Government, the Sena is in talks with the NCP and Congress, who have won 54 and 44 seats respectively in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly. Maharashtra has been under the President's rule since November 12, after no party came forward with enough numbers to form a Government.

Sena won't side with BJP even if offered Indra's throne: Raut

Mumbai: Shiv Sena won't side with the BJP even if offered Lord Indra's throne, Sena MP Sanjay Raut said here on Friday.

Talking to reporters, Raut reiterated that his party will get the Maharashtra CM's post when the three-party alliance with Congress and NCP assumes power.

"The time for offers has ended," Raut said, when asked about reports that the BJP had agreed to share the CM's post with the Sena.

"People of Maharashtra want Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray to become the CM," he said.

Asked if the three non-BJP parties would meet the State governor on Friday itself, Raut quipped, "Why meet the governor when the President's rule is in place?"



MAHA MAYORAL POLLS Sena-Cong-NCP get the better of BJP

Mumbai: The BJP was outsmarted on Friday by emerging political combinations in Maharashtra and lost mayoral polls in Latur and Ulhasnagar despite having a majority in both civic bodies.

The Shiv Sena managed to win the posts of mayor and deputy mayor in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane.

The BJP, however, managed to keep its flock together and got the support of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena to win the posts of mayor and deputy mayor in Nashik.

In Latur, the Congress' Vikrant Gojalgunde was elected mayor, in what is being seen as a setback for former BJP Minister Sambhaji Nilangekar. In Ulhasnagar, the BJP, despite having a majority in the municipal corporation, was beaten by former saffron ally Shiv Sena which won the mayor's post after it got the support of the NCP, Congress and a local outfit called Team Omi Kalani (TOK).

In Mumbai, the Sena's Kishori Pednekar and Suhas Wadkar were elected unopposed as mayor and deputy mayor respectively as the BJP did not field candidates for the two posts.

The Sena's Naresh Mhaske and Bhagwan Kadam were elected mayor and deputy mayor respectively of Thane Municipal Corporation.

In Parbhani, Anita Sonkamble and Bhagwan Waghmare of the Congress, which is the largest party in the civic body, were elected mayor and deputy mayor.

In Nashik, Satish Kulkarni of the BJP was elected mayor after a group of its corporators, who were cosying up to the Sena, stayed back.

With five MNS corporators also voting for the BJP candidates in the Nashik Municipal Corporation, the latter won the deputy mayor's post as well, with 82-year Bhikubai Bagul getting the post unopposed.

In the 70-member Latur civic body, BJP had 36 and Congress 33 corporators while the NCP had one. One BJP corporator died and the lone NCP corporator joined the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi.

Whoever forms Govt, we will get farmers' work done: Gadkari

Nagpur: Irrespective of whose Government is formed in Maharashtra, we will get the work done in the interest of farmers, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

The Minister for Road Transport and Highways was speaking at the inauguration of Agrovision, an expo showcasing a wide range of agricultural products, here.

He said instead of taking so much interest in covering who is forming the next Government in Maharashtra, the media should focus on farmers' issues.

"Whoever forms the government, work will be carried out in a good manner. Irrespective of whose Government comes to power in Maharashtra, we will get the work done in farmers' interest. Farmers are more important... Who is part of the government is insignificant," the Minister said.

Marathwada gets ₹819 crore relief for unseasonal rain

Aurangabad: The State administration has sanctioned ₹819.59 crore relief for Marathwada farmers who suffered losses due to unseasonal showers, an official said on Friday.

The fund has been sanctioned for farmers in eight districts of the region.

"The State administration has sanctioned ₹819.59 crore as aid for post-monsoon showers that hit farmers in Marathwada," deputy divisional commissioner Parag Soman said. The drought-prone region didn't receive adequate rainfall during monsoon, but farmers suffered more when ready crops were damaged due to unseasonal showers that hit the State, a State official said.

"This damage was surveyed by Government agencies and a demand of ₹2,909.36 crore was earlier presented to the State administration," he added.

NC, Cong workers join BJP in Jammu & Reasi

PTI ■ JAMMU

Several National Conference and Congress activists on Friday joined the BJP at separate functions in Jammu, Kathua and Reasi districts of this region, a saffron party spokesman said.

Two prominent NC activists from Kishtwar — Inderjit and Ranjit — along with their supporters joined the party in the presence of senior leaders including Jammu & Kashmir unit president Ravinder Raina and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta at party headquarters here, he said.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold,

Shops, businesses shut for third consecutive day

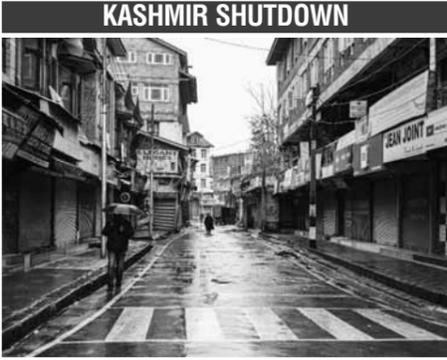
Srinagar: Most shops and other business establishments in Kashmir were closed on Friday, the third consecutive day of a Valley-wide shutdown following a brief semblance of normalcy.

On Wednesday, posters warning shopkeepers against opening their shutters as well as public transport operators appeared at several places in the city and elsewhere in the Valley, officials said.

This ended the sense of the last few weeks that life was getting back to normal.

Main markets in the city and most other areas in the Valley were shut and shops did not open even for a few hours in the morning as they had been doing for the last few weeks.

Public transport was also largely off the roads and there were fewer private vehicles



than usual, officials said. However, some auto-rickshaws and inter-district cabs were plying.

Jamia Masjid, the grand mosque of Kashmir, was closed for prayers for the 16th consecutive Friday — ever since August 5 when the Centre announced the revoking of Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and its bifurcation into two union territories.

Authorities fear that vested interests might exploit large gatherings at the grand mosque to fuel protests, officials said.

Pre-paid mobile phones and all internet services continued to remain suspended since August 5.

Most top level and second rung separatist politicians are in preventive custody while mainstream leaders, including two former Chief Ministers, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, have been either detained or placed under house arrest.

The Government has detained former Chief Minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah under the controversial Public Safety Act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the Chief Minister.

Madras HC stays order on TN Govt's efforts to legalise temple land encroachments

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Government's efforts to meddle with the encroached lands measuring thousands of acres belonging to the temples in the State administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department came to a nought on Friday as the Madras High Court stayed the Government Order issued on August 30 in this regard.

A Bench consisting of Justices M Sathyanarayana and N Seshasayee stayed the sections of the GO which had empowered the State to buy the encroached land from the encroachers and sell it back to them with pattas.

The contention of the petitioner T R Ramesh was that the GO was issued by the Government to circumvent the court order of February 2018 in which it had asked the HR&CE Department to furnish the details of more than 50,000 acres of prime land owned by the temples that had vanished.

Though the Court had asked the HR&CE Dept to furnish the details in six months, nothing has come out even after 18 months. Meanwhile the misappropriation of the temple lands continued with the active connivance of the officials of the HR&CE Department, pointed out Ramesh, president, Temple Worshipers Society, the main petitioner.

In Friday's order the judges asked the Department to collect the details of the encroached lands and the action taken report to retrieve the same from the encroachers. "While staying the section of the GO in the interim verdict, the bench directed the Commissioner HR&CE to file a detailed report regarding Hindu temple lands, extent, encroachments and the steps taken to clear the encroachments. We will soon see skeletons tumbling down from the cupboards of the Government," said Ramesh.

It may be noted that the HR&CE Department is already in the eye of a controversy regarding the thefts of nearly 5,000 antique temple idols from the temples under its jurisdiction.



Akhil Gogoi-led KMSS stages protest against CAB in Assam

Guwahati: RTI activist Akhil Gogoi-led Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) on Friday staged a protest here against the proposed tabling of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 during the Winter session of the Parliament.

The KMSS organised its 'Raj Bhavan Chalo' agitation to submit a memorandum to the governor against the Bill for forwarding it to the President.

The Indigenous Forum, Assam led by ULFA (pro-talk) faction leaders Anup Chetia and Mrinal Hazarika and human rights activist Lachit Bordoloi staged a separate sit-in against the Bill.

Speaking to reporters, Gogoi said, "Under no circumstance can the anti-indigenous people CAB be accepted



Activists of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti raise slogans during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (2016) in Guwahati on Friday

drop of blood, we will oppose CAB which is against the interest of the indigenous people of the State."

Protests against the Bill have been raging in Assam over the past week, with activists of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) along with 30 ethnic students' organisations organising rallies across the state on Thursday evening.

Speaking to reporters, AASU Chief Advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya had asserted, "Assam is not a dustbin for illegal Bangladeshis. Under the Assam Accord, 1985, we have already accepted the Bangladeshis who came here illegally till March, 1971. Now, attempts are being made by the Centre to divide Assam on religious lines... Till our last

by our State as 1.9 crore Hindu Bangladeshis will come to Assam and threaten the existence of the Assamese language besides taking up the jobs, rendering the local people unemployed."

Gogoi expressed fears that due to opposition of the state Governments of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to the Bill, it will be imposed on Assam and Tripura.

Sahitya Akademi awardee Dr Hiren Gohain, who was part of the KMSS agitation, said, "An attempt is being made by the Centre to divide Assam on religious lines... Till our last

Why scrap final NRC after taking credit of draft: Gogoi

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Veteran Congress leader Tarun Gogoi on Friday asked the BJP-led Central Government to make it clear why the final NRC would be scrapped, when the saffron party had taken all the credit and promised to deport 40 lakh illegal immigrants after its draft was published.

Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam, also alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement to carry out the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process across India is a tactic to divert people's attention from the real issues of the country.

"The Centre should clarify on what basis the updated final NRC in Assam will be scrapped. When the first draft of the NRC was published, the BJP had taken all the credit and promised to detect and deport 40 lakh illegal foreigners," he told a press conference here.

The part publication of draft NRC was done on the midnight of December 31, 2017, and the complete draft was published on July 30, 2018. The names of 40.07 lakh applicants did not find a place in that document. The exercise was carried out under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esstt/TT&P/EPB/2020/376/2019/10284 Date :22.11.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -VII (Single Line and Plain).

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. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan 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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION UDHAMPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER 2ND CALL

Date of Issue : 18-11-2019
Dead line of submission of Bids : 03-12-2019
Bid Identification No. e-NIT No: 128 of 2019-20 dated 16.11.2019 under endorsement No. PHE/10751-779 dated 16/11/2019

The Employer [Executive Engineer, PHE Division Udhampur] on behalf of PRESIDENT OF INDIA invites bids from bidders [Class A / Special Class] registered with the State Governments/Central Government / MES / Railways for the construction of work as detailed in the table below.

SI. No. 1 Name of Work : Construction of GI Raising main, Gravity main and Distribution system and Construction of Anchor Blocks under "Upgradation of Water Supply Infrastructure in ID Battal Balian Udhampur Phase I&II" under Languishing projects. SI. No. 2 Bid Identification No. (BIN) : ENIT NO : SI. No. 3 Estimated Cost of Bid : Rs. 347.07 lacs SI. No. 4 Earnest Money (EMD) : Rs. 694140.00 Earnest Money should be in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledge to Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Udhampur payable at Udhampur and valid for 06 months from the last date of submission of bid. SI. No. 5 Tender Fee : Rs. 5000/- (Non refundable) Tender fee in shape of e-challan/Treasury Receipt to be deposited in MH:0215-WSS (Revenue Head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank Branch Udhampur bearing Bank Account No. 0028010200000047, IFSC code JAKA00UHPUR in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Udhampur SI. No. 6 Bid Validity : 60 days from the last date of submission of online Bid. SI. No. 7 Period of Completion : 06 Months SI. No. 8 Availability of Bid Document on e-Procurement Portal : From 18-11-2019 To 03-12-2019 upto 18.00 Hrs. , SI. No. 9 Pre Bid meeting : On 26-11-2019 at 12.30 PM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Udhampur. SI. No. 10 Date and Time for Submission of Bids online : On or before Date 03-12-2019 upto 18.00 Hrs. SI. No. 11 Date and Time for Submission of Hard copy of Bids : Hard copy shall have to be submitted by L1 within three days after opening of Financial Bid. , SI. No. 12 Time and Date of Opening of Bids : Date 04-12-2019 Time 11:00 Hrs. SI. No. 13 Place of Opening of Bids : Office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Udhampur. SI. No. 14 Bid Inviting Officer (BIO) : Executive Engineer PHE Division Udhampur

1. The Bid documents consisting of Instructions to Bidders (ITB), Bid Data Sheet (BDS), Qualification Criteria and Documents to be furnished with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, Contract Data, Drawings, Specifications, the schedule of quantities and set of terms and conditions of contract and other forms will be uploaded on the website: www.itenders.gov.in on or before [03-12-2019 upto 18.00 Hrs] The Bidders can download the bid documents after the due date upto last date for submission of online bid

Position of T/S/AAA : Accorded
Position of funds : Approved under Languishing Projects

Signed for and on behalf of the PRESIDENT OF INDIA
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PHE Division Udhampur

No. DIP/J-9588/19
Dated: 22.11.2019

BJP takes strong view of Bache Gowda supporting son for K'taka bypoll

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Asked if Bache Gowda can be expelled, the minister said the decision will be taken by the party's central leadership.

To a question if Sharath can be brought back to the party-fold if he wins the election, Ashok said There is no question of Sharath Bache Gowda joining the BJP again. Our candidate M T B Nagaraj is going to win the election."

People have told us that he is also holding meetings with them in favour of his son, Revenue minister R Ashoka told reporters on Friday.

Replying to a query on non-cooperation to the party candidate M T B Nagaraj, Ashoka said, We have brought all these facts to the notice of our Central leadership.

The minister emphasised that the party will not tolerate any anti-party activities and such people will be expelled.

We have already expelled Sharath Bache Gowda. Leaders, irrespective of how big they are, will meet the same fate if they indulge in damaging the party, Ashok warned.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTICE

Smt. Amrit Kaur D/o Sh. R.S. Wallia, Commercial Clerk / Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, whose last known address is E/200, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar-4, New Delhi, is unauthorised absent from her duty w.e.f. year 1996 to till date. She was issued a major penalty charge sheet on 24.09.2015 which was pasted at your last working station and public notice was also issued in newspapers. Since Smt. Amrit Kaur did not attend the enquiry, inquiry officer conducted D&AR inquiry ex-parte on the basis of evidence available on record. Copy of inquiry report was sent to her above address by speed post on 01.10.19 for comments on inquiry report, but same was returned back undelivered with the comments that "No search person in this address". Therefore, Smt. Amrit Kaur is hereby informed through this public notice that if she desires to say anything about the D&AR proceeding against her, she may do so within 15 days, if she requires any documents for this purpose, she may contact Chief Office Superintendent/ Commercial/ Divisional Railway Manager Office, New Delhi for the same. If no response is received from her within 15 days, ex-parte decision will be taken by Disciplinary Authority against him on the basis of evidence available on record.

3739/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esstt/TT&P/EPB/2020/376/2019/10282 Date :22.11.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -V (Single Line and Plain).

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. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan 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

NORTHERN RAILWAY

S. no.	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form has been issued	Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.)	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
1.	28/Sr/DEE/G/MB/2019- Provision of Web Based Pump Automation at Various Stations over Moradabad Division.	38,38,117.32	3,000/-	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Moradabad	76,800/-	36 (Thirty Six) Months	Tender will be received upto 15:00 hrs on 20.12.2019	Website www.ineps.gov.in Notice board is located in the Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad
2.	29/Sr/DEE/G/MB/2019- Electrical General Service works in connection with Provision of 2 Nos. Escalator at Bareilly, Escalator at Bareilly and 04 Nos. Escalator at Moradabad Railway station over Moradabad Division.	22,29,407.01	3,000/-	Northern Railway, Moradabad	44,800/-	06 (Six) Months		

Tender Notice No.-17/2019 dated :- 21.11.2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Clean campaigns

Electoral bonds are deeply flawed and more than debate, we need to create a transparent module of political fund-raising



The opacities about funding through electoral bonds have been discussed for quite some time now, benefitting almost all political parties in varying degrees, though the latest expose, courtesy transparency activists accessing RTI documents, has stirred up a big storm in the ongoing Parliament session. That the bonds would further institutionalise the politico-corporate nexus has long been established through the Opposition, which has clearly received the thinnest slices of such donations, is now crying foul. What was under the table is just legitimate now, allowing any corporation, trust, NGO or individual to donate unlimited amounts of money to our political parties. The lies have been piling up ever since the electoral bonds were introduced. For example, while it was claimed that the secret alphanumeric code would insure the donor from being tracked or identified, documents have proven that the State Bank of India (SBI) not only knows who bought how many bonds for whom, it is even required to furnish the information to probe agencies when they need them. The blackout of information has only been in the public domain. Latest documents have proven a more insidious link and a cavalier dismissal of objections. The bond movements, it appears, were closely watched by the Finance Ministry and the protests by SBI and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) over grey areas were turned down. The Election Commission was summarily dismissed as well. And while the ruling party indeed sought the Opposition's views on the scheme and assured transparency to them, it had set up a clandestine architecture. Yet all internal communications on the subject were denied by several Ministers when grilled in the Parliament. In short, the Government of the day successfully firewalled any criticism and set up a system which implied crony capitalism. Donors, by virtue of the guarantee of anonymity, could route kickbacks to parties and the latter would have to reward the largesse of the former with "friendly" policy-making and trading off favours. The poll panel had earlier claimed that electoral bonds made its job of tracking donations from overseas and Government companies difficult. The Government had consistently defended itself saying since the bonds were purchased through banking channels, there was no question of slush money being in circulation, and there was an in-built accountability. But fact of the matter is that accountability is for a few privileged eyes only to decide whether the funds are ethically intended or a backdoor form of wheeling-dealing. Remember, apart from a sealing on cash donations, there is no upper limit for donations. The bonds may be issued by banks but they can never gauge the larger understanding between donor and recipient that drives such transactions.

Real transparency demands that the haze of doubts be eliminated once and for all. Else, the electoral bonds scheme will poison the electoral process rather than cleansing it. Both the donor and political recipient must be identified clearly. Some reformists have suggested State funding, at least at the candidate level, but that would involve an estimated outlay of ₹2,000 crore, something, experts say, can be achieved by truncating the MPLADS (MP Local Area Development Scheme) allocations from five to four years. Direct funding will undoubtedly encourage entrants to participate in elections, clean up the system, reduce dependency on parties to call the shots and dilute the bargaining strength of criminal candidates with muscle and money power. More people in the fray will further motivate the bigger parties to democratise themselves. In the end, elections and their management are an expensive affair and streamlining campaign funding is a work in progress. The main purpose for which electoral bonds were introduced, the need to remove ambiguous sources of money coming into the electoral process and stash cash, has still not been achieved, if seizures during the May Lok Sabha elections are anything to go by. The Election Commission, too, has to set realistic limits of electoral spending, the sum of ₹70 lakh per candidate too little to make good. A workable budget per Lok Sabha constituency, coupled with full disclosure of corporate donations, should be the way forward. Former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi had once suggested creating a National Electoral Fund to which all donors could contribute. The allocations to political parties would then be in proportion to the votes they got. Not only would this protect the identity of donors, it would also weed out black money from politics. But neither the corporate nor the political class believes in such altruism or accountability. So a sustained push by the citizenry may take long but is the only way to drive change.

Kolkata turns pink

Pink-ball cricket is upon us. Is it going to just be a gimmick or a reality of the modern game?



The lights that shine across all major monuments of Kolkata had changed their hue from blue, which is Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's favourite colour, to pink. This to acknowledge India's first day-night Test match and its uniquely coloured pink ball. It was appropriate that this new format was being played in India's greatest cricket ground, Kolkata's Eden Gardens, and the crowds included the likes of Banerjee and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Unfortunately, for the latter, even though Indian cricketers were

polite with her while being introduced, they were nothing like that to Bangladesh's batsmen, bundling them out for just 106. Watching India bat under the lights at the end of a Friday is a good way to begin the weekend, according to most Indian cricket fans and therein lies the greatest attraction of pink-ball cricket. The Test format might be the longest and most challenging of all and the most adaptable of major sports but it is unwieldy both for fans at the stadium and even those watching on television. The shorter variants of the game, both one-day internationals and T20, are played in the evenings and afternoons to attract more spectators into the stadium. Moving Tests towards the evening should help get both working-age people and students in droves.

However, what would really make the game interesting is a viable opponent. Taking nothing away from the stellar performances of India's outstanding pace battery away, Bangladesh has barely put up a fight. Our neighbour has improved tremendously over the past few years but this is clearly a team in strife, thanks to corruption allegations that have cost them their best player, Shakib Al Hasan. Success on the field and a good game are what ensure the long-term viability of a sport or format. India was initially aghast at T20 cricket and commentators called it a travesty. Then, it won the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa in a thrilling contest with Pakistan. And well, we know the rest. Would better competition have made a major difference? One could argue that there are few good teams in the sport right now. But at least India has made a start and the best part of pink-ball cricket may be when our boys tour — no more early morning starts to watch when they travel to Australia and New Zealand and morning cricket when India is in the Caribbean. As for us fans, there is a long way to go.

opinion 08

Forget the brag, get real

Like in J&K, where the Government's decision to split the former State into two Union Territories has led to resentment, undemocratic methods are allegedly under way in Nagaland, too



ASHOK K MEHTA

On November 20, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated in the Rajya Sabha that after more than 100 days, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir was "normal" and that not a single bullet was fired, nor a death reported in Kashmir ever since the abrogation of Article 370. The normalcy claim was, however, debunked by a total shutdown the very next day. Shah must know that the absence of violence should not be construed as peace. Lockdown in the region has not been lifted: Political leaders and activists are still in detention and internet and cell phone services are totally or partially shut. It is, perhaps, too early to celebrate the mirage of normalcy.

Now, rewind to last month, October 31 will be remembered for more than one reason. It marked the deadline for converting the former State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh — following the abrogation of Article 370. It was also for the first time in the history of India that a full-fledged State anywhere in the country was reduced into two Union Territories, whose security would be managed centrally. Two Lieutenant Governors were sworn in on the same day as Sardar Patel's 144th birth anniversary and Indira Gandhi's 35th death anniversary, the latter becoming coincidental but meaningful.

October 31 was also the deadline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the closure of the Naga identity issue, following the Nagaland Framework Agreement of August 2017. Like in Jammu & Kashmir, undemocratic methods are allegedly under way here, too, to achieve a political solution to India's oldest and mother of all insurgencies in Nagaland.

Ironically, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) or NSCN (I-M)'s demand for a separate flag and Constitution — both done away with in Jammu & Kashmir — has created a flutter among the Northeastern States, who enjoy special status under Article 371 of the Constitution. The opening up of two fronts is never a wise option with adversaries like Pakistan and China scouting for opportunities.

Still, the Government can rejoice for achieving its long-standing nationalistic agenda of terminating Jammu & Kashmir's special status and integrating it with the Union of India, though without pondering over the long-term consequences, as premature self-congratulations indicate. The aim of the political surgery is to end terrorism, corruption and dynastic rule, which will put Jammu & Kashmir on the path of development — these ills, the Government feels, have been the result of its special status. Lockdown in Jammu & Kashmir has crossed the 100-day mark despite the international community urging us to restore human rights currently being denied to the people. The Supreme Court, too, had asked the Government to come up with a plan by November 10 to relax restrictions.



On November 14, Constitutional issues relating to Article 370 and Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, came up for a second hearing but was moved to a new date, December 14. In the first hearing on October 4, the Constitution bench had overruled a plea for an interim order, staying the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, by October 31. It said that "we can always turn the clock back."

The independence of the judiciary against a strong executive and legislature is faced with a test. Business and trade are at a standstill. The president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Ashiq, pegged the loss to the business sector at over ₹10,000 crore. But the overall damage to Kashmir's economy could be double this figure. Delhi has been preparing younger, new political actors, most of who have been vetted by Shah to replace the old leadership. Prime Minister Modi praised the Block Development Council (BDC) elections as a democratic exercise though it was anything but that. Elections were held before October 31 under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act and not the Indian Panchayat Act, so that polls could be indirect and "managed." Elected Panches and

Sarpanches selected one among them as the head of the block councils. Many of the elected Panches were confined to hotels in Srinagar, removed from their regions. The elections were farcical as 60 per cent of the Panches and Sarpanches' seats were vacant and winners were elected unopposed.

All political leaders, except the BJP, were in detention. Still, it was the Independents who won the maximum seats. The aim is to create a political class owing allegiance to New Delhi, preferably from Jammu. With the Legislative Council abolished, Legislative Assembly seats have been increased effectively from 83 to 90, excluding 24 for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. It is still not clear as to who will do the delimitation: The Election Commission of India or a delimitation panel. Any tinkering with the demography will be outright dangerous.

The new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, GC Murmu, has said that elections will be held soon. Managing Srinagar by remote control from New Delhi will not be easy given the decades of trauma generations of Kashmiris have suffered. A 11-member team, comprising mental health specialists, which visited Kashmir after scrapping of the special status, reported "marked increase in psychological distress

in the region." A report titled, *Imprisoned Resistance: 5th August and its aftermath*, was released in New Delhi last week. No meaningful political outreach will be feasible when Kashmiris are stripped off their identity. Their hearts and minds, won over the years by the Army, are now largely lost. Three security issues will continue to cross-fertilise: Existing alienation, which has turned into resentment; mounting radicalisation and Islamisation; and home-grown and cross-border terrorism dormant at present due to the lockdown. Kashmiris are less angry about deprivation of the special status than their land being downgraded to a Union Territory. The insult to their identity is palpable and will remain even when statehood is restored. The largely spontaneous civil disobedience movement will breed more radicalised youth, who will take to street violence and join the ranks of insurgency. The contours of a new insurgency will likely appear by next summer. Unlike in the past, Kashmiris will more readily support insurgents than the security forces.

In the short-term, once the passes close and snow sets in the hinterland by the end of November, insurgents will be forced to take refuge in villages and towns. The pause in secu-

forces' operations due to the lockdown has undermined the counter-insurgency and intelligence grids considerably.

Troop density in the Valley is at the highest levels since "Operation Parakram" (2001-02) when nearly 2,000 terrorists were killed. Pakistan will remain constrained due to the fear of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which will review its actions in blocking terrorist financing in February 2020. Pakistan has not launched a single big attack after Pulwama, in fact, after Mumbai. But the 250-300 terrorists in the Valley, radicalised youth and underground workers will keep the security forces busy for long. Disaffected Kashmiris are hurt when Modi brags at home and abroad about having abrogated their special status while chasing the mirage of turning Kashmir into a land of milk and honey. "We have tried other ways and failed... so let's give abrogation of Article 370 a chance", is the contention.

Emotional integration of Kashmir has been put off even as North-eastern States, enjoying special status, are getting restive. Shah must get real.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

This is now a fight for the dignity and self-respect of Maharashtra. Now, even if we are offered the throne of (Lord) Indra, we are not interested.

Sena MP
—Sanjay Raut



The truth is that no discussion about the Indian-Afghan relationship would be complete without a mention of Bollywood and cricket.

Afghan Ambassador to the US
—Roya Rahmani



India faces many regional and geopolitical threats. Islamic insurgents are a constant threat, spreading terror throughout J&K and elsewhere in India.

Congressman
—Francis Rooney



We hope Pakistanis will ask the Chinese Government why it is pursuing a development model in Pakistan that deviates from what brought it its own economic success.

Top American diplomat
—Alice Wells



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deeper malaise

Sir — Amid vigorous efforts to tackle non-performing assets (NPAs), the revelation of ₹95,760 crore being ripped off from Government banks in April-September reflects deep systemic disorder. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was rolled out to sort things out but none factored in the time-frame of resolution, thus making the entire process ineffective. The focus of every segment of governance is on being seen to be doing something rather than on doing, how and in what time-frame.

R Narayanan
Mumbai

Clear the air

Sir — The Supreme Court's decision on the ambit of the RTI Act will serve as a precedent to usher in greater transparency, especially on the part of organisations that have hitherto been reluctant to comply with the Act, such as the Board of Control for Cricket in India and Mother Dairy. This judgment contradicts the opinion of former Chief Justice of India

All is not lost for the telecom industry

This refers to the editorial, "Turmoil in telecom" (November 21). The telecom industry is turning out to be another aviation business because of the kind of returns it is giving. Vodafone-Idea's spectrum dues to the Government reached ₹88,000 crore and those of Bharti Airtel stood at ₹45,000 crore. However, it's not just the Indian telecom that is witnessing a decline. This trend is to be seen worldwide as growth rates have taken a setback in the face of declining average revenue.

The two-year moratorium given by the Government will bring partial reprieve. Unless return on capital employed for global telecom services is raised, this industry cannot revive. Higher operating costs have squeezed margins for telcos. And while Vodafone has threatened to leave the Indian market, if indeed it were to shut shop, the biggest sufferers could be the consumers as this would lead to the duopoly of Reliance and Airtel. There could be a possibility that these two firms may take end users for granted, knowing it well that competition is



all but over, with little incentive or pressure to reduce prices. It is, therefore, essential that the Government offers them incentives to induce newer technologies so as to make the shift to 5G technology at the earliest, invest more in R&D and better customer experience.

Bal Govind
Noida

Sad reality

Sir — The recent trend of the IFS losing ground to the IAS as a career choice is alarming. IFS officers enjoy the privilege of global appointments along with diplomatic immunity — enjoyed only by a niche segment in bureaucratic circles. With the growing importance of geopolitics and trade

bodies likes the World Trade Organisation (WTO), BRICS and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an IFS officer's career is much more exciting now. The External Affairs Ministry has not expanded much by establishing more embassies and consulates and, hence, the number of candidates designated for the IFS has hardly gone up.

Varun Dambal
Bengaluru

Take lessons

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Breathing new life" (November 22). All the five public sector undertakings (PSUs), which have been put on strategic sale by the Government, had been performing quite well. Some were even role models for private firms. The Government should have taken corrective steps when they started registering losses. Even now, a comprehensive examination must be done to find out the causes for their debacle.

Rati
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Reap the AI benefit

Soon job seekers will be sifted by algorithms and exercises that test problem-solving skills, creativity and how people respond to stress



KUNAL GUPTA

For years, the biggest challenge in the recruiting industry was manually testing applicants. Now, thankfully, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a reality and its use for recruitment is rapidly evolving. Soon, the days of reading endless resumes and covering letters, then holding interviews, will give way to AI-led candidate assessment. Job seekers will be sifted by algorithms and exercises that test everything, from problem-solving skills and creativity, to how they respond to stress. AI will enable Human Resource (HR) professionals to reach the right candidate in the least possible time, with low-cost inclusion.

According to a recent study, 52 per cent of talent acquisition leaders say the hardest part of recruitment is identifying the right candidates from a large applicant pool. While, 56 per cent say their hiring volume will increase this year, 66 per cent of recruiting teams will either stay the same size or contract. This means that recruiters are being tasked to do more with lesser resources.

Business leaders looking to hire or HR managers should consider fast-rising employment solutions that provide AI-enhanced recruitment. It is crucial for any company to not merely hire employees but recruit the most qualified person.

In today's business climate, firms with first-mover advantage usually lead the way and soon, talent acquisition in India will undergo a paradigm shift. So, to keep up with advancements in the industry, HR professionals should become part of the AI revolution as the benefits of doing so are many. AI-enhanced HR solutions are becoming the backbone of the industry, especially for companies that need to recruit thousands of employees in a short time.

A recruitment system based on AI is capable of screening candidates in a more systematic way while looking out for a particular skill set, without any human intervention. It has algorithmic power to conclude the performance of job applicants.

It can even track online interviews on a real time basis and if an applicant faces difficulties in a particular sphere, then the AI will ask similar questions, repeatedly, to gauge how the candidate reacts to pressure. The only thing left for the recruiter is to provide the AI with a database to work on and to check the final list of the candidates before the recruitment system sends out emails for an interview. AI recruiting systems are designed to tremendously improve the recruiter's efficiency to ensure that companies don't miss the best candidates and they are the first ones to be selected for the interview.

Today's business leaders are always looking for people who perfectly fit the skill set they are looking for and there is tremendous pressure on recruiters to match and hire the candidates who can meet the management's expectations. AI-optimised hiring helps recruiters match the right employees with the right company. Plus, the AI recruitment software delivers solutions at a low cost so that it reduces a firm's cost per hire. Companies have to invest in the AI system once unlike the recurring costs of recruitment agencies that charge firms per employee hired.

However, there are many challenges to leveraging AI's full potential. First is competence, as the AI ecosystem, like its most important subfield, machine learning (ML), is still very small. It's difficult to find and hire good talent. The simple way to solve it is to hire an agency which has highly-skilled professionals familiar with AI technologies that will give HR teams training on fixed intervals. Non-adoption is another major risk. Any challenge in the world and especially in business, is an opportunity for AI. Adopting AI will require patience and a willingness to learn and will be complex and lengthy, so firms need to start now. Between the ongoing development of AI to recruit applicants and the understandable lag in implementation at this early stage, many of the features that it can bring to the hiring process are still to be completely implemented.

Like every new computing technology, AI still has a long way to go and there are some serious concerns which need to be addressed. As is obvious, AI has been invented to replace the human workforce and if it is adopted on a large scale, this will result in huge unemployment. There is no doubt that adopting AI will enhance the work culture and productivity, but it will also create economical imbalance in most sectors.

The second big concern is privacy, as we have seen various AI-infused web platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp lacking in this sphere. So along with adopting AI, organisations should equally give importance to the protection of the privacy of their staff and prospective employees.

To conclude, AI is a very new and unexplored segment and it will require major infrastructure to educate people about it before we let it come into our lives in a major way.

(The writer is MD of a talent consulting firm.)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

MODI HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO FORGIVE PRAGYA FROM THE HEART BUT SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS INDIA'S DEFENCE.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON
 RANDEEP SURJEWALA



THE CONGRESS SEEMS TO HAVE LOST ITS FAITH IN DEMOCRACY AND FORGOTTEN THAT PRAGYA THAKUR IS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

—BJP MP
 MEENAKSHI LEKHI

Too little and a little too late

The Govt has put a moratorium on pending spectrum payments for telecoms without altering the overall timeline of clearing all dues by 2030-31. But, given the huge amount to be paid, this won't be of much help



UTTAM GUPTA

Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) — a joint venture between UK-based Vodafone and KM Birla-owned Idea Cellular — and Bharti Airtel have reported a staggering loss of ₹51,000 crore and ₹23,000 crore respectively for the second quarter of the current financial year ending September 30, 2019. This is primarily due to a recent order of the Supreme Court (SC) directing telecom companies to give "unpaid" dues towards licence fee and spectrum usage charges (SUC).

The order is the culmination of a long-drawn court battle between the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) and service providers. While the former insisted that for determining the licence fee and SUC — which is charged as a percentage of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) (at eight per cent and three-five per cent respectively), apart from telecom services revenue — AGR should also include revenue from non-telecom services viz. rent, profit on sale of fixed assets, dividend, interest and so on, the latter opposed it. The SC upheld the DoT's view.

As a result, service providers will now have to pay excess of the amount calculated on the basis of total revenue i.e. from telecom services plus non-telecom activities over the amount already paid based on revenue from telecom services only. Together with interest on excess amount, plus penalty, interest on penalty, this would be ₹53,000 crore for VIL and ₹36,000 crore for Airtel.

However, with a view to avert the crisis for the telecoms, the Government has put a moratorium on pending spectrum payments during 2020-21 and 2021-22 (without altering the overall timeline of clearing all payments by 2030-31). But, considering the magnitude of the unpaid dues (as per the SC's order), this won't be of much help. For instance, in case of VIL, against total liability of ₹53,000 crore, the relief from suspension of spectrum payments is only ₹24,000 crore. In the case of Airtel, the quantum of relief works out to ₹11,000 crore against a liability of ₹36,000 crore. The Government has also alluded to exonerating them from payment of interest and penalty on dues as per the apex court's order but that is no consolation as this would be available only when the SC allows it, which is unlikely.

So, the three big firms are staring at a bleak future. Vodafone has opined that "the future of the Indian JV is in doubt and we won't be infusing any further equity into the venture." The Birla Group too, has echoed similar views, hinting that the company could be taken to insolvency. Bharti Airtel, too, is on the brink.

VIL has a customer base of 320 million whereas Bharti Airtel has 265 million. At 585 million, they account for nearly 50 per cent of the total subscribers in India. If, these two companies go into liquidation, this could have catastrophic implications, not just for banks who have an exposure of over ₹200,000 crore to the duo, but also for subscribers, who would be left high and dry.

They are looking to the Government for relief by way of reduction in licence fee and SUC, reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) from the existing 18 per cent to five per cent and so on. Even as the Government considers this, it needs to ascertain as to how the sector landed in the current morass.

In September 2016, in a bizarre move rarely seen before, greenfield 4G operator Reliance Jio



“
 AT THE CORE OF THE TELECOM CRISIS IS THE FREEBIES CULT, WHICH RJIO HAS IMPLANTED AND WAS GLOSSED OVER BY THE POWERS THAT BE. THERE IS URGENT NEED TO GET RID OF IT. THE INITIATIVE HAS TO COME FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS ONLY. EVEN AS VIL AND AIRTEL HAVE DECIDED TO RAISE TARIFF, RJIO'S INTENT TO FOLLOW SUIT IS A GOOD SIGN. TRAI MUST NOT ABDICATE ITS RESPONSIBILITY. IT SHOULD PROMPTLY ORDER A 'FLOOR PRICE' AND ENSURE THAT NO OPERATOR SETS TARIFF BELOW IT
 ”

(RJio) entered the Indian telecom market with "free" and "unlimited" voice calls and low-cost data. After launching an introductory offer for free — both data and voice for six months, from April, 2017, it charged data at a throwaway price of ₹50 per GB, even as voice calls continued to be free ad infinitum. For a conglomerate (RJio) investing thousands of crores in laying infrastructure, an attempt to sell services virtually for free was a brazen case of "predatory" pricing with the sole intent to snatch customers from incumbent players. The latter were forced to reduce their tariff drastically to match the former. Post-revision, the tariff in India at less than \$1 per GB is a fraction of what customers in other countries pay (\$30 in Japan; \$18 in Korea; \$15 in UK, China and Germany and \$10 in the USA).

As a result, incumbent operators, who were making profits prior to RJio's entry, are incurring losses. Several operators downed shutters while others were bought over (e.g. Tata Teleservices was acquired by Bharti Airtel). Today, there are only three private operators viz. VIL, RJio and Airtel, down from a dozen earlier. When, predatory pricing happens, it is for the sector regulator, in this instance the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), to intervene. The TRAI should have nipped the problem in the bud. But it saw nothing wrong and adding insult to injury, in February 2018, it came out with fresh amendments to the Telecom Tariff Order (TTO) to define predatory pricing in a manner so as to give legitimacy to the actions of RJio.

As per the amended order, a tariff is considered predatory if in a relevant market (circle), an operator, who is a significant market player (SMP), offers services at a price that is below its average variable cost (AVC) with a view to reduce competition or eliminate competitors in that relevant market. An operator will be

considered SMP if "it controls 30 per cent of the market share or above," which is calculated on the basis of gross revenue and subscriber market share. Further, AVC is defined as the cost that is calculated by identifying those expenses, which change with output, adding them and then dividing the result with total number of units produced.

Simply put, the regulator prescribed a two-fold criterion for a firm to be a predator. First, it offers services at less than AVC. Second it has market share over 30 per cent. During the relevant period, 2016-18, even as all firms were selling below the AVC, incumbent operators had market share more than 30 per cent (natural as they have been around for over two decades) whereas, RJio had share of less than 30 per cent. So, in the eyes of the regulator, the former were predators even as the latter was not. In other words, a company which started it all (RJio) was termed innocent even as others who suffered due to its onslaught were charged with indulging in predatory pricing and scuttling competition.

The amended order was "one-sided" and "discriminatory", aimed at favouring RJio and unfairly targeting incumbent players. The order was challenged before the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), which set aside TRAI's order and even observed that it was "non-transparent." However, by the time TDSAT pronounced its verdict on December 13, 2018, the damage was already done.

Other actions of the TRAI, such as a steep cut in the Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) (it is a charge the telecom service provider of a caller pays to the telco on whose network the call terminates) in September 2017 from the existing 14 paise per minute to six paise per minute also impacted the incumbent operators. This drastically reduced their revenue from IUC even as RJio was increasing its market share by leaps and

bounds (courtesy, free voice calls).

TRAI has also prescribed adopting the "Bill and Keep" (BAK) regime from January 1, 2020, thereby reducing the IUC to zero. This will give a further jolt to the incumbent operators. The only reason (unsaid) behind the powers that be letting RJio continue with its bizarre practice may have something to do with Modi's grandiose plans for pan-India broadband connectivity. Low tariff (even free voice call) which RJio had promised, helped increase coverage, especially for a majority of the poor. But, what it ignores is that public interest is not served merely by keeping price low/free. Providing services on a "sustainable" basis and maintaining "quality" is no less important.

This won't be possible if, service providers are in dire financial straits. To some extent, incumbent operators are themselves to blame. For instance, they ought to have factored in a negative outcome of court proceedings (these have gone on for over a decade) and made contingency provisions in their books. They have also lagged behind in embracing new technologies (they are still glued to 2G/3G) even as RJio has latched on to 4G. But, at the core of the crisis is the freebies cult, which RJio has implanted and was glossed over by the powers that be. There is urgent need to get rid of this cult.

The initiative has to come from service providers only. Even as VIL and Airtel have decided to raise tariff, RJio's intent to follow suit is a good sign. TRAI must not abdicate its responsibility. It should promptly order a "floor price" and ensure that no operator sets tariff below it. It should watch out for an act of predation and deal with it sternly.

However, there is no getting away from the fact that the service providers have to set their house in order.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst.)

Is judicial action divorced from public interest?

In Goa, livelihoods of 300,000 people associated with the mining industry disappeared overnight after judicial intervention. This is painful, particularly when the country is going through the worst employment crisis and has no alternative



ABHAY RAJ MISHRA

The recent Supreme Court (SC) verdict on Ayodhya has again established that law cannot be detached from the interests of the people it serves. There is a raging debate whether the judgment was based on credible evidence or influenced by the faith of the majority. Irrespective, the ruling has been accepted by all factions, not necessarily for its veracity but for bringing to an end a painful impasse. What is undebatable is that it has brought peace to the nation.

This ethos of acting in public interest must now be extended to end pain in other areas as well. Take the case of Goa, the only State where mining rights were granted to citizens by the Portuguese Government in perpetuity. These rights were later revoked by the Centre and now, lakhs of Goans

are staring at a major employment crisis. Over 300,000 people are dependent on mining in the State and they have become the face of massive livelihood loss triggered by judicial intervention. Ever since the SC cancelled 88 mining leases in Goa on February 7, 2018, life has come to a grinding, tragic halt for these workers and their families.

This is no longer just an economic crisis — which is severely debilitating in its own right — but a grave humanitarian crisis as well.

Livelihoods disappearing overnight as a result of judicial intervention, because the Executive and the corporate masters did not do their jobs properly, is painful particularly at a time when the country is going through the worst employment crisis in its history. According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), unemployment in 2017-2018 was at a four-decade high of 6.1 per cent. New job seekers are not able to find sustainable employment and August 2019 saw the highest rate of unemployment in India at 8.4 per cent.

The most recent example of mass job losses as a result of the collapse of

a big organisation is Jet Airways. Due to poor management of funds, the founder himself led one of India's best airlines into bankruptcy and closure. However, employees of the airline were aware of the unfolding situation and had braced themselves for the layoffs. But in the case of Goa, the miners and other workers were unprepared.

This, when there was no financial crisis in the mining sector. Rather it was booming, with iron ore being an exportable produce of the State.

Goa could have generated three times more revenue from iron ore mining but has not only lost this opportunity but is dealing with the extensive collateral damage that has followed the cancellation of the leases. The ban has taken a toll on the State's revenue stream and its social fabric has been ripped apart. Not just the mining sector but all other stakeholders and the supportive infrastructure, comprising equipment suppliers, the logistics and ancillary industry and the transport sector, have flourished.

Goa is the only State with a unique logistical arrangement for

movement of iron ore from the mines to the ports, unlike other States which rely on Indian Railways for the same. Iron ore is carried by trucks and barges from the mines to the ports.

The ban on mining has resulted in unemployment for workers hired by 12,000 truck owners, 150 barge owners and 150 ancillary units and has spelled doom for them. Not only have they suffered from livelihood loss, there is a larger crisis looming as the families have near about exhausted their meagre savings and have been subsisting on loans and handouts from well-wishers.

Even banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in the State have been drawn into the slide. When the going was good, these institutions eagerly extended credit lines to the truckers and storage providers. Now, in the absence of a running business concern, the ability of people to repay has vanished and a huge Non-Performing Asset (NPA) crisis is looming in the State.

Added to this is the loan and money-recovery trauma being faced by those dependent on the mining sec-

tor and the burgeoning tragedy begins to hit uncomfortably home.

In any economic ecosystem, one segment aids and benefits from the other. The interdependency, which the Goan mining industry had so healthily created with respect to the State's other revenue driver, internal tourism and food industry, is also hit as people don't have the money to spend anymore. As individual economies of families waste away and die, the State is suffering from a socio-economic disaster. It is imperative that mining restarts to provide livelihoods in the mining sector and ancillary industries to lakhs of people of the State.

There is enough research available to indicate a direct link between crime and lack of livelihood. Studies have established that India's Maoist movement is deeply rooted in the poor socio-economic conditions prevalent in parts of the country with large tribal populations. It has mostly affected areas where there is a conflict between the State and the populace on the economic derivation of forest produce and mining such as in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, and agriculture in parts of

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Such aggressive posturing by citizens has huge direct and indirect costs. In Goa there were only two major sources of livelihood — mining and tourism. Without these, Goa has nothing. Any social unrest and spikes in crime rate can spell doom for Goa's tourism economy too, which so far has been characterised by friendly service by the Goans, discipline, cleanliness and law and order.

Laws are meant to create a conducive environment for the citizens of the State. Goa, however, has become a case where the law and its interpretation has spelled doom for its residents. This cannot become a precedent and must be addressed immediately. Situations like these need more complex solutions. It is simplistic to penalise lakhs of people for the actions of a few with the stroke of a pen. Stakeholders must come together to rescue these lives and livelihoods before it is too late.

(The writer is president of a Delhi-based not-for-profit organisation dedicated towards finding solutions to the problems of the helpless.)



FOREIGN EYE



DON'T EXTRADITE ASSANGE TO USA

Sweden's decision to drop an investigation into a rape allegation against Julian Assange has illuminated the situation of the WikiLeaks founder and made it more pressing. He must be defended against extradition to America in a case that digs at the foundations of freedom and democracy and could see him sentenced to a total of 175 years. It is a matter of Press freedom, and the public's right to know. It's unclear if it would be safe to extradite Assange to the US. It is certain that it would not be right.

(The Guardian editorial)

Tata Motors, Yes Bank to move out of Sensex from Dec 23



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors, Tata Motors with differential voting right (DVR), Yes Bank and Vedanta will be dropped from the BSE's benchmark Sensex from December 23.

In their places, UltraTech Cement, Titan Co Ltd and Nestle India will be added in the index, Asia Index, a joint venture between S&P Dow Jones Indices and the BSE, said in a statement on Friday.

Besides, UPL Ltd and Dabur India will find a place in the S&P BSE Sensex 50, replacing Indiabulls Housing Finance and Yes Bank.

Among other changes, Indiabulls Housing Finance, Yes Bank, InterGlobe Aviation, SBI Life Insurance Company and Info Edge (India) will make entry in the S&P BSE Sensex Next 50, while Cadila Healthcare, Dabur India, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, UPL Ltd and Edelweiss Financial Services will be dropped from the index. The changes will be effective from Monday, December 23, 2019, Asia Index said.

Apart from these, changes have been made in several indices including S&P BSE 100, S&P BSE 200 and S&P BSE 500.

Govt looking at gold policy: Fin Min official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is working on an integrated gold policy, which is expected to be released soon, a senior finance ministry official said on Friday.

The policy is aimed at promoting growth of the yellow metal industry and exports of jewellery.

Niti Aayog has submitted a detailed report on gold policy and it is being examined, Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Surinder Pal Singh said at an event here.

"Government is definitely looking into it. Definitely there will be a gold policy," he said.

The domestic industry has demanded a cut in import duty on gold to 4 per cent from the current 12.5 per cent.

Currently, there is no gold policy despite the fact that India is the largest consumer and importer of the precious metal. The then finance minister Arun Jaitley had announced formulation of a comprehensive gold policy to develop the yellow metal as an asset class.

Mehul Choksi's company tops RBI's list of wilful defaulters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has for the first time released a list of top 30 wilful defaulters in response to an RTI application. The list contains the names of usual suspects with absconder Mehul Choksi's Geetanjali Gems topping the list, followed by REI Agro, Winsome Diamonds, Ruchi Soya, Rotomac Global, Kingfisher Airlines, Kudos Chemie, Zoom Developers, Deccan Chronicle and ABG Shipyard in the top 10.

The RBI's response to an RTI application came four years after the Supreme Court had first directed the central bank to disclose a list of India's wilful defaulters.

In response to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by a private digital media outlet, RBI released the list of 30 major wilful defaulters. For many years, RBI had declined to give this information arguing that it would be against the economic interests of the country and that its regulatory powers over banks disallowed it from doing so.

RBI fast-tracks DHFL resolution

Appoints 3-member advisory panel

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After superseding the board of the crippled mortgage lender DHFL, the Reserve Bank on Friday constituted a three-member panel to advise its administrator to help recover nearly ₹84,000 crore that the troubled company owes to the system.

The panel constitutes a veteran banker, the head of a leading insurer and also representation from a lobby grouping of asset managers.

The RBI had on Wednesday used recent changes in the laws to supersede the board of DHFL, announced to resolve the issue under the provisions of the



bankruptcy code and appointed R Subramaniakumar as the administrator.

Subramaniakumar, the ex-DM of the state-run Indian Overseas Bank, will be helped by the advisory committee consisting of IDFC First Bank non-executive chairman Rajiv Lall, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance chief executive NS Kannan and the mutual funds body Amfi chief executive NS Venkatesh, an official statement from the central bank said.

The panel will be assisting

the administrator in "discharge of his duties", it added.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019 provide for appointing such a panel to advise the administrator "in the operations of the financial service provider during the corporate insolvency resolution process", it said.

The city-headquartered pureplay mortgage lender is the first NBFC/HFC to go for bankruptcy resolution.

Last Friday, the government had notified Section 227 of the IBC empowering RBI to refer financial sector players like NBFCs and HFCs, but excluding banks, with assets worth of at least ₹500 crore to

insolvency courts.

As of July 2019, the home financier owed ₹83,873 crore to banks, the National Housing Board, mutual funds and bondholders, including retail bondholders. Of this, secured debt is ₹74,054 crore and ₹9,818 crore is unsecured.

Most banks have or are going to declare DHFL account as NPA in the third quarter.

DHFL defaulted on its payment obligations in respect of bank borrowings and market borrowings, which reveals serious concerns about the conduct of the affairs of the company, the RBI said.

DHFL lenders were working on a resolution plan to pick up 51 percent in the company by converting a part of their debt into equity. But the plan was yet to be formally cleared.

RBI mulling new rules on corporate governance

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank is looking at introducing new rules on corporate governance for banks in sync with global ones, and would also like lenders to disclose more, Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan said on Friday.

Vishwanathan also urged banks to recognise losses because of NPAs as early as possible and not to defer the same.

The comments from the top central banker come at a time when the system continues to go through the issues of asset quality, even though the new additions have slowed down. Speaking at an event organised by Business Standard, a business daily, Vishwanathan listed out a slew of initiatives the RBI has undertaken, with the compensation structures for key management personnel and whole-time directors being the latest additions, and hinted that it is looking at more.

He said fiscally strong states and Centre is the "essence" of Indian federalism and weakness at either end poses a slew of challenges for the country.

"There is a great need to strongly institutionalise the state finance commissions and empower the third tier of governance by enhancing their revenue-generating capacity," Das said.

He was speaking at the central bank headquarters before the 17th LK Jha Memorial Lecture which was given by 15th Finance Commission chairman NK Singh. Das said local bodies deserve more attention and is an aspect that needs to be looked into.

Das: Need to institutionalise State finance commissions

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said there is a "great need" to institutionalise State finance commissions and helping the local bodies enhance their revenue generation capacities.

He said fiscally strong states and Centre is the "essence" of Indian federalism and weakness at either end poses a slew of challenges for the country.

"There is a great need to strongly institutionalise the state finance commissions and empower the third tier of governance by enhancing their revenue-generating capacity," Das said.

He was speaking at the central bank headquarters before the 17th LK Jha Memorial Lecture which was given by 15th Finance Commission chairman NK Singh. Das said local bodies deserve more attention and is an aspect that needs to be looked into.

Finance commission chief blasts frequent tinkering with GST rates

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fifteenth finance commission chairman NK Singh on Friday called for major changes in the GST structure, including reducing the cumbersome compliance procedures and also doing away with frequent rate changes, to improve collection.

He also pitched for a rationalisation in Centrally-sponsored schemes, and blamed the government for not clearly defining the role of the Niti Aayog, which as of now does not have any powers to take financial decisions.

The comments from the chief of the commission that decides on the revenue distribution between the Centre and the states, come amidst concerns about the continuous fall in GST collection which has not touched the targeted ₹1 lakh crore every month barring one month.

"If you do not simplify GST, you will be defeating the very purpose and intention of why we took this far reaching step," Singh told SBI chairman

Rajnish Kumar, while delivering the LK Jha memorial lecture at the RBI headquarters here this evening.

"The cumbersome nature of compliance is one of the important factors why I believe that there is a huge scope for improving the revenue realisation from GST," he added.

"Equally, I do believe the frequency with which the rates have been changed is unbelievable. You are playing with the rates of taxation, these are serious issues and these are not rates of mutual accommodation," he said.

However, he noted that despite all these issues, we have seen one of the fastest GST adoption rates and credited same to the prime minister and the then finance minister Arun Jaitley, but stressed on the need to go back to the drawing board urgently.

The changes sought will minimise the cost of compliance, make the system less onerous and finally lead to an improved trajectory of revenue collection.

BUSINESS CORNER

NTPC GETS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN POWER GENERATION

New Delhi: NTPC

Ltd, India's largest power generation company, has been bestowed with the "Best Performing Power Generation Company" 2019 award, at the Dun & Bradstreet Infra 2019 awards, held in New Delhi. General (retired) VK Singh, Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, GOI presented the award to Prakash Tiwari, Director (Operations), NTPC during the function. The best Performing Power Generation Company award has been awarded to NTPC for its robust operational performance. NTPC's five power stations were among India's top ten best performing power stations in the country in the year 2018-19. NTPC has established itself as the dominant power major with presence in the entire value chain of the power generation business. From fossil fuels it has forayed into generating electricity through hydro and renewable energy sources. NTPC has been operating its plants at high efficiency levels with about 15 per cent of the total national capacity, NTPC contributes nearly 22 per cent of total power generation with its focus on high efficiency.



Fitch: Moratorium on spectrum payment, tariff hike insufficient to offset SC ruling impact

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A two-year moratorium on payment of spectrum dues and hike in mobile call and data tariffs from next month may not be sufficient for Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea to offset the impact of the Supreme Court ruling on payment of past statutory dues, Fitch Ratings said on Friday.

The Supreme Court had on October 24 ruled that non-telecom revenues will be included while calculating statutory dues towards the government.

"The decision by all three private Indian telecommunication companies (Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio) to raise tariffs from December 2019 and a two-year moratorium on payment of spectrum dues (announced by the government this week) are positive for the industry," Fitch said.

"However, these are unlikely to be sufficient to offset the impact of a recent Supreme

Court judgment for incumbents Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd," it added. Reliance Jio, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), is not affected by the ruling and is likely to continue to gain revenue market share, which will support RIL's deleveraging plans, it said.

Fitch said it has a negative outlook on the telecom sector for 2020 primarily due to heightened financial risk associated with the large unpaid statutory dues.

On November 20, the government announced plans to suspend the payment of deferred spectrum dues for two years, which will ease cash flow pressure on all three telcos.

Vodafone Idea and Bharti will benefit the most as their negative free cash flow will reduce by USD 1.7 billion and USD 850 million a year, respectively, for the financial year ending March 2021 (FY21) and FY22, it said.

FSSAI slaps notice on McDonald's for disparaging 'ghiya-tori' in its ad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food regulator FSSAI has slapped a show-cause notice on McDonald's for disparaging freshly cooked food and vegetables in its advertisements to promote fast food.

In its notice, the FSSAI referred to a full-page advertisement by McDonald's in newspapers earlier this month that had said, "Stuck with Ghiya-Tori (bottle gourd-sponge gourd) Again? Make the 1+1 Combo you love".

The food sector watchdog issued a show-cause notice to Hardcastle Restaurants and Connaught Plaza Restaurants Ltd — the franchise that operates McDonald's fastfood chain in India — seeking response on why action should not be initiated against them, a statement by the FSSAI said.

McDonald's had over the last weekend carried advertisements in newspapers seeking to get traffic at its outlets by allegedly disparaging home cooked food and healthy vegetables. The regulator has "noted with concern incidence of irresponsible advertising by some food companies to promote sales of their own foods often considered unhealthy as substitute for healthy foods", the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)



said, McDonald's has been asked to give explanation in stipulated timeframe.

Violation of FSSAI's advertisement code attracts a penalty up to Rs 10 lakh.

"Central licensing authority and FSSAI's designated officer at New Delhi and Mumbai have taken cognizance of this and issued show cause notices for contravening the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018 as to why further action should not be initiated against McDonald's for this," the statement said.

Hardcastle Restaurants Private Limited (HRPL) said in a statement that it "operates restaurants in west and south India and the print ad in question was not issued by us. We have already written to the FSSAI clarifying the same". In a letter to the regulator,

88% of Indians use mobile to make purchases: Study

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As many as 88 per cent of Indians surveyed use a mobile device to make payments, way above the global average, according to a study.

The PayPal and IPSOS 'mCommerce Report', based on a survey conducted across 11 countries with about 22,000 consumers and 4,000 business respondents, examined how people shop and sell online.

In India, the respondent pool comprised of 2,000 consumers aged 18-74, who owned or used a smartphone and over 300 business influencers or decision makers who sell or accept payments online.

"88 per cent of the surveyed Indians use a mobile device to make payments, way above the global average of 71 per cent," the survey said.

It also said 45 per cent of merchants have made mobile optimisation a business priority in the next 12 months.

"Time saving and ease of transacting is the main drivers for mobile commerce," it said and added social commerce adoption is led by the young.

According to the study, apps are a popular way of transacting, wherein 98 per cent of Indian mobile shoppers pay through apps as against 90 per cent of the global average.

Report: Economic insecurity of youths to shape India's politics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a growth slowdown and unemployment issues, India's politics will be increasingly shaped by the economic insecurity of its vast youth population, the Economist Intelligence Unit said in a research note on Friday.

The issue of unemployment and underemployment has been an unavoidable topic in India's politics and slower economic growth has translated to poor employment numbers.

"Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi successfully won re-election for the Bharatiya Janata Party earlier this year on a platform of strong leadership and emphasis on social and security issues, politics will increasingly be shaped by the economic insecurity of India's vast youth population," the research note by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said.

Citing Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy data, the EIU said that in October 2019, the unemployment rate rose to a three-year high of 8.5 per cent, up from 7.2 per cent in September.

Defence Ministry plans product testing facilities for MSMEs

IANS ■ CHENNAI

The Ministry of Defence plans to set up 6-8 product testing facilities to enable the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) to test their products for defence supplies, said a senior official here.

The first testing facility, likely for drones, is to come up soon, he said on Friday.

"In order to provide MSMEs a level playing field in defence supplies and also expand the vendor base, the Ministry of Defence has come up with a scheme to set up 6-8 product testing centres in the defence industrial corridors," Rear Admiral A. George, Additional Director General Quality Assurance (Warship Projects), directorate general, quality assurance (DGQA), told reporters.

He was here to participate in the Quality Assurance-Industry Conclave South Zone.

The government has allocated about ₹400 crore for this scheme whereby it would provide a grant-in-aid of up to 75 per cent of the cost of equipment for the product testing facility.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esst/TT&P/EPB/2020/379/2019/10285 Date :22.11.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -VIII (Single Line and Plain).
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. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted online as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one male namely Pankaj S/o Late Krishan Lal Sharma R/o H.No. 6/22 B Tilak Nagar, Delhi, has been missing from the area of P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi since 8.11.2019. In this regard, a case DD No. 26A dated 09.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under.

Age: 38 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: black colour T-shirt, blue colour jeans and black & white colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing male then please inform P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi
Ph.-011 25407800
DP/8502/WD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely Salman, S/o. Mohd. Balal, R/o H. No. 356, Indira Vikas Colony, In front of 17/4 Hostel, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P. S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi since 17.07.2013. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 279/13 u/s 363 IPC, dated 17.07.2013 has been lodged in P. S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing/ kidnapped boy is as under:-Age: 6 year, Height: 3'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Brown colour pant, white colour T-shirt & ladies slipper. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID - cic@cbi.gov.in
SHO
P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Ph. Nos.: 011-24368639, 24368641
Ph.: 011-27654675,
DP/9526/NW/19 8750870234

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE
General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Arvinder Singh S/o Sukhvinder Singh R/o RZT-493, Nihal Vihar, Delhi Aged-32 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 06.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi vide DD No.43A Dated 02.11.2019 registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Clothing: Green coloured t-shirt and black coloured pant and white coloured shoes in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped male, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Sd/-
Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi
FAX No.: 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/2869/OD/19 Mob.: 7065036129

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esst/TT&P/EPB/2020/377/2019/10283 Date:22.11.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -VI (Single Line and Plain).
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. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/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

Markets extend losses as IT, bank stocks skid

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Equity benchmarks treaded lower for the second straight day on Friday, weighed by losses in IT and bank stocks, as investors balked at expanding their portfolios amid stretched valuations and growth concerns.

After trading on a weak note through the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 215.76 points, or 0.53 per cent, lower at 40,359.41.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty settled 54 points, or 0.45 per cent, down at 11,914.40.

During the week, the Sensex inched up 2.72 points, while the Nifty gained 18.95 points.

Infosys was the top loser in the Sensex pack on Friday, dropping 2.89 per cent, followed by TCS, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel and HCL Tech.

IT stocks came under selling pressure following reports of changes in US work visa requirements aimed at protecting American workers, traders said.

On the other hand, Tata Steel gained 3.74 per cent, NTPC 2.35 per cent, Vedanta 2.27 per cent and ONGC 2.18 per cent.

"Market is on an edge given high valuations for blue-chips, not providing a head-

'Lack of new trigger in the coming week and focus being on India's weak GDP data to be announced next week, is impacting the market.'

room for main indices to move higher trading at P/E of 26x on trailing basis. Lack of new trigger in the coming week and focus being on India's weak GDP data to be announced next week, is impacting the market.

"RBI's interpretation of this data and possible change in stance from the current accommodative monetary policy to neutral may hurt the rally. Fresh concerns over stringent norms for US H1-B visa dragged IT heavyweights," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE IT, tech, telecom, capital goods, banks, industrials and consumer durables fell up to 2.21 per cent.

On the other hand, metal, power, utilities, basic materials,

energy and auto gained up to 2.08 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices fell up to 0.14 per cent.

On the global front, equities tracked higher even as the US-China trade tensions remained an overhang.

In Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul settled in the green, while Shanghai finished with losses.

European equities were also trading on a positive note in their respective early deals.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.03 per cent to USD 63.95 per barrel.

RUPEE UP 5 PAISE

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee settled 5 paise higher at 71.71 against the US dollar on Friday, marking its second straight session of gains.

Forex traders said the domestic currency traded in a narrow range amid lack of cues on the domestic front.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened stronger at 71.77 against the US dollar. During the day, the domestic unit fluctuated between a high of 71.70 and a low of 71.87.

The rupee finally settled at 71.71, up 5 paise over its previous close.

Leather exporters penetrate new markets to boost shipments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leather exporters from India have penetrated new markets such as the US, Canada, Russia, Japan, Australia, and South Korea to tap increasing demands in these countries and boost the country's overall exports, CLE said on Friday.

Council for Leather Exports Chairman PR Aqeel Ahmed said that they had organised Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet here to showcase products to global companies.

"Besides the traditional market of Europe, the industry has penetrated many potential markets like USA, Canada, Russia, Japan, UAE, Korea, and Australia," he said in a statement.

Ahmed said the CLE had been undertaking several export promotion events in both Europe and other major and potential markets to expand market share.

"During 2019-20, we are organising 16 such marketing events and have planned 25 marketing events during 2020-21," he said adding that in the Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet here, as many as 55 overseas buyers from 26 countries participated.

Such events provide platform to Indian exporters particularly those in the small and medium segments to meet overseas buyers without having to travel abroad, he added.

Appliances and consumer electronics industry expected to double to ₹1.48L crore by FY25

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The appliances and consumer electronics industry is projected to double to ₹1.48 lakh crore by 2024-25, according to a report.

The market is expected to see acceleration in growth on account of surging rural consumption, reducing replacement cycles, increasing penetration of retail, a wide choice of brands and products at various price points, it added.

The industry had a total market size of ₹76,400 crore in 2018-19, in which ₹32,200 crore was contributed from domestic manufacturing, according to the joint report by CEAMA and Frost & Sullivan.

The report is based on product categories, which include air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, television (TV) and audio.

"The overall market size of the five categories covered in this project for the year FY19 is ₹76,400 crore and the market is expected to grow at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 11.7 per cent till FY25," the report said.

It also suggests that domestic value addition for "ACE (appliances and consumer electronics) products under scope stands at 34 per cent in FY19 and is likely to grow to 54 per cent by FY25".

The report expects the air-conditioning (AC) market size to grow to 165 lakh units in 2024-25 from 65 lakh units in 2018-19, while refrigerator to grow to 275 lakh units as compared with 145 lakh units in 2018-19.

erators, washing machines, television (TV) and audio.

"The overall market size of the five categories covered in this project for the year FY19 is ₹76,400 crore and the market is expected to grow at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 11.7 per cent till FY25," the report said.

It also suggests that domestic value addition for "ACE (appliances and consumer electronics) products under scope stands at 34 per cent in FY19 and is likely to grow to 54 per cent by FY25".

The report expects the air-conditioning (AC) market size to grow to 165 lakh units in 2024-25 from 65 lakh units in 2018-19, while refrigerator to grow to 275 lakh units as compared with 145 lakh units in 2018-19.

The TV market is expected

to grow to 284 lakh units in 2024-25 from 175 lakh units in 2018-19 and washing machines to be at 126 lakh units from 70 lakh units of 2018-19.

Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association president Kamal Nandi said domestic manufacturing was increasing and companies had invested around ₹7,000 crore in past few years.

However, he also added that the sector is still facing challenges in the form of logistics, finance cost and lacks a proper ecosystem. "Free-trade agreements are also becoming an issue to the ACE industry," said Nandi.

He also requested the government to reduce goods and services tax on ACs as well as on TV panels above 32 inch and bring them under 18 per cent

bracket. He also said that the ACE industry, which is focusing on domestic manufacturing, would help the government achieve its goal to be a USD 5-trillion economy by 2024.

The report said for refrigerator, local manufacturing adds up to 55 per cent of the total market size. In washing machine, it has witnessed strong local manufacturing and adds up to 75 per cent of the total market size.

In audio, domestic manufacturing is only 22 per cent. "In FDP TV, open cells and the chips of TVs are predominantly imported from Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and China. The government has removed import duty on open cell panel used in production of TV sets, a move which would lower the cost," the report said.

Investments via P-notes rise in October

New Delhi (PTI): After declining for four consecutive months, investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital market marginally rose to ₹76,773 crore at the end of October. P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly after going through a due diligence process.

Before registering gain in October, investments through P-notes had been declining continuously since June, according to the latest data from markets regulator Sebi.

The total value of investments via P-notes in the Indian markets (including equity, debt, and derivatives) rose to ₹76,773 crore till the end of October from ₹76,611 crore at September-end.

At the end of August, the Indian capital market saw a total inflow of ₹79,088 crore through P-notes, a drop from ₹81,082 crore till July-end. The investment

had stood at ₹81,913 crore at June-end and ₹82,619 crore at the end of May.

Of the total investments made till the end of October, ₹52,753 crore was invested in the equities, ₹23,316 crore in debt and ₹704 crore in the derivatives segments.

In July, the board of Sebi had approved a proposal to rationalise the framework for issuance of P-notes. The use of P-notes has been on a decline since 2017 and slumped to a nine-and-a-half year low of ₹66,587 crore at the end of October last year.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists 500 stocks and their performance metrics.

Top Gainers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top performing stocks.

Top Losers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists underperforming stocks.

Nifty Next 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists next 50 stocks in Nifty index.

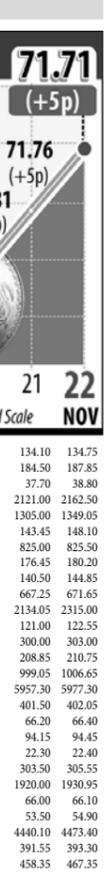
Top Gainers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top performing stocks.

Top Losers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists underperforming stocks.

RUPEE vs Dollar



NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists next 50 stocks in Nifty index.

Top Gainers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top performing stocks.

Top Losers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists underperforming stocks.

Nifty Next 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists next 50 stocks in Nifty index.

Top Gainers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top performing stocks.

Top Losers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists underperforming stocks.

Nifty Next 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists next 50 stocks in Nifty index.

Top Gainers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top performing stocks.

Top Losers

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists underperforming stocks.

GLOBE TROTTER

10 KILLED IN B'DESH ROAD ACCIDENT

Dhaka: A microbus packed with wedding guests collided head-on with a bus in central Bangladesh on Friday, killing at least ten people including two children, according to media reports.

COMBAT EVIL THROUGH COOPERATION: POPE

Bangkok: The pope on Friday urged religious leaders to cooperate and foster mutual respect to face the complex challenges of today in a speech in a Thailand university.

PAYPAL DECLINES TO EXTEND SERVICES TO PAK

Islamabad: Pakistan Govt officials on Friday said that as of now PayPal, an American company which operates a worldwide online payment system that supports online money transfers, has refused to extend its services to Pakistan.

SMOG PUTS LAHORE AT RISK: AMNESTY

New Delhi: The Imran Khan Government has been slammed in an international report for the inadequate response to the hazardous level of smog in the Pakistani city of Lahore that has put people's health at risk.

BRAZIL CREATES 8.41,000 JOBS IN 10 MONTHS

Rio De Janeiro: Brazil created 8,41,589 jobs from January to October, a 6.4% increase year-on-year, the Brazilian Ministry said on Thursday. According to the ministry's labour secretariat, the Brazilian economy generated 70,852 jobs in October, the best figure for the month since 2016.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

Witness attacks 'fictional narrative propagated by Russians'

Washington: A former top White House adviser on Russia on Thursday said the "fictional narrative" pushed by Donald Trump and the Republicans about Ukraine's role in influencing the 2016 US election was propagated by Russia, as she testified before the House Intelligence Committee's impeachment probe.

Fiona Hill, the former top Russia expert on the National Security Council, was testifying before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence as part of its series of public hearings on its impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

The impeachment inquiry centers on the accusation that

Trump withheld a White House visit for Ukraine's president and security aid for the country as leverage to push the government to announce investigations into former Vice President Joseph Biden and the claim that Ukraine conspired to help Democrats in the 2016 election.

Hill said that such a fictional narrative is being perpetrated and propagated by the Russians.

"Based on questions and statements I have heard some of you on this committee appear to believe that Russia and its security services did not conduct a campaign against our country and that perhaps somehow for some reason Ukraine did. This is a fiction-

al narrative that is being perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services themselves," Hill said.

"The unfortunate truth is that Russia was the foreign power that systematically attacked our democratic institutions in 2016. This is the public conclusion of our own intelligence agencies confirmed in bipartisan congressional reports. It is beyond dispute even if some of the underlying details must remain classified," she said.

The impact of the successful 2016 Russian campaign remains evident today, Hill said.

"Our nation is being torn apart. Truth is questioned. Our highly professional expert

career foreign service is being undermined. US support for Ukraine which continues to face into Russian aggression has been politicised," she said. She said the Russian government's goal was to weaken the US, to diminish America's global role and to neutralise a perceived US threat to Russian interest.

Hill said Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian security services aim to counter US foreign policy objectives in Europe including in Ukraine where Moscow wishes to reassert political economic dominance.

Responding to questions, Hill said that the Russian's interests are to delegitimise US' entire presidency. PTI

Hearings highlight immigrants' stories

AP ■ WASHINGTON

One came from northeast England. Another came from the former Soviet Union. A third was born in Canada to parents who'd fled the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.



Several witnesses who testified in the House impeachment inquiry this week chose to highlight their immigrant backgrounds, sharing their families' stories in highly personal opening

statements. They drew a connection to how those experiences led them to public service and a strong desire to safeguard US national security.

Their stories offered a sharp counterpoint to President Donald Trump, who has often derided immigrants as a threat to American national security.

"I can say with confidence that this country has offered for me opportunities I never

would have had in England," former National Security Council official Fiona Hill testified Thursday.

She spoke in what she called a "very distinctive working-class" British accent that would have impeded her professional advancement at home, but that "never set me back in America."

On Tuesday, Lt Col Alexander Vindman, an Army officer who works with the National Security Council, testified that his family fled to the US from the Soviet Union when he was 3.

Trump doubles down on debunked Ukraine conspiracy theory

Washington: President Donald Trump is still promoting a debunked conspiracy theory that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election, a day after a former White House security adviser called it a "fictional narrative."

Trump called in to "Fox & Friends" on Friday and said he was trying to root out corruption in the Eastern European nation when he withheld aid over the summer. Trump's July 25 call with Ukraine's president is at the center of the House impeach-

ment probe, which is looking into Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate political rivals as he held back nearly \$400 million.

Trump said, "There was no quid pro quo," contradicting testimony by impeachment witnesses.

On Thursday, a former White House Russia analyst said the debunked theory that Ukraine was behind election interference played into Russia's hands. AP

US short-term spending Bill passed

Washington: The US Senate has passed a short-term spending Bill that could keep the federal Government funded through December 20, avoiding a possible Government shutdown. The legislation, which was passed by the House earlier this week, will be sent to President Donald Trump, who is expected to sign it. The Senate passed it by a vote of 74-20 on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported.

In early August, the US Congress passed a bill that will increase the federal budget and

lift the debt ceiling for the next two years. The Bill, signed by Trump, lifts the budget cap for discretionary spending to \$ 1.37 trillion in 2020 and \$ 1.375 trillion in 2021, expanding defense outlays, demanded by Republicans, and boosting domestic spending, including health care for veterans, sought by Democrats.

The US Congress did not complete action on appropriations before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, and it enacted a continuing resolution

in September that keep the Government open through November 21, which means Government funding would expire Thursday at midnight.

While Congress is supposed to complete a budget resolution to lay out fiscal principles and set an appropriations level, lawmakers have not adopted one, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan watchdog group. Congress should pass 12 annual spending bills to fund government agencies. IANS

HK would have been 'obliterated in 14 minutes' if not for me: Trump

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump claimed on Friday that were it not for him, Hong Kong "would have been obliterated in 14 minutes" by Chinese troops.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump said President Xi Jinping refrained from sending in the military against pro-democracy demonstrators in the semi-autonomous city only because he asked him to.

"If it weren't for me, Hong Kong would have been obliterated in 14 minutes," Trump said.

Xi "has a million soldiers standing outside of Hong Kong, are not going only because I asked him. Please don't do that. You will be making a big mistake. It will have a tremendous negative impact on the trade deal."

UN, other international bodies should take up Dalai Lama succession issue: US

Washington: Rejecting China's claim on deciding the 84-year-old Dalai Lama's successor, the US on Thursday said the issue should be taken up by the international bodies, including the UN. China has been asserting that its ascent to the Dalai Lama's successor is a must.

"There are many people who follow the Dalai Lama and don't live in China. He is a well-known spiritual leader throughout the world and deserves respect and deserves the succession process picked by his faith community..." US Ambassador at Large for

International Religious Freedom Samuel Brownback told reporters at a news conference here. Rejecting the Chinese claim, he reiterated that it was an issue that should be taken up in international bodies.

The United States is going to keep pushing on that, said Brownback who was recently in Dharamshala and addressed the Tibetan community.

China accuses the Dalai Lama as a "splittist" working for Tibetan independence. The 14th Dalai Lama fled to India in early 1959 to escape from the Chinese occupation and lives in exile in the hill town of Dharamshala.

"He used to travel so much, was such a great spokesperson. I met him several times when he travelled to the United States - just was energetic and lively and clear," Brownback said.

US working with Taiwan to combat China election interference

Taipei (Taiwan): The top US representative in Taiwan says Washington is working with it to combat efforts by Beijing to influence upcoming elections on the island.

The US is "aware that China is attempting to apply pressure through various means on Taiwan ... To influence Taiwan's democratic process," Brent Christensen told reporters on Friday.

"We believe that malign actors are using disinformation campaigns to make people lose faith in democratic institutions," said Christensen, who serves as the de facto US ambassador to Taipei.

The US and Taiwan have been "working very closely to combat these disinformation efforts" by sharing information and experience and mobilising

civil society, he said. Independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen is seeking a second term in the January 11 vote for head of state and lawmakers.

China is believed to strongly favor Tsai's main opponent in the race, Han Kuo-yu of the Beijing-friendly Nationalist Party. Self-governing Taiwan split from China in 1949 and transitioned to full democracy in the 1990s. China claims the island as its own territory, which it threatens to annex by military force, and opposes all official contact between the US and the island.

Despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, the US is legally bound to ensure the island can defend itself and to treat all threats to it as matters of "grave concern." AP

Rajapaksa appoints interim Cabinet, brothers take major portfolios

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Friday appointed a 16-member interim Cabinet, including two of his brothers, and gave the major portfolios of defence, finance and trade to them while inducting two Tamils as a sign of reaching out to the minority community.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, 74, got the key portfolios of defence and finance while the President's eldest brother Chamal Rajapaksa, 77, got trade and food security ministries.

"This is an interim government," Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who took over as the country's President on Monday, said during the swearing-in ceremony of the ministers.

He said the ministers of state would be appointed next week. AP

Iran says 'world war' against it foiled

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's Basij militia said the Lunrest sparked by fuel price hikes amounted to a "world war" against Tehran that was thwarted, pointing the finger of blame at Washington, Riyadh and Israel.

The protests erupted across the sanctions-hit country on November 15, after the price of petrol was raised by as much as 200 per cent.

Authorities said some of the protest leaders in which police stations were attacked, petrol pumps torched and shops looted had been arrested.

"A full-fledged world war against the system and the revolution was born and fortunately the child died at the moment of birth," said Brigadier General Salar Abnoosh, a deputy head of the Basij, an Islamic volunteer militia.

Quoted by semi-official news agency ISNA late Thursday, Abnoosh said interrogations had

revealed a "coalition of evil" made up of "Zionists, America and Saudi Arabia" was behind the "sedition".

The United Nations human rights office, for its part, has said it was alarmed by reports that live ammunition used by security forces to quell the unrest had caused a "significant number of deaths".

Officials have confirmed five deaths, while Amnesty International said that more than 100 demonstrators were believed to have been killed and the real death toll could be as high as 200.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that during the unrest, "incidents ... Caused by the rise in petrol price took place in (a little) less than 100 cities".

The "incidents were ended in less than 24 hours and in some cities in 72 hours" as a result of the "armed forces' insight and timely action", it said.

Internet remained mostly

blocked in Iran on Friday for a sixth day, with officials and news agencies saying the blackout was gradually being rolled back. Iran's telecommunications minister told ISNA that connectivity had returned in some provinces but did not give a date for full coverage.

"Other places will also be reconnected" upon orders of the Supreme National Security Council, said Mohammad-Javad Azari Jahromi, adding the ministry was still assessing damage done to businesses.

Access via ADSL was partially restored in a number of provinces and for some universities in Tehran as of Thursday, according to ISNA, although mobile data connections could still only access local websites.

NetBlocks, a website that monitors net shutdowns, showed Iran's connectivity to be at only 14 percent at mid-Friday.

LOST & FOUND

We, M/s. INDERJIT SINGH NARULA (HUF), would like to inform the general public that we have lost/misplaced our Original Flat Buyers Agreement from Ansal Properties and Industries (P) Ltd for office space no 807, Chiranjiv Tower, 43 Nehru Place, New Delhi. If any person finds kindly contact within seven (7) days of this publication, at:

INDERJIT SINGH NARULA C.26, Third Floor, Defence colony, South Delhi, Delhi 110024

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL II, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE NOTICE The under mentioned Property will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD vs SURENDER KUMAR O.A.No. 267/2019 & I.A. No: 1302/2019

1. Description of Property: Make: INNOVA CRYSTA 2.4 G Reg No: HR29AR4335 Manual Year: 2017 Reserve Price- Rs. 9, 50,000 EMD- Rs. 95,000 2. Date and Time of Auction: Dec 10, 2019 3. Auction Venue: Ridhi Godara Yard, Kataria Chowk Sector 17, Sukhrail Gaon Behind Air Force Station, Gurgaon 4. Manager: Shankar Kapoor Mob No: 9650193259 Terms of Sale: The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount mentioned above against the respective vehicle by way of pay order/Demand Draft payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 5 days from the approval shared with them. In case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited. Interested participants are requested to participate Dec 10, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Shankar Kapoor.

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्यात निगम, नई दिल्ली

कार्यालय अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्यात निगम, नई दिल्ली

1. कार्य का नाम :- निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, घनसाली के अनन्त जल नदी के विकास क्षेत्र जाखणीघार में कोशियार पश्चिम पेयजल योजना के अनन्त, सितरण प्रणाली, एवं तालाबों की निर्माण कार्य। 2. कार्यदायी संस्था :- निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, घनसाली। 3. अनुमानित सामग्री / कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि :- रु 148,00 लाख / 06 माह 4. निविदा प्रारंभ / कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि :- दिनांक 10.12.2019 समय 17.00 बजे अखण्ड 5. निविदा मूल्य :- रु 5000,00/- 6. धरोहर समारंभ :- रु 3.00 लाख

विस्तृत ई-निविदा नोटिस एवं निविदा प्रपत्र www.uktenders.gov.in पोर्टल पर दिनांक 25.11.2019 को 17.00 बजे प्रकाशित की जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता "जल संयंत्र-जीवन संयंत्र" कृपया जल स्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाये। वैधानिक वेतनावली-जल श्रोतों को प्रदूषित करना दण्डनीय अपराध है।

UJVNL LTD.

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephone: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763507

CIN No.:U40101UR20019GC025886 Website: www.ujvnl.com

e-TENDER NOTICE Office of Executive Engineer (M&G), Kuhlhal Power Station, Dehradun invites online bids for following work-

Tender No.: e-14/UJVNL/EE (M&G)/KPS/2019-20, Capital Maintenance of Unit B of Kuhlhal Power Station (3x10 MW)

Estimated cost : Rs. 1,25,05390/- (GST Extra)

Earnest money deposit : Rs. 2,60,000/-

Tender Fee : Rs 11,800/- only

Date of availability of bid document on website : 25-11-2019, 17:00 hrs.

Last date for submission of bid on website : 16-12-2019, 17:00 hrs.

Last date of submission of hard copy of bid : 18-12-2019, 11:00 hrs.

Date of opening of bid on website : 18-12-2019 at 13:00 hrs.

For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"

Letter No. 670 Executive Engineer, (M&G) Kuhlhal

Dated 21.11.2019 "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Serving Customers with a Smile

UK election: Tories plan stamp duty hike on non-UK residents

London: Foreigners buying properties in England will be forced to pay three per cent more in stamp duty than the UK residents, if the Conservatives win the general election.

The party claims it will help people get on the housing ladder by taking the heat out of the property market, the BBC reported.

The government was already planning a one per cent hike for foreign buyers.

Labour is also proposing a levy on "overseas companies buying housing", and wants to give local people "first dibs" on homes built in their area.

Currently, foreign individuals and companies can buy homes as easily as the UK residents, but there are longstanding

concerns about properties being bought as investments and standing empty, particularly in upmarket areas of London.

Conservatives quote a study saying 13 per cent of homes in London were bought by overseas buyers between 2014 and 2016.

Research last year by the King's College Business School suggested foreign buyers did not just push up prices at the high-end of the property market, but there was a "trickle down" effect to less expensive properties, and that cities outside London also felt the effect, said the BBC Report.

The Conservatives are now proposing a surcharge of three per cent to be paid in addition to all other stamp duty charges. IANS

S Korea salvages military pact with Japan at 11th hour

Seoul: South Korea decided on Friday against scrapping a critical military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, in a dramatic 11th-hour U-turn that will come as a relief to the United States.

The pact was due to expire at midnight amid a sharp deterioration in ties between the two democracies and market economies that has alarmed Washington as it seeks to curb the threat from nuclear-armed North Korea.

But after a flurry of last-ditch diplomacy, Seoul announced it would "conditionally" suspend the expiry of the agreement with just six hours left on the clock. Kim You-geun, a national security official at Seoul's presidential Blue House, confirmed the accord, known as GSOMIA, would not be allowed to lapse at midnight. AFP

Israel braces for bitter fight after Netanyahu indictment

Jerusalem: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's indictment is expected to sharpen the battle lines in Israel's already deadlocked political system and could test the loyalty of his right-wing allies, Israeli commentators said on Friday.

The serious corruption charges announced Thursday appear to have dashed already slim hopes for a unity government following September's elections, paving the way for an unprecedented repeat vote in March, which will be the third in less than a year.

In an angry speech late Thursday, Netanyahu lashed out at investigators and vowed to fight on in the face of an "attempted coup." His main

opponent, the centrist Blue and White party, called on him to "immediately

resign" from all his Cabinet posts, citing a Supreme Court ruling that says indicted ministers cannot continue to hold office. Netanyahu also serves as minister of health, labor and Diaspora affairs, as well as acting minister of agriculture.

He is not legally required to step down as PM, but Netanyahu faces heavy pressure to do so, and it is unclear whether an indicted politician could be given the mandate to form a new government. Netanyahu has already failed to form a majority coalition of 61 seats in the 120-seat Knesset after two hard-fought elections this year. AP

WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT e-AUCTION SALE DURING DECEMBER, 2019 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS Public e-auction for disposal of P-way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in DECEMBER, 2019 as per program given below:-

Notice Inviting e-Tender No. SSA/Esstt/TT&P/EPB/2020/375/2019/10281 Date: 22.11.2019 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Siksha Abhijan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -III&IV (Single Line, Plain and Square Line).



DEV PATEL

For us, we lived in the siege for 3 months and everytime we see a hotel entry and exit; it takes us back to the series of events. It was traumatic. But as an artist you invest whole heartedly in these characters. You give a part of yourself in these roles. I hope that when people watch me on screen, they are able to see that.



ARSHAD WARSI

I think when I started, things were simpler, people were less complicated and baggage was less. Now it is a bit more complicated. Earlier, you were an actor, now you are a product. You are a commodity, which needs to be sold. So, you have to dress in a certain way, you have to walk and talk a certain way, look a certain way.



SAJID KHAN

Basically, the entire team thought about the strategy but Salman *bhai* is the person who takes the final decision when it comes to music of the film. He is, Masha Allah, a very talented and musical man. He has the knack to bring his own personality into music and he advises us.

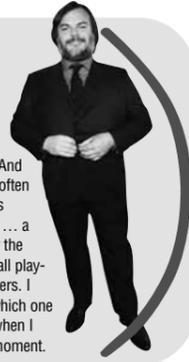


RANI MUKHERJEE

My favourite cricketer has always been Sunil Gavaskar. The reason behind this is, when I was young, my parents watched a lot of cricket, and I have seen him play from those days. When I used to watch him play, there was some enigma around him when he used to walk to the ground; it was electrifying.

JACK BLACK

Jumanji is a great game in the world. And when you play you often think who made this extraordinary game... a possible plotline for the third part. I had a ball playing my new characters. I don't know about which one is my favourite as when I am doing it at the moment.



SHORT CIRCUITS

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

SONGS OF THE HEART

Singer MOHIT CHAUHAN gives voice to characters while establishing an invisible connect that cannot be broken, says TEAM VIVA

Sajra Savera Mere Tan Barse Kajra/ Andhera Teri Jalti Lau Katrina Mila Jo Tere Dar Par Se, O Maula... Maula... Mohit Chauhan's voice wafted softly across the screen and then soared as Ranbir Kapoor looked up at the dome of Hazrat Nizamuddin's dargah for salvation and inspiration. While creating an iconic cinematic moment where the audience connected with the despair that the singer Janardhan, who would soon metamorphosis into Jordan, felt, Chauhan became inseparable from the film that firmly established him in the realm of songs that were ethereal and could not be replicated. In ephemeral times, *Rockstar's* music still continues to feature in the playlists of millennials and Generation Z (as well as their parents) despite the passage of eight years.

The voice, which expressed the emotions effortlessly, connected with thousands of others who failed to bring out the same emotion and wanted to. He, sort of, gave words to everybody's feelings. While Imtiaz Ali, AR Rahman and Irshad Kamil created the cult film, it was only Chauhan who could have expressed each of the emotions that Jordan goes through, whether it is the unattainable love that he felt for Heer or the anguish he feels at her death or the rage at the system. Mohit, who is in the capital to perform at the *Mayur Utsav*, feels that *Rockstar* is one of the most important milestones in his musical career. He met Imtiaz for the first time, when music composer Pritam Chakraborty to sing in *Jab We Met*. But it almost did not happen. He shares, "I had disappeared into the mountains and they were not able to contact me because I am not fond of using phones too much. A couple of months went by and I got a call from Imtiaz saying, 'where have you been? We have been trying to get in touch with you desperately for almost three months. Then I came to Mumbai and sang that song. I am still very thankful that he waited for me. There were so many singers, he could have easily approached someone else but he didn't." And that's where their relationship started. Gradually they were on the same wavelength. Interestingly, Mohit says that right from *Tum Se Hi* to every song that he has sung for Imtiaz's film is written by Irshad Kamil. And they have been all very successful songs. "It's so great to spend time with him. He's an amazing director as well as a great friend," says he.

Mohit says that it's almost like a



spiritual experience to be able to sing about 10 to 11 songs in one film. I sang *Sadda Haq, Tum Ho, Kun Faya Kun* and *Phir Se Ud Chala* in the same film, which is extremely unheard of. A playback singer usually sings one or two songs in a single film. People use six music directors and then 10 different singers for 10 songs. But to be able to sing all of them in just one album is an indescribable feeling. I went through all the emotions that an artist can go through and express. Also, the character that I was singing for was like really close to me. Almost like me as the story is that of a contemporary musician and his journey. How he learns music all by himself, so all the emotions and expressions were so real for me," says he and narrates how he met AR Rahman. He says, "I was a part of the band called Silk Route. We sang songs like *Dooba Dooba* and *Boondein*. There was this huge music award festival in Delhi in November, 1998. That evening we won four awards. We got the best songs, best debut and best band of the year award. I met him there for the very first time. I paid my respects to him and he complimented me saying, 'Your band has a beautiful sound'. He, later, asked me if I have every tried singing



in films. I replied in the negative. Then almost after five years later, I got a call from him for *Khoon Chala* for *Rang De Basanti*. That was my first song. And that's when my musical journey started. It has been really amazing since then to work with him. I really consider myself fortunate to record with him, under his guidance."

The singer has always been keen on promoting arts and culture. He believes that it's a natural process that when you

value art, you feel the urge to promote it more and why not? "Folk music should be heard by people and especially by the younger generation, so that they understand, absorb and enjoy our roots and culture. I have always promoted folk music because it's related to our tradition and culture. It's great to be a part of art and make it a part of you," feels Mohit.

The most important change that has happened over the years, according to him, is the advent of technology. It has become much easier for individuals of all kinds to be able to showcase their talents. "A lot of people have gained acclaim just because of the internet. That's something huge and good, especially for the artistes," says he.

It was in 2017, when the singer himself started his online show, *CoHear*, on YouTube. "I did it for a year. I am a traveller. I always travel to hills. The idea came from my wife. She said that 'you hang out so much in the mountains, why don't you do this live concert show?' And then I thought about it. People love to come to concerts but not everyone is able to attend them. I got a really good response for that. Nobody was doing it at that time," says he.

Mohit has also been conducting var-

ious workshops in colleges. He feels that it's great to inspire someone with your own story. He says, "I was made the ambassador for the Skill India initiative. I really feel, it's about turning your passion into your skill. It's, in fact, a theory — if you are passionate about something you spend so much time on it that it becomes a skill, which you can use to reach out to people and make things better. I have learned from artists who are senior to me or people that I have read about in their biographies. I loved hearing how they made their music, what came in their mind and everything, so that inspires me to do my work. In the same manner I can help youngsters understand that they can do it too. After all, they are the future."

Just like 'I Love New York', every city has a campaign. Ask Mohit what does he think can be done to brand Delhi, and he will tell you that Delhi is a great city with a greater history. "The capital will always remain, 'Dilvalon ki Dilli'. Delhiites are filled with love. Their hearts are pure and the amount of energy they have is unbeatable. Each and everything adds colour to this beautiful city," says the singer.

(*Mayur Utsav* is on November 24 and 25.)

Hollywood girl gang in Dubai



An eight-minute short film titled *A Story Takes Flight*, starring Hollywood stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Zoe Saldana and Kate Hudson, has captured the imagination of netizens with its vivid portrayal of landscapes in and around Dubai.

Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing launched the film, shot by Emmy and Director's Guild award-winning director Reed Morano. In the film, the three Hollywood stars are seen embarking on three journeys of exploration through Dubai, filled with inspiration, discovery, and human connections.

This global campaign resolves the mystery of the last edition of Dubai's popular #BeMyGuest series. In the last video, Shah Rukh Khan bumped into Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow on a beach.

The campaign showcases unique locations spread across the Emirate that include the old souks, the Dubai Creek and the vast expanse of sand dunes.

Sharing her travelling experience in Dubai, Gwyneth Paltrow said: "One of my favorite parts of traveling is to truly connect with a city, its people and the local culture. Dubai is special because it's a melting pot. Both the ones born here, who are so proud of their heritage, and those who are recent transplants, bringing with them their own values and traditions, contribute to writing the future story of the city. My time in Dubai was beyond anything I expected and there's still so much more to see."

Kate Hudson spent a lot of time exploring the winding streets of Old Dubai. "It's incredible to find such a vibrant art and music community in the heart of such a modern, futuristic city — which is what most people think Dubai is. But really, the friendliness of the people is what made my visit amazing, and it's why I'll come back," Hudson added.

Said Issam Kazim, CEO, Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DCTCM) said: *A Story Takes Flight* is unlike any other film in that it speaks to this defining character of our city. It is a story of each person's discovery through their interaction with Dubai. Regardless of who you are or where you are from, your journey with us also has no finish line — and the paths to explore are endless."

STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES

Experience matters

Executive producer and author of *His Dark Materials*, PHILIP PULLMAN tells us how CGI is just a value-addition to story-telling



■ How did this TV series of *His Dark Materials* come about?

It was a few years ago. There had been various attempts to make adaptations of this story and in all sorts of different media. It's been on the stage. It's been on the radio, it's been a film, but I was always attracted to the idea of long-form television, as we now call it. It gives the opportunity to tell a long story in full. When you adapt a long novel to a movie, which can only be realistically about two hours in length, you have to lose a great deal,

but TV does allow a story to be unfolded in more or less real-time.

■ Why do you think now was the time to do it? Was it the advance of CGI technology?

I'm not sure that the CGI argument is the best one for doing it now. Yes, CGI is extraordinarily effective now and it's possible to create demons, animals, all sorts of things and put them on screen as if they're alive, but there's a story-telling problem with that. Which



has to do with the fact that you mustn't crowd the screen. If we had a demon in the shot every time there was a person in the frame, it would be very cluttering and it would be a terrible job for the script writer and director. What you want to do is focus the viewer's attention on the important thing. In most cases, it's the person not the demon. We don't find it difficult in the book because the narration only draws attention to the demon when they say something or when they do something. But if they're not doing anything, as they're not for quite a lot of the time, we don't need to have them around. So, it's a storytelling problem really rather than a CGI problem.

■ How protective of your story were you?

In any adaptation, the story has to suit the nature of the medium into which it's going. If a story goes from a novel onto a stage, for example, you'd have to arrange the story in such a way that every element in it is clear, both to the person on the front row and the person on the back of the stalls.

Also, there's a matter of getting on and off stage; you have to adapt the story. It's the same thing for television, same thing for films, same thing for radio, so it's inevitable. I wasn't going to be insistent that every single item in the story had to be exactly presented as it was on the page.

■ Why do you think your novels have proved so popular and enduring?

I think the thing that keeps most people reading once they've started reading is the fact that they're intrigued by what's going to happen to the main character. This

is why children follow along stories through all sorts of complexities, enigmas and mysterious passages. They want to know what happens to Lyra. She doesn't know what's going to happen to her, she's in a state of mystery and doubt for some of the time. The kind that reassures the reader because they know that if they follow Lyra there'll be alright. I think that's one of the things that's kept people's imagination going.

I also think it's because the story as a whole concerns something that every one of us experience, goes through in our life. That's the change from childhood to adulthood, from innocence to experience, in terms of William Blake. The meaning of puberty, not under the obvious physical, sexual changes, but the changes in the way we apprehend things, the way we think of things, the way we see the world. That's the heart of the story and because that's something that happens to all of us, I think that's where people have related to us.

(*His Dark Materials* will soon premiere in India on Star World.)

WALKTHROUGH 45 MINUTES



Golden times for the golden fibre

From traditional mats and household items to the jute sari, IITF this time is all about developing eco-friendly living. By TEAM VIVA

With plastics now a classified enemy, good old jute is back in our lives, manifesting itself as an array of lifestyle and household items at India International Trade Fair. And if you thought that it is only a functional textile, the jute saris on display showed how it could be the next big craze after khaki.

While the pure jute sari is a warming ethnic statement in the Delhi winter, its variants are also in demand. Jute has excellent blending qualities with other fibres and can be used in combination with pure silk saris, cotton saris, sico, art silk georgette, chiffon, dupion, tussar, organza, crepe and so on. The best part, these saris are strong and easy to carry even during the rough and tumble of a working day.

The fair has a slew of jute prod-

ucts — curtains, mats, jewellery, hair accessories and innovative toys and dolls. One of the stall owners, Rakesh Mehta, says, "You can find a variety of jute products here, right from a hair band to footwear. The pick-ups have been good and I am extremely happy."

Emphasising on the lastability of the textile, he adds, "Jute is first stripped from the plant, then scraped to remove the extraneous fibres and treated with chemicals for softening and smoothening it. The pure jute fabric properties, such as its strength, coarseness, roughness and thickness make it a great raw material for making sacks, ropes and especially saris." There are jute coasters and cushion covers, too, that have been combined with areca nut and corn.



Little did we know of another innovation, a jute layering for roads, which protects the surface from getting affected by seepage of water. Explains Vivek, who is doing a road-show on the same, "These mats will help the roads retain their quality for years. Nowadays we see roads breaking down every now and then. This is a very useful product on a large scale."



We noticed a woman vendor from Patna making a terracotta mural as earth elements make their way into our homes. Says she, "Terracotta toys and utensils are very popular but murals still have

their charm intact." Another earth element, bamboo furniture, was a hit too with people making eco-friendly choices.

Amid the expected line-up of a variety of attractive Pashmina

shawls and Madhubani paintings, the products made by the Tihar School of Art caught our attention. The prisoners at the jail make scented candles, biscuits, snacks and mustard oil every year. Its representative Ravi Mahajan tells us how portraits, paintings and jute bags were new additions and that the artworks presented interesting perspectives of the world seen from captivity.

Meanwhile, a nationalist mood has meant that a large number of students assembled near a CRPF stall, which displayed equipment and weapons.

Focussing on this year's theme — *Ease of doing business*, the general manager of the fair, Hema Maity says, "The theme was decided last year inspired by India's 63rd ranking on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. It also

focusses on the need to bring more businesses into India and strengthen its trade market internationally."

The fair gives a deeper insight into Micro and Small Scale Enterprises (MSMEs), non-government agencies, artisans, self-help groups, and more.

A PhD scholar, Reena Dikshit, who has taken the oath to replace every plastic material, with wood gained appreciation from all over. She says, "I studied in detail about plastic and the increasing level of harm that it does. I then decided to replace every possible plastic product with wood. You will find that all my products are infused with a personal touch." Of course, the innovation is clearly evident in terms of multiple folding pieces, something which was once a preserve of the very moldable plastic.

CONVERSATION 30 MINUTES

NO END TO LEARNING

Whether it is her music or other activities, SHIBANI KASHYAP does not get hemmed in. By TEAM VIVA

□You have done a variety of work, from singing at music festivals to being a judge. What has your journey been like?

I enjoy the journey more than the result. If you have passion and sincerity, you will achieve success. There have been many ups and downs too, which are necessary during the course of any career. But it's been interesting, from being a judge to a singer, composer, live performer and even a social activist. I feel that it's very important that we use the full spectrum of our talent. Especially for me, music is a tool to communicate with the world and I hope to bring about a change. Hence, I have a lot of cause-oriented songs. Last year I released one music video called *Want To Be Free*, which talks about our addiction to social media and how it takes over our lives. It makes us forget about the organic and real things. Now, I'm working on a song called *Don't Drink and Drive to Stay Alive*, a song against drunken driving. For me, it's not just about being a voice but, also a personality. I hope that I'm not just creating a brand of my own signature music but also something which people can relate to.

□How have you explored various genres of music?

I love experimenting with different genres. It started with pop music with *Ho Gayi Hai Mohabbat*. And then I had a tryst with Sufi music, after I heard the *Kabalah* sing in Rajasthan and at a Durga Puja show in Delhi. Something moved within me, I learnt qawwali and did my song.

Then I experimented with the Blues in *Kya Nazakat Hai* where I got Murad Ali (Muzaffar Ali's son) to do poetry. It's a very interesting fusion. I recorded a song called *Sonia* with Mika, which is a Punjabi Indian song. My latest is a fantastic Sufi remake of *Akhiyan Udeek Diyan* and *We Main Chori* with singer Suryaveer. It's an interesting collaboration.

One of my favourites has been the collaboration with the LA-based Reggae band, Big Mountain, who gave the hit *Baby, I Love Your Way*. So they got in touch with me and we did a song called *24 Hours Irresponsible*.

I'm really proud of that song because it's an Indie, Reggae Jazz song and it's really doing well on Spotify. The experiments still continue.



□How is it, performing live in front of an audience?

I love it. It gives me an instant energy exchange with the audience and also a one-on-one response from them when I sing. I have been performing live for more than 19 years now. I started in 2000. From performing at the Channel V awards in 1998; winning an award; performing across the world, I have been blessed. I have done four concerts in Egypt. Then there was a recent tour around the USA, where I held a show in New York, Washington DC and Nashville. Now, I am all set to perform in Gurugram, which is also my hometown and I'm really excited. I will be singing a combination of my latest hits and some covers. We are a six piece band including me — I play the guitar. We have a flutist, keyboardist, guitarist, bass guitarist, drummer and Indian percussionist.

□You have a wide range, so how do you customise your playlist in a way that you connect better with the audience?

Sometimes an artist might get bored performing the same set over and over again. And I do too. So I try to innovate on each performance according to the category and target audience of my show. For instance, in Egypt, they really love the songs of

Shahrukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan. So there, we did an entire Bollywood musical history, where I began my performance with the music of the 1940s, till contemporary times. You really need to research before you hold a show in a particular region before you choose your playlist for them. Soon I'll be travelling to Senegal and do four shows in Africa. They also love Bollywood. So I'll be customising this show in a very different and colourful format and twelve dancers will accompany me.

Also, when it comes to college shows, students really like Rock music. And they love melancholic songs, about love and romance. Of course, Punjabi music works everywhere in the world so that is the tadka I put in the second half of my shows. I also add Sufi, which is of course, my own signature music.

□With the current Rap culture ruling the industry, do you think other genres are losing their charm?

Rap music has been around for the longest time and it's caught on in a big way, especially after Ranveer Singh's *Gully Boy*. However, it doesn't interfere with other genres of music. If you take a film like *Kabir Singh*, its music is very melodious with no traces of Rap at all. So it's mostly about content. It's about how

good the music is, how well it has been composed, rendered and delivered. So it's not that if Rap is trending, people will only listen to that. Let's not undermine and underestimate our audience. With all the audio streaming platforms today, we get exposed to a variety of music. So I think there's room for everything. Hip Hop is what I'm coming up with in my next song called *Ishq*, which is an collaboration with DJ Sin from the UK. It's a UK-based music label called 'Your Damn Self'. I am really excited about it because they specialise in R&B.

□What would you say about the charm of your specialisation, the Sufi-Western blend?

First, thank you for calling it a charm. Yes, I always had to create magic and when you fuse different genres together, there is definitely a jam and some magic. And that's what I like to do. I like to experiment with different genres. Sufi comes naturally to me. The Western and Sufi blend especially is something in which I am very involved and it's inexplicable.

As artists, when we have something natural to offer, it is always more convincing and far more magical. So there's a certain divinity in it, and that's what I try to do through all my songs. I like to have a Sufi and Western blend.

□Where do you think are the global trends heading?

I think globally everybody is ready to absorb different kinds of music. And it's pretty much the same everywhere you go, when you have music apps and are exposed to all genres. We have our own home-grown random music, which is Bollywood, an Indie Pop and folk music and classical music. And then we have the exposure to Western music and all kinds of genres. Globally, Spanish music is trending a lot. Especially songs like *Desperado* and *Senorita*, they are like global number one hits. So there is something about this language and about the music of Spain, which is hitting the right note. Melody is back. In between, the music was very noisy and it was just about sounds. But now with artists that hold a lot of expression, I would say a lot of lyrical and musical content is back. And of course, I love Latino and Spanish music and I'm really happy that that is a trend because I completely ascribe to it.

A PLAYER'S NEXT GOAL

Actor PRACHI TEHLAN talks about how her prior experience of acting in TV helped her get into her character as the strongest woman in Kerala in *Mamangam*. By TEAM VIVA

If given a chance, whose biopic would you like to act in as? Well, most common answers would be people's role models and different ideals. But sportsperson-turned-actor Prachi Tehlan, who has made her debut in the South with period film *Mamangam*, opposite Mammootty, wants to make her own biopic since she looks at her life story as challenging if not inspiring.

"I have made films on boxing. If given an opportunity, I would love to showcase my own story because my journey in sports has been an adventurous one in various ways. If I get a good director and a writer, I would definitely share my experiences and a story can be made out of it, which doesn't necessarily need to be about someone. It can simply be about sportspersons or the journey of a women's basketball team. For instance, *Chak de India!*" says Prachi, who a netball and basketball player who has represented India at the Commonwealth Games 2010.

She tells us how joining the film industry was like a destiny's call. "I had just randomly got a call for a role in a TV soap and I quite liked the character. It was basically an opportunity that came knocking on my door. I was nowhere near to films or TV. I took it as an opportunity and became an actor. But yes, it wasn't as easy as it sounds because both the fields are very different," says the actor, who made her TV debut with *Diya Aur Baati Hum*.

The process of reaching films has been very organic for Prachi as a prior experience with TV helped her. "When I started acting, my first step to understanding it came from TV as I was working on a daily soap. I was undergoing an intense training. I had to face the cameras everyday. That helped me a lot and I ended up bagging this role in *Mamangam*."

Based in Valluvanad, a conservative town in Kerala, the film, which releases in four languages including Hindi, is a period drama that revolves around Chaver Thalavan (played by Mammootty) and Unnimaya (played by Prachi). She says, "It's a story that's set around the time of the Mamangam



festival, which was celebrated around 400 years ago in Kerala. It narrates a story of some unsung heroes during the time. My character is that of a *devadasi*, who is also an entertainer and a warrior." Well, Unnimaya, who represents the strong old women of Kerala, quite resonates with Prachi's real life journey and transition from being a basketball player to an actress.

Since the war drama features the martial art of Kalaripayattu, Prachi says that there was an intense training and research involved. "I watched films like *Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja*, *Urumi*, which are also period dramas and come from similar eras, for reference. It did look challenging but I just went with the flow," says she.

So how did she contemporise the sensibilities? She replied, "I asked a lot of questions from the director. And he told me how it's entirely different than what I have done before. But I didn't find it that difficult because I have done TV. When you keep on playing the same character and bring out its different nuances on TV, you kind of learn how to adapt. I just had to adapt into a serious character and

tend to understand it better." After working in two Punjabi films and now a Malayalam one, the actor has plans to work in Bollywood. But she believes that Malayalam cinema has a lot of scope as it caters to the sensible audience who is sensitive towards societal issues. "Malayalam films are the most sensible cinema made in India. They are very intelligent, sensitive to things and don't like unnecessary commercial *masala*. Its audience likes to watch films that make sense at the end of the day," says Prachi.

Only a few films from South India have had a mass appeal across India and globally, the most recent example being that of *Baahubali*. However, Prachi calls it a "wrong comparison." "*Baahubali* is fiction but this is based on true events. There is a lot of difference. *Baahubali* was more commercial and very loud. It was exaggerated to appeal as a mass entertainer. But *Mamangam* is infused with very realistic elements. Here, the sets are original, and even the acting is subtle. The story is beautiful. It connects with the audience very emotionally," she adds.

Special one to rescue Spurs?

Mourinho seeks quick fix to win over Lilywhites doubters

AFP ■ LONDON

Jose Mourinho believes the quality of players he has at Tottenham do "not belong" down in 14th in the Premier League as he tries to salvage Spurs' season. Mourinho starts his tenure at a third English club after grossly different experiences at Chelsea and Manchester United hoping to inspire Tottenham's first away

win in the league since January at West Ham today.

That run saw Mauricio Pochettino sacked on Tuesday just six months after reaching the Champions League final. Pochettino's five-and-a-half years at the club transformed Tottenham's fortunes. The Argentine made Spurs Champions League regulars and eventually paid for his own success in raising the bar of expectations. It also paved the way for a marriage of convenience. Tottenham needed to make a statement with Pochettino's successor to prove their growing status, and so turned to Mourinho.

Similarly, the Portuguese needs a project that will rebuild his reputation after an unhappy two-and-a-half years at Manchester United. "In the short term we have to try to get results," said Mourinho on Thursday. "It is important in the Premier League we need to disappear from the area where we do not belong." Spurs start the weekend 11 points adrift of the top four having taken just 25 points from their last 24 Premier League matches. However, Mourinho insisted he will not make



West Ham vs Tottenham
Live from 6:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

big changes in personnel or to the team's style of play amid concerns from supporters that the manner in which he has won so much silverware in his career is not an easy fit with Spurs' traditional brand of attacking football. "The style of play has to be always adapted not just to the club culture, but especially to the players' qualities," he added. "These are the players, they have the qualities, adapted to a certain way of playing football, and that's the way I want to do it." Mourinho has spent 11 months out of the game since being sacked by United in December. And he cut a far more introspective figure as he briefed the media on Thursday than the man who announced himself as "the special one"

during his first press conference as Chelsea manager 15 years ago. "I always thought that these 11 months were not a waste of time. These 11 months were months to think, to analyse, to prepare and anticipate things," added Mourinho. "I had time to think about many things. Don't ask me what are the mistakes, but I realise that during my career I made mistakes. I am not going to make the same mistakes, I am going to make new mistakes. "From an emotional point of view I'm relaxed, I'm motivated, I'm ready and I think the players they felt that in these two days. "They felt that I'm ready. I'm ready to support them. This is not about me. In your career but also in your life, you go through moments and periods and I am in a period where it's not about myself at all. It's about my club, my clubs

fans, my players." Even if Mourinho claims to be a changed man, his reputation precedes him. There was no love lost in many clashes with Tottenham in his Chelsea days and that allied to the joy Pochettino brought the Spurs fanbase leaves many unconvinced this managerial change is one for the better. In his glory days at Chelsea, Porto, Inter and early in his spell at Real Madrid, Mourinho could always rely on results to win over the doubters. That is what he needs to provide Spurs' supporters with, starting today.

Juve take Atalanta in Serie A

AFP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo conceded he is not '100 percent' despite his goal spree for Portugal but always ready to play as injury-hit Juventus head to Atalanta today looking to extend their unbeaten run this season to stay top of Serie A. Juventus visit fifth-placed Atalanta before hosting Atletico Madrid in the Champions League next week. Maurizio Sarri's side are just one point ahead of Antonio Conte's Inter Milan after 12 matches, with Lazio and Cagliari eight points adrift of the leaders in joint third. Atalanta have gone three league games without a win and will be eager to get back into the Champions League berths, as they sit two points off fourth place, before next week's

trip to Shakhtar Donetsk. Their fortunes have slipped following the thigh injury suffered to Colombian star Duvan Zapata, who scored six goals in six Serie A matches before being sidelined for their last five league games. As Atalanta sweat on Zapata's return, Juventus will be without full-back Alex Sandro, who picked up a high problem playing for Brazil, with Blaise Matuidi recovering from a rib injury. Full-back Danilo, who scored his first goal for Brazil during the international break, warned: "The games after the international break are never easy, let alone against Atalanta, a team who are doing well. "We can't make mistakes or underestimate them." Inter will be looking to make it a perfect seven league games on the road this season as they travel to Torino, before their European trip to Slavia Prague. Conte's side face a tough task against the Andrea Belotti-powered Torino, who ended their six-match winless run against Brescia last time out, and are in 11th position. Serie A runners-up Napoli are in crisis, having slipped to seventh, and desperately need a result at 14th-placed AC Milan, who are themselves floundering.



Atalanta vs Juventus
Live from 7:30pm IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

India finish WC Final on high

PTI ■ PUTIAN

India finished their engagements at the ISSF World Cup Finals on a high, with their shooters featuring in teams that won the President's Trophies for both the 10m air pistol and air rifle mixed team competitions here on Friday. In the mixed air pistol final, Manu Bhaker first paired with world number one Russian Artem Chernousov to get the better of the India's Saurabh Chaudhary and Olympic champion Anna Korakaki 17-13. It was then the turn of

Divyansh Singh Panwar to team up with Croatian legend Snjezana Pejic, to win the trophy in the 10m air rifle mixed team competition. Divyansh and Snjezana prevailed 16-14 over India's Apurvi Chandela and D Zhang. It got even better when Shahzar Rizvi also won Bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition. Both Manu and Divyansh had earlier won their individual 10m competitions air pistol and rifle, ensuring that India topped the medals tally with three Gold medals.



England on top in see-saw battle

AFP ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

The manner of Kane Williamson's dismissal and a blow to the head of Henry Nicholls put the maiden Test wicket at Mount Maunganui under scrutiny with three days to play in the first Test between New Zealand and England on Friday. In the first Test at the ground, the Bay Oval wicket showed signs of becoming unpredictable late on day two. Although honours appeared even after the first two days, England believe if the wicket continues to deteriorate then they are in the box seat. New Zealand go into day four in reply to England's first innings 353, but with senior batsmen Williamson and Ross Taylor already dismissed. Williamson had cruised to 51, reaching his half-century with a boundary off Sam

Curran, but fell on the next delivery which unexpectedly reared sharply, forcing the New Zealand skipper to take evasive action and the ball was gloved to second slip. The dismissal even took Curran by surprise. Nicholls, who was not out 26 at stumps, was felled by a sharp bounce from Jofra Archer but a medical check showed no immediate sign of concussion, although he will undergo a further examination before resuming today. Earlier after England resumed the day at 241 for four, Stokes and Ollie Pope advanced the total to 277 when Southee struck with three wickets in 11 balls including the prized scalp of Stokes for 91. Butler and Leach forged a late 52-run stand but otherwise there was little England resistance at the bottom of the order.

Zidane urges fans to back Bale

AFP ■ MADRID

Zinedine Zidane has urged Real Madrid fans to get behind Gareth Bale and insists he does not believe the Welshman is happier playing for his country than Real Madrid. Madrid play Real Sociedad at the Santiago Bernabeu today, when Bale is likely to feel the frustration of the home supporters. The 30-year-old sparked outrage in the Spanish press this week after he celebrated Wales' victory over Hungary on Monday with a flag from the crowd that read: "Wales. Golf. Madrid. In that order". The slogan has been adopted by Welsh fans after an interview given by former Madrid player Pedja Mijatovic to *Cadena Ser* last month, in which he referred to those as Bale's priorities. It has been interpreted in Spain as a slight against Real

Madrid, particularly after Bale played twice for Wales over the international break, having missed the last six matches for his club through injury. But, in a press conference on Friday, Zidane refused to criticise Bale. "When you look at what he has given to the club and the fans, that is what we are all here for: for the club. "Gareth is one of the team and the fans have to be behind us, always. I will always be behind my players. Outside, things can happen but inside, we should only look at the football." While on international duty, Bale admitted he feels more excitement representing Wales, with teammates he has grown up with and who speak the same language. Asked if Bale is happier playing for his country than his club, Zidane said: "I don't think so, maybe it's better for

him with the language, but he seemed happy when he scored in the Champions League final. "It's just the language, he said it. Inside the dressing room here, he's good." Zidane would not comment on whether Bale's celebrations were aimed at Real Madrid or the media's criticism of him for spending too much

time playing golf. "I'm not going to get into that, it's not my area," Zidane said. "What I can tell you is Gareth Bale is my player. That's what interests me." Bale has not played for Real Madrid since October 5 but his recovery came just in time for him to play twice for Wales last week, meaning he is

fit to face Real Sociedad in La Liga. "There is a lot of noise around Gareth but the most important thing for him and for me is to focus on football," Zidane said. "He has been away, he has been able to play and now he is back and is available. "He can make the differ-

ence, he is a decisive player. If he is fit, he has shown he is a key player and he will show it again." It remains to be seen if Bale returns to the starting line-up against Real Sociedad, who have enjoyed a brilliant start to the season and sit only two points behind Real Madrid.

R Madrid vs R Sociedad
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)
FACEBOOK

Frotune favours the Dave

BRISBANE (AFP): Pakistan were left to rue a basic error from 16-year-old debutant Naseem Shah

Australia vs Pakistan
Live from 5:30am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

as Australia opener David Warner plundered the visitors' attack with a brilliant 151 not out on the second day of the first Test at the Gabba on Friday. Australia finished the day on 312 for the loss of just one wicket, 72 runs ahead of Pakistan's first innings total of 240 and already in the driving seat. Marnus Labuschagne was alongside Warner on 55, with the only wicket to fall that of Joe Burns, who made 97 before sweeping a Yasir Shah (1-101) delivery onto his stumps. Warner scored his first Test century since a year-long ban for ball-tampering, but only after a huge let-off when he was caught behind off a Naseem no-ball. The mercurial opener was

on 56 at the time, and he then survived a near run-out on 93 before ending a century drought stretching back nearly two years. "For me it's about going out there and backing my ability," he said, insisting he never felt any pressure about his place in the side. "At the end of the day you get selected or you don't get selected and you've just got to accept that." Earlier, Naseem looked impressive on debut and regularly bowled at over 145 kilometres (90 miles) per hour, but he was guilty of overstepping the mark on a number of occasions, despite not being called by the umpire. He looked like he belonged on the big stage with a number of bristling spells before leaving the field late in the day with an apparent leg injury. "He won't get a harder Test debut, bowling at the Gabba," Warner said. "He kept his speed up the whole day — he charged in all day, there's a (future) superstar there."

ODISHA NATIONAL TRIBAL CRAFT MELA
(23rd to 29th November, 2019)

Demonstration and Sale of Tribal Craft Products of 17 States including Odisha

ODISHA STATE TRIBAL MUSEUM COMPLEX
Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute, (SCSTRTI), CRPF Square, Bhubaneswar.

(Everyday 2.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M.)

ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department
Government of Odisha

26026/13/0013/1920

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh won the toss and India everything else against a ball they are not acquainted with on the first day of their maiden Day/Night Test, the quality of contest spectacularly failing to match the manic pre-match hype.

First the Ishant Sharma-led Indian pace unit terrorised the visitors, bundling them out for 106 in just under 31 overs even before twilight set in.

With two of their batsmen concussed, the mentally-scarred Bangladesh attack then found itself at the receiving end of a masterclass from the Indian captain Virat Kohli, who remained unbeaten on 59 off 93 balls, as India reached 174 for three at stumps on the opening day.

The stodgy Cheteshwar Pujara, with two pink ball hundreds under his belt in first-class cricket, scored a chiselled 55 as India took a 68-run lead. It looks like the cricket loving Kolkata public will not have an opportunity to witness even three full days' action.

The city turned pink, the crowd responded to the brainchild of its favourite son Sourav Ganguly, who arranged a first-of-its-kind match in less than a month's time.

However, the gulf in standards along with the singular lack of intent from the visitors took some sheen away from the game.

Earlier, Ishant grabbed his first five-wicket haul on Indian soil after a good 12 years, finishing with 5 for 22 in 12 overs after a brave decision by opposition captain Mominul Haque to bat first on a seamer-friendly pitch.

Umesh Yadav hurried the Bangladeshi batsmen for pace with 3 for 29 in 7 overs while Mohammed Shami was deadly bowling the cutters wide off the crease with figures of 2 for 36 in 10.3 overs.

He also bowled two sharp bouncers, leaving Liton Das (24) and Nayeem Hasan (19) concussed.

Bangladesh lasted just 30.3 overs in their first innings with specialist spinners Ravindra Jadeja bowling a solitary over and Ravichandran Ashwin wasn't even required to roll his arms over.

Clearly the menacing Indian pace attack exposed Bangladesh's lack of technical finesse as the 'Pink Ball Test' was agreed upon three days before their tour departure on the initiative of newly-elected BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

Bangladesh batsmen looked unsettled by the capacity crowd, something they have never encountered even in their home Tests and the world-class bowling made it even more difficult.

Such was their plight that for the first time in the subcontinent, batsmen Nos 3, 4 and 5 (skipper Mominul Haque, Mohammad Mithun, and senior-most player Mushfiqur Rahim) were all dismissed for a duck.

Pushed into the unknown territory without any practice back home, Bangladesh opening duo of Shadman Islam and Imrul Kayes survived some anxious moments in the first six overs before Ishant Sharma trapped the latter.

Umesh then triggered the collapse in his second spell with two wickets in three balls, first being skipper Mominul who was dismissed by a beautiful diving one-handed catch by Rohit Sharma.

Next was Mohammed Mithun

Ishant in Pink mode

Senior pacer's 2nd 5-wicket haul in India (first in 12 years) help all-round India lord over Bangladesh, hype beats cricket hands down



Ishant Sharma celebrates after taking wicket of Bangladesh batsman during first day of Day/Night Test between India and Bangladesh at Eden Gardens in Kolkata

India vs B'desh (2nd day)
Live from 1:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

beating him by pace as it sharply cut in with the batsmen playing on to his stumps.

Despite the catching scepticism surrounding the pink ball, Saha looked a class act behind the stumps as usual as the ball was swinging a lot after moving the batsman.

His low catch of Mahmudullah, outstretched and dragged across Virat Kohli at the first slip, was the highlight of his keeping as he also completed a milestone of 100 dismissals in longest format.

While Bangladesh captain Mominul had a point when he spoke about lack of preparation but when Kohli with barely one and a half net session hit those elegant boundaries under light, one knew why a solid basic technique made such a difference.

With a quick trigger, Kohli would cover the line and negate the seam movement hitting those languid cover drives with grace.

Left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam, who was not supposed to play this game, came in as a concussion substitute for Nayeem Hasan, was driven down the ground as if it was net session.

Pujara on the other hand also looked solid after quick departure from Mayank Agarwal and Rohit Sharma, adding 94 runs for the third wicket with his captain.

Das, Nayeem concussed

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Two Bangladesh batsmen — Liton Das and Nayeem Hasan — were retired hurt from the ongoing Day/Night Test, forcing the visitors to bring in as concussion substitutes players who had been dropped from the team. Both Das and Nayeem were hit by Mohammed Shami snorters and were replaced by Mehidy Hasan and Tajjul Islam at the Eden Gardens.

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Das was taken to a city hospital for a scan before another Shami delivery hit Nayeem, who was interestingly attended to by Indian team physio Nitin Patel.

Bangladesh, thus, became the first team to make two concussion substitutes in a Test match.

Mehidy came in as concussion substitute after Das was hit.

However, Mehidy, an off-spinner, will not be allowed to bowl as per the concussion substitute rule. Mehidy, though, did not last long as he was dismissed by pacer Ishant Sharma for just eight runs.



Nayeem Hasan stands as physiotherapists look into the helmet after he was injured

Das was retired hurt after being hit on his head at the stroke of lunch.

Trying to play a pull shot off a Shami bouncer, the heavily-lacquered pink ball blazed in and hit his helmet in the forehead region in the third ball of the 20th over. He was batting on 16 then.

The physio rushed in, conducted a test and he continued batting, responding with a boundary in the next delivery.

Das hit another boundary in the next over off Ishant and

added nine runs before complaining of discomfort. He was next seen walking off the field after a long conversation with the umpire, forcing the end of the first session.

Das' like-for-like substitute Saif Hassan is down with a (split webbing) injury, forcing the visitors to opt for Mehidy as concussion substitute.

According to the protocol, a proper medical report has to be submitted to the match referee for a concussion substitute.

Hasina, Mamata ring bell



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, center right, and Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee, center left, stand to ring the Eden Bell to start the 2nd Test

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rung the customary Eden bell in the presence of BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, Bangladesh Cricket Board chief Nazmul Hasan Papon and batting legend Sachin Tendulkar among other dignitaries.

Hasina and Mamata met the teams before the national anthem was played by the Army Band in front of a packed house. Union Home Minister Amith Shah, who was supposed to be in attendance, however could not make it.

The historic match was supposed to kickstart with Army paratroopers flying into Eden to hand over a pink ball each to the two captains just before the toss. But due to security reasons, that

had to be cancelled at the last moment by the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

The other former cricketers present were S Ramesh, Saba Karim, Sunil Joshi, Ajit Agarkar, Venkatesh Prasad, Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammed Azharuddin, Kris Srikkanth, Farokh Engineer and Chandu Borde.

Athletes from other sports like Abhinav Bindra, P. Gopichand, PV Sindhu, Sania Mirza and Mary Kom were also there.

Naimur Rahman, Mohammed Mahmudul Hasan, Maharab Hossain, Mohammed Hasibul Hussain, Shahriar Hossain Biddut, Kazi Habibur Bashar and Mohammed Akram Khan were the former Bangladesh cricketers who were present.

Captain Kohli fastest to 5K

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Virat Kohli on Friday became the fastest to 5000 runs as captain, completing the feat in 86 innings during day one.

As captain, Kohli was also the quickest to 4000 Tests runs (65 innings). He is the sixth captain to reach the 5000-run mark.

Australian great Ricky Ponting had taken 97 innings to complete 5000 runs as captain, ahead of West Indian legend Clive Lloyd (106 innings), South African Graeme Smith (110), Australian Allan Border (116) and New Zealand's Stephen Fleming (130).



Legends relive glorious Eden moments



India's former cricket players Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh and VVS Laxman join in a talk show during break on 1st day

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian cricket legends including Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble on Friday revisited their glorious on-field moments at the Eden Gardens.

In a special programme during the lunch break on the opening day, Tendulkar, Kumble, Harbhajan Singh and VVS Laxman relived some of the iconic moments at the famous venue here, including the 1993 Hero Cup final versus West Indies and the 2001 Test versus Australia.

All of them thanked their captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly for bringing them together. Ganguly, too, was supposed to be part of the 40-minute discussion on Star Sports but could not make it as he was understandably caught up with administrative issues.

"We have not had a chance to sit like this since our playing days. It is a special day and there could not have

been a better venue for this historic game," said Kumble, whose sensational spell of six for 12 helped India to a famous win over West Indies.

The Kolkata crowd is probably the most passionate in the country and they showed all their love for Tendulkar by chanting 'Sachin Sachin', taking the master blaster back to his playing days.

While Laxman and Rahul Dravid produced a match-winning 376-run stand after India followed on against Australia, Harbhajan and Tendulkar came up with stellar bowling performances. Harbhajan even took a hat-trick in his match haul of 13 wickets.

"The game changed so quickly because of that hat-trick. The way we won the game ushered in a new phase for the Indian team. Bhajji was sensational, got Ricky Ponting out so many times and Laxman and Dravid partnership did wonders for the confidence of the dressing room," said

Tendulkar. The electric atmosphere at the Eden Gardens reminded Harbhajan of his playing days.

"The atmosphere here takes me back to 15 years ago. Test cricket was different back then. It is a special feeling and I feel so much love every time I come here. Hats off to Ganguly for doing this. Even if I play under 100 captains, he will always be my captain," said the champion off-spinner.

Tendulkar had heard good things about Harbhajan from the local officials during a game in Mohali and, subsequently, asked for the spinner to bowl to him in the India nets. Harbhajan, a teenager then, was in awe of Tendulkar.

"The first time I met Bhajji was in Mohali. The people there were talking about him, 'he is a good spinner who bowls a good doosra'," said Tendulkar.



An illuminated building displays an image of BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, on the eve of the 1st pink-ball Test



Ganguly posts picture of 'Sweets go pink in Kolkata' via Twitter



Indian cricketer Mithali Raj rides in a cart during a grand parade of India's former cricket captains



Sourav Ganguly posts picture with Eden crowd during first day of Day/Night Test