

**OPINION 8**  
NEIGHBOUR'S  
BORDER ENVY

**WORLD 12**  
IMPEACHMENT SHAM DEBUNKED,  
SAYS WH AFTER PUBLIC HEARING

**SPORT 15**  
GINI SCORES HAT-TRICK  
IN NETHERLANDS' 5-0 WIN

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## Talks on, but Cong sure of Sena Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a clear indication of joining hands with the Shiv Sena, leaders of the Congress and the NCP on Wednesday expressed confidence of forming a "stable" Government in Maharashtra soon.

After a marathon meeting of senior leaders of the two parties at NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's residence here, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said the alliance is hopeful of ending the spell of political uncertainty in the State and working to provide a stable Government.

However, Chavan's confidence has not ended the suspense over the formation of a Government in Maharashtra, currently under President Rule, for two reasons: The ongoing NCP-Cong talks are inconclusive, and second, the hour-long meeting between Pawar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has further raised curiosity about what transpired during the discussion.

Pawar, who later took to social media to announce his meeting, claimed his meeting with the Prime Minister was about farmers' distress in Maharashtra. However, there were few takers for Pawar's emphatic denial of any political discussion during his meeting with Modi.



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel and others during a meeting regarding Government formation in Maharashtra, at Pawar's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday

"Due to President Rule in the State, your urgent intervention is highly necessitated. I shall be grateful if you could take immediate steps to initiate massive relief measures to ameliorate distressed farmers," the three-page memorandum given by Pawar to Modi said.

Asked by reporters about the Government formation in Maharashtra, the NCP chief declined to comment. The Pawar-Modi meeting, which went on for 50 minutes, took place against the backdrop of hectic parleys between the Congress-NCP and the Shiv Sena to form a Government in Maharashtra. Two days ago, Modi had praised NCP MPs for

maintaining the decorum in Parliament by not entering the Well of the House during proceedings.

The NCP and the Congress leaders met in the evening at Pawar's residence in Delhi to discuss how to partner with the Shiv Sena, the long-term BJP ally which recently ended its alliance with the ruling party over a power tussle in Maharashtra.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut exuded confidence that a Government led by his party will be in place by next month in Maharashtra. "We are inching towards the Government formation. The picture will become clear in the next two

After meeting NCP leaders, Prithviraj Chavan says strong Govt in Maha soon

### Speculation over Modi-Pawar talks

- Pawar's emphatic denial of any political discussion during his meeting with Modi has failed to stop speculation about the talks on Government formation in Maharashtra
- Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut exuded confidence that Govt will be led by his party
- Sena has called a meeting of its MLAs and senior leaders on November 22

days and a popular Government led by the Shiv Sena will be in place by December," he told reporters.

The Shiv Sena has called a meeting of its MLAs and senior leaders on November 22 in Mumbai, a party leader said.

### Pushing me to back bench in RS aimed at hurting Sena, Raut writes to V-P

New Delhi: Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday wrote a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu saying that moving him to the 5th row is an attempt to humiliate him and the party.

## NRC across India soon: Shah

HM says no need for people from any religion to be worried about it

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the lines of Assam, National Register for Citizens (NRC) exercise will be carried out across the country soon, Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Wednesday, assuring that no one should be worried as it is just a process of getting everyone under the NRC, irrespective of their religion. He also underscored the point that there is no need for people from any religion to be worried about it.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Shah said the NRC has no such provision that says that certain religions will be excluded from it. "All citizens of India irrespective of religion will figure in the NRC list. The NRC is different from the Citizenship Amendment Bill," Shah said.

"The Assam exercise was carried out under a Supreme Court order. NRC will be carried out across the country, will be done in Assam again, no one from any religion should be worried," he said. Some BJP-ruled States — like Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand — have already announced that they will conduct Assam-like NRC exercise in their States. In the NRC final list published on August 31, over 19 lakh people were left out of the citizenship register in Assam.

Most of the people who have not produced adequate documents to prove their claims will not be declared illegal immediately, according to



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP leaders JP Nadda, Dharmendra Pradhan, Jitendra Singh and Arjun Ram Meghwal leave after the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting at Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday

officials in the Government. They have the option of appealing to Foreigners' Tribunals and subsequently approach the court.

Shah said people whose names are missing from the draft list have the right to go to tribunals, which will be constituted across Assam. He added that those who can't afford lawyers to go to a tribunal will be provided financial help by the Assam Government.

The Modi Government plans to amend the Citizenship Act in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. The Citizenship Amendment Bill speeds up the process under which non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan can get Indian citizenship.

gious atrocities there will get citizenship (in India) under the Bill," he said.

The Home Minister said the NRC and the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016, which lapsed on June 3, 2019, are two different issues and both should not be seen through one prism. He said the Lok Sabha had passed the Bill and the select committee had approved it, but the Lok Sabha had lapsed. "Now it will come again. It has no connection with the NRC," he said.

There has been opposition from various political parties to the Citizenship Amendment Bill. There have been protests across the Northeastern States over the Government's plan to table the Bill. In Assam, protesters have argued that the Citizenship Amendment Bill goes against the provisions of the Assam Accord that seek to safeguard the interests of indigenous people. There were protests and marches on Monday across seven States in the North-East against the proposed legislation.

## Won't allow NRC in Bengal, says Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA/PNS ■ KOLKATA/ASSAM

Barely 24 hours after launching a broadside against the BJP and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin chief Asaduddin Owaisi for conspiring to dislodge Trinamool Congress from Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again asked the people to remain cautious against "nefarious designs" being hatched by these parties.

Addressing a huge crowd in Murshidabad, Mamata said her party would not allow the implementation of National Register for Citizens in Bengal as long as she was the Chief Minister of the State.

On the day Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a country-wide NRC, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma too said the State Government has requested the Centre to reject the final updated NRC in the State.

"Till I am there no one can take away your citizenship and no one can throw you out of India which is your own country," Mamata told a large gathering. "Some people are crying hoarse about NRC but let me tell you that there will be no NRC in Bengal," Mamata said, adding how "not even the Hindus were spared in Assam where they have thrown out 19 lakh people from the citizenship list out of which 14 lakh are Hindus."

All these people were now being kept in detention camps, she alleged. "They are now in jails in Assam. But I will not let that happen in Bengal. There



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses party supporters in Murshidabad on Wednesday

will be no NRC here," she added.

Targeting the "dirty alliance" between the BJP and AIMIM, Mamata said, "Money, men and ideas are being imported from outside and you will have to remain cautious against efforts to divide the State."

Alleging that the AIMIM was a "paid agent of the BJP" which was pouring money in Bengal to divide the people, Mamata said, "They are the biggest allies. They are coming with bags full of money from Hyderabad as your sympathisers but their aim is to divide you," to help the BJP come to power in the State.

Apparently telling the Muslims not to trust leaders visiting from outside and only repose faith on local leaders she said, "No one will fight for the cause of the people of Bengal other than those who are from this State... don't trust outsiders who are posing as your friends and coming with money bags."

## Day after UP Home Guard scam evidence burnt, top official among 5 arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gautam Buddha Nagar police on Wednesday arrested five home guard officials, including a divisional commandant posted in Aligarh, for their alleged role in the fraudulent withdrawal of salaries of scores of the force's personnel. The police action has come within 24-hour deadline set by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Their arrest came a day after muster rolls (attendance logs) of all home guard personnel were found burnt in a box inside the Gautam Buddha Nagar district home guard commandant's office in Greater Noida. The attendance logs of all personnel since 2014 in the district were found gutted in the fire amid an investigation into the alleged salary fraud, prompting Yogi to intervene.

Gautam Buddha Nagar Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Krishna said five officials have been held for their suspected role in the fraudulent withdrawal of salaries.

"Home Guards' present

Divisional Commandant, Aligarh, Ram Narayan Chaurasia (42), Assistant District Commandant Satish Chandra (35), and Platoon commanders Montu Kumar (32), Satveer Yadav (38) and Shailendra Kumar (30) have been arrested in the salary scam case," Krishna said.

Chaurasia is the mastermind of the alleged scam which he initiated since his appointment as District Home Guard commandant in Gautam Buddha Nagar in 2017 until he got promoted and transferred in 2019, the SSP said.

"While Chaurasia was picked up for questioning from Aligarh, the others deployed locally were called in for questioning over the matter and arrested on Wednesday afternoon," Krishna told PTI.

The police also suspects their role in the fire at the commandant office in which personnel's attendance logs got burnt, but said they are not named as accused in the case as yet as a separate probe is underway.

## Sri Lankan Prez Gotabaya picks brother Mahinda as Prime Minister

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday named his elder brother and former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa as the new Prime Minister after incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe announced his resignation from the post following the election debacle.

Mahinda, the main opposition leader, will be appointed as Prime Minister after incumbent Wickremesinghe steps down formally on Thursday, his spokesman Rohan Welivita was quoted as saying by Times Online.

The former President, who will function as Prime Minister of the caretaker cabinet until the general election, is expected to be sworn in at 1 pm before assuming office at around 3 pm, it added.

Mahinda was appointed the PM on October 26, 2018 by the then President Maithripala Sirisena, who sacked Wickremesinghe in a controversial move that plunged the country into an unprecedented constitutional crisis.

Detailed report on P12

## Normalcy back in Valley, Shah tells Rajya Sabha

No one has died in police firing post-Article 370, says Home Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that normalcy has returned to the Kashmir Valley following the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the situation is completely normal and not a single civilian was killed in police firing in the Jammu & Kashmir. However, the detention of politicians and the blockade of the internet and social media were continuing because of security concerns. Shah reiterated that schools, colleges, offices, shops and markets are open.

Presenting the status report on Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha, the Home Minister said there is no shortage of medicine, food and fuel and the law and order situation is extremely normal. "People in this House were predicting bloodshed but I am happy to inform that no



Tourists ski after the recent pre-season heavy snowfall at Gulmarg in Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday

one has died in police firing," Shah said.

Replying to a question from Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad on the restoration of internet services, the Home Minister said that facilities will be restored at an appropriate time by the authorities. "As we all know our neighbouring country (Pakistan) is carrying out various covert activities there, and only after taking into consid-

eration the law and order, a decision in this regard can be taken," Shah said.

Azad challenged the logic cited by Shah and remarked that Pakistan has been India's neighbour since 1947, since when India has also fought wars against it. If this were the case, Azad said, then internet would never be restored in the Valley. This led to a war of words between both sides.

## CAPSULE

### 3 RAFALE JETS HANDED OVER TO IAF BY FRANCE

New Delhi: Three Rafale fighter jets have been handed over to the Indian Air Force and are being used to train IAF pilots and technicians in France.

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## Jam punctures abductors' nerve, man flees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An attempt by six people to abduct a 30-year-old man went awry when the assailants, fleeing in a car, were first caught in heavy traffic on the Noida-Delhi road and then their vehicle broke down, police said on Wednesday.

The victim identified as Sachin Pathak, alias Chini, escaped from the clutches of the kidnapers when they got down from their Honda City to stop a random Maruti WagonR to flee the spot, officials said.

Six people, including the four who were in the car, were arrested on Tuesday on charges of kidnapping, robbery, among others, said Neeraj Malik, Station House Officer (SHO) of Noida Sector-39 Police Station.

The accused have been identified as Mustaqeem (23),



Mohit Awana (24), Deepak (22) and Gaurav (22), Balendra (32) and Raheesh (24), all residents of Noida. Mustaqeem, Mohit, Deepak and Gaurav

were arrested from Yamuna Pusta Road while they were travelling with illegal firearms and ammunition in a stolen car, said the SHO.

Based on information received from them, Balendra and Raheesh were also arrested for their role in the conspiracy, he said.

## Home Ministry strips T MLA of citizenship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry on Wednesday cancelled the citizenship of Telangana MLA Ramesh Chennamaneni for concealing facts about his visits abroad. The information was related to his visits during the 12-month period immediately preceding his application seeking Indian citizenship.

"His misrepresentation concealment of fact misled the government of India in making its decision initially. Had he revealed the fact that he had not resided in India for one year before making the application, the competent authority in this Ministry would not have granted citizenship to him," a Home Ministry order said.

"On Monday, Sachin, a native of Uttarakhand and currently living in Noida, was abducted from Okhla Bird Sanctuary Metro Station by the assailants. They sped towards Kalindi Kunj in Delhi but were met with heavy traffic on the route. The assailants then decided to take a U-turn and drove in the wrong lane for some distance.

"Later their car had a flat tyre near Sector 94 'gaushala' and they got down to stop an oncoming WagonR but at this moment, Sachin fled from the Honda City and jumped across into the 'gaushala' to escape the assailants," the official said.

On Tuesday, a complaint was registered at the Sector 39 police station after which an FIR was registered and investigation taken up, the official added.

During probe, it emerged that the assailants and Sachin had a dispute over the leadership of a tempo union operating from Sector 94 metro station after which the conspiracy was hatched. Sachin was recently elected as Pradhan of tempo union at Sector 94 metro station in Noida.

Based on information received from them, two more accused — Balendra (32) and Raheesh (24), were also arrested for their role in the conspiracy, the police said.

One of the accused, Pala Pradhan, involved in the conspiracy is absconding and efforts are on to arrest him, the police added.

Four stolen cars were impounded from their possession and an illegal firearm along with ammunition seized from them, the police said.

**Campaign against child begging**

# Operation Mukti fails to achieve desired results

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The once highly appreciated pilot campaign of Police Headquarters against child begging has failed in sustaining the positive results. It is appreciable that the efforts of police department resulted in the enrollment of at least 68 children in Dehradun in different schools. However, a new batch of child beggars can now be seen near Kanak Chowk, Astley Hall, near Gandhi Park and Saharanpur Chowk.

With the present predicament of district police force being deployed for many other duties including the law and order maintenance of the district, observers question whether it would be better for another department with more suitable background to take over the campaign.

Member of State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Kamal Gupta said that the commission is planning to start a Child Relief Fund so that children from financially poor background can be helped. He further said that though the presence of police personnel is essential for the campaign, the commission might be taking up the campaign.

He also said that among 42 children who were identified in the category of hand to mouth financial status, some got admission after the intervention of district administration,



but some of the students were left out. They will be enrolled after the district probation department gets the budget for the new session.

According to the sources in police department, police force is already deployed for VIP duties, regulating traffic and keeping law and order in check. In addition to that, being the enforcement body they also have to do excise duty, mining duty, narcotics duty and many others.

Police forces are over

stretched and over stressed which makes it difficult for them to follow up on every campaign.

If a department which is more involved with the children takes up the responsibility for working against child begging, then the results will be more fruitful.

It is pertinent to mention here that Operation Mukti was conducted as an experiment in the provisional State Capital, after which the campaign was continued in Haridwar and now in Haldwani. In

Dehradun, district police and anti-trafficking units identified 292 street children, who were either found begging in the streets or were selling balloons or other things.

Three of the identified children were also found to be under the influence of substances.

The campaign was successful in enrolling 68 children in schools including one admitted in the Model School at National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD).

# Police alertness helped in nabbing culprit

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The alertness of a complainant and the improvement in barricade checking across the district has proved to be a boon for the victim and a bane for the culprit in a case of vehicle theft. Superintendent of Police (city), Shweta Choubey, said that just within an hour after receiving information about a stolen vehicle, the police were able to nab the culprit with the car at Asharodi Chowk.

As per the information provided by Choubey, the arrested accused has been identified as Clement Town resident Ramesh Sharma. He used to drive a taxi earlier but was unemployed for a long time, after which he decided to commit this crime.

Giving further details

# 200 masks to be distributed to traffic personnel

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Taking cognisance of the health of police personnel in regards with the increasing pollution in Dehradun, office of Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) has ordered 200 masks for traffic police force. The masks are for the force permanently deployed in traffic duty.

Superintendent of Police (traffic), Prakash Chandra Arya, said that it became increasingly important for the traffic force to have these masks, especially the police personnel deployed at the busiest junctions of the city area such as Tehsil Chowk, Clock Tower and Dilaram Chowk.

It is pertinent to mention

here that the district officials have been taking steps to encourage the alertness of traffic duties in the district. The tea and biscuit distribution is also among one of the practices that have been initiated by the SSP office, to ensure the force conducts duty with maximum alertness and in good health.

operator told the police that at about 10:30 am on Wednesday, they received information at Cantt police station. The complainant, Neeraj Kumar Aggarwal, a tours and travel

By the time he came back, his car was gone. First, they tried to look around but upon realising that the car had been stolen, they reached the Cantt police station and filed the complaint.

# Drive against traffic offences to be held from December 1

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Traffic Directorate is planning to start a drive against traffic offences. As per the orders of Director, Traffic, Kewal Khurana, from December 1, a campaign will be initiated in the State to check wrong number plates and without number plates, people driving without driving licence and minor driving or riding.

According to the traffic officials, campaigns against traffic offences are a routine for State police.

As it is difficult to keep a check on all traffic offences at once, such campaigns are conducted to focus on specific traffic offences each time. The upcoming campaign will be against vehicles which are on road without number plate or



with wrong number plate, minor driving and people without proper documents especially licence.

It is pertinent to mention here that according to senior transport and traffic officials, the

major cause behind maximum number of road accidents are traffic offences.

# Illegal parking on road near CJM disrupts traffic flow



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The haphazard and unauthorised parking of private vehicles in front of Convent of Jesus and Mary (CJM) school near the Tibetan market has become a major cause of traffic congestion on roads around the Parade Ground. It is such that during the school closing time, the tri-junction there becomes a choking point for the traffic. District police have often taken steps to ensure proper traffic management there, but no permanent solution to the parking problem there has been found yet.

Superintendent of Police (traffic) Prakash Chandra Arya

said that the vehicle owners are allowed to park only on one side of the road. The tri-junction point is absolutely off limits for parking vehicles. If such is the case, they will take actions accordingly.

It is pertinent to mention here that district traffic police have been able to improve the traffic situation at Subhash Road, which was earlier a traffic choke point during the closing time of Saint Joseph's Academy.

**The tri-junction point is absolutely off limits for parking vehicles**

# USDMA holds multi-stakeholder workshop

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A multi-stakeholder workshop was organised by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) here on Wednesday. The purpose of the workshop was to expand and strengthen the network of community radio stations in vulnerable areas of Uttarakhand and to bring Central and State Government experts along with existing community radio stations and potential CR stations at one forum so that provision of technical and financial support to this network at every level can be facilitated. Officials opined that this network is the best way to further



decrease the response time in the time of emergency situations.

During the workshop, interactive sessions were held on sustainability of CR stations, support form linear depart-

ments and other organisations and content of the programmes of CR stations.

It was decided that the CR stations will be providing a CR calendar of the programmes to the authority.

Creative stories that elicit the interest communities in Uttarakhand were also discussed.

It was also stated that the department needs to provide information on various subjects related to disaster from time to time so that authentic and vast amount of information can reach communities. Other related issues were also discussed in the workshop. Secretaries Sowjanya, SA Murugesan, Dehradun district magistrate C Ravishankar, Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre executive director Piyooosh Rautela and others were also among those present in the workshop.

# Data collection important for research: Chaubey



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various aspects of research were discussed on the third day of the national workshop on research methodology being held at Doon University here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Professor P K Chaubey of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi said that collection of data is very important aspect of research and selection of proper mechanism for it is very essential.

He said that the research fellows should collect the primary and secondary data by use of proper method so that the questions raised by the research are answered.

In the second session, Professor T P Singh of Punjab University elaborated on the

**In the second session, Professor T P Singh of Punjab University elaborated on the various parameters of the qualitative research**

various parameters of the qualitative research.

In the last session of the day Ashish Sinha informed about preparing tools for the questionnaire for primary data collection of research. He said that the questionnaire should be scientific.

The head of department of the school of management, H C Purohit, said that the objective of the workshop is to provide information to students about scientific methodology in the field of social science.

# MCD parking fee: citizens question validity

PNS ★ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey on Wednesday reiterated that the people who are using the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun's (MCD) compound to park their vehicles are required to pay parking fee.

"If someone is parking his/her vehicle in MCD compound, they will have to pay the parking fee," said Pandey.

When asked about his view on charging parking fee in government offices and public

utility spaces he said that even public should put little efforts in making the country a better place to live in.

"In foreign countries, people park their vehicles at allotted spaces and walk to their destination, even we must follow this practice," he said.

The MCD started charging parking fee for vehicles parked in its compound in the beginning of this month. This has created confusion among people especially those who used to park their vehicles in MCD campus on daily basis about why has the corporation

has started charging parking fee. Many people opined that this is not a good move as they are not supposed to pay parking fee if they are visiting government offices for some work.

"I did not like the idea of charging parking fee. I have come here to pay my mother's house tax and there is no point in charging parking fee from people who are actually coming for some work here," said Vikram Rautela.

Another visitor said that the authority must differentiate between people who are

coming here for work and the people who are coming here just to park their vehicles.

The parking fee for two-wheelers is ₹15 for first one hour, ₹30 for three hours and ₹50 after three hours and for four-wheelers it is ₹30 for first one hour, ₹50 for three hours and ₹100 after three hours.

According to deputy municipal commissioner Rohitash Sharma, the MCD started charging parking fee in the backdrop of lack of parking space on the day of human chain event on November 5.

# ARIES plays role in discovery of Gamma Ray Burst

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Two of the scientists of Aryabhata Research

Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital have made vital contribution in discovering a gamma ray burst



in the space. Addressing the media here on Wednesday, the institute director-in-charge Wahab Uddin said that the gamma ray burst releases tremendous amounts of energy, up to 20 times more than the energy released by the sun. The institute's senior scientists Shashibhushan Pandey and Kuntal Mishra were involved in the discovery of one such blast in space.

The research paper on this is also going to be published in the Nature Astronomy publication.

Uddin informed the media that the explosion in question had taken place on January 14 this year. This explosion was

brief but very powerful and was named GRV 190114C. Scientists from about 20 nations were involved in this research work. He further said that this research work will help unravel the mysteries of giant stars in the universe. Along with ARIES, L Rashmi from Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) Thiruvananthapuram, SB Chairukari and P Jaiswal were also involved in the research work.

Addressing the media, Pandey said that he used the help of Spain's 10 metre GTC telescope for this discovery while Mishra studied it through the radio telescope in Pune.

This gamma ray blast had taken place about 2.5 billion light years away from the earth in another galaxy. Following this discovery, scientists will be able to know about energy released by stars many times bigger than the sun in the future. Generally, such explosions take place in the outer galaxies.

If such a blast were to occur in our galaxy, it could have fatal effects. Mishra said that this cosmic occurrence had also helped scientists in measuring peak energy. In addition to telescopes on the earth, the telescopes set in space were also used in the research, she added.

**Uttarakhand Police Headquarters**  
12 Subash Road Marg, Dehradun

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# World's first Muslim Yoga camp starts at Kotdwar

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The first Muslim Yoga Sadhna camp in the world began at Kotdwar on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat also announced that Kotdwar would be renamed Kanvanagari Kotdwar.



Rawat inaugurated the five-day Yoga camp for Muslims at the Kotdwar Vedic Ashram Gurukul Mahavidyalay on the occasion of the institution's golden jubilee. More than 500 Muslim women and men from across India and abroad are participating in the event, said officials.

Addressing the gathering, he announced that Kotdwar will be renamed Kanvanagari Kotdwar. He went on to state that Yoga helps raise the practitioner's mind to such a level that he or she moves towards global welfare. "It is written in the scriptures that every plant has some medicinal property, every human has some quali-

ty and that every syllable has the potential of a mantra. We need to identify the medicinal properties in plants. Three days, there is demand for Yoga teachers in institutions related to health and medicine. Yoga is the result of long penance by our saints and ascetics. India can do the task of keeping all free of disease. Due to the Prime Minister's efforts, June 21 is now observed as International Yoga Day and the whole world is now adopting

this ancient science. Yoga is separate from religion and worship, it is a means to keep all free of disease and unite all," said the CM.

Rawat further said that the Government of India had included Kanvashram in Kotdwar among iconic destinations in India. This will facilitate local development and encourage tourism activities. The State government is also eager to facilitate development in Kanvashram, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the State's AYUSH Minister Harak Singh Rawat said that this Yoga camp for Muslims will send a positive message across the world. Stating that it is wrong to link Yoga with religion, he said that it opens the way for global welfare and unifies all.

Indresh Kumar, Gurukul Mahavidyalay founder, Vishwopal Jayant, and others were also present on the occasion.

# HC serves notice, seeks reply in 4 weeks on encroachments in Doon

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Hearing on a public interest litigation regarding encroachment in Dehradun, the High Court of Uttarakhand in Nainital has served notice to the State Government, cantonment board, municipal corporation of Dehradun and the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA). The respondents have been directed to submit their reply within four weeks by the division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice Alok Kumar Verma.

According to the case details, Dehradun resident, Akash Yadav, had filed a public interest litigation in the High Court. The petitioner has stated that the authorities concerned are not removing encroachments made by people on Government land, roads and drains.

The places from where the encroachments were removed earlier have been taken up again by encroachments. The petition has also stated that he had reported on many occa-



**Dehradun resident, Akash Yadav, had filed a public interest litigation in the High Court. The petitioner has stated that the authorities concerned are not removing encroachments made by people on Government land, roads and drains**

sions about the encroachments to the municipal corporation and MDDA. However, neither was cognisance of the reports taken nor were the reported encroachments removed.

It is pertinent to mention here that on the directions of the high court, the state administration had first initiated an

extensive anti-encroachment drive in Dehradun during 2018.

However, the drive was halted and the development and beautification works planned were not executed. The drive was resumed this year but fizzled out after a few days.

# UVSP gears up for board examinations

**A total of 2,71,415 students have been registered for the Board examinations this year**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Ramnagar-based Uttarakhand Vidhyalayi Shiksha Parishad (UVSP) has started preparation for the board examinations of class X and XII.

The secretary of UVSP, Neeta Tiwari said that a total of 2,71,415 students have been registered for the Board examinations this year. For the class X examinations, 1,50,289 are registered while 1,21,126 students are enrolled for the class XII examination.

She said that the board would set up 1,321 examination centres for conducting the examination out of which 225 centres are sensitive and 27 hyper sensitive.

Maximum number of 167 examination centres have been set up in Pauri district while with only 40, the Champawat district would have least number of centres. Tiwari added that all the Chief Education Officers have been directed to examine all the centres and make necessary preparation for smooth conduct of the examinations.

# Bring left out families under PMAY-G: Dhan Singh Rawat

Takes a meeting of officials of departments concerned under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) at his office on Wednesday



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Minister for cooperatives, higher education, dairy development and protocol, Dhan Singh Rawat, has directed the officials to ensure that the left over eligible families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) should be extended the benefit of the scheme and for it, they should be again included in the ambit of the PMAY-G.

He was undertaking a meeting of officials of departments concerned under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) at his office at Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday. He said that 94 beneficiaries have been left out of the PMRHS and they should be included in the scheme. Rawat directed the officials that they should seek guidance on as to how this gap would be bridged. The Minister was informed

that so far 90 percent of the eligible families have been covered under the scheme. The selection of the beneficiaries is being done on the basis of the census of 2011. The Minister said that the newly elected members of the three tier Panchayati Raj system such as Pradhans, member block Panchayats and member district Panchayats would be trained under the MNREGS. In the training the elaborate information about the MNREGS would be given and the members would be informed about the works admissible under the scheme. He said that due to lack of knowledge the scheme is not being used with all its benefits properly.

In view of the problem of availability of budget to the self help groups from the revolving fund of rural development, the minister directed that Chief Development Officer (CDO) of districts would convene a joint meeting of officials of cooperative departments and the rural

development departments. The cooperative committees and the cooperative banks would provide interest free loans for the self help groups. It was also decided in the meeting that the tasks of upkeep, carpeting and strengthening of the roads of Pauri district under Prime Minister Rural Roads scheme would be transferred to the Public Works Department (PWD).

The decision would remove the problem of the maintenance of these roads after five years. The Minister also suggested that a guideline for differentiating between skilled and unskilled workers should be made as it would help in bringing transparency.

The meeting was attended by secretary rural development Manisha Panwar, under secretary of rural development Ashutosh Shukla, Deputy director SDRDA Vivek Kumar Upadhyaya and others.

# CM approves new NCC battalion in Uttarkashi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Wednesday gave approval for setting up a new battalion of National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Uttarkashi. He took this and other decisions in a meeting with NCC and Government officials at his residence here on Wednesday.

Rawat said that NCC plays a key role in attracting the youngsters of the State to join the defence forces. Granting approval for formation of a new NCC battalion in Uttarkashi, he said that this would strengthen and increase the activities of the corps nation-wide. Apart from this he also gave approval to upgrade the independent company of NCC in Gopeshwar.

He directed officials to soon release a Government order to authorise NCC department head for spending



upto Rs five lakh under code head 42 for various tasks of the NCC. He stressed that the State Government will provide all possible assistance to strengthen the corps. He asked the NCC to submit a proposal for this to the State administration. Budgetary provision will be made in the next financial year for various requirements include budget for the republic

day camp. He also said that the state government will provide financial assistance for medical treatment of cadet Roshni who was injured in a road accident.

Major general Sudhir Bahal informed that NCC conducts various activities for its cadets in the State. The cadets also participate in national level camps, IMA training, shooting

training, naval training and foreign youth exchange programme. The team of Uttarakhand directorate has been selected this year for the boys under 19 junior Subroto Cup, he informed.

Additional chief secretary Radha Raturi, secretaries R Meenakshi Sundaram and Amit Singh Negi were also present in the meeting.

# Govt disposing of assets of transport corporation: Dhasmana

**Alleges that the assets of UTC are being handed over to the urban development department without following the norms and without granting compensation to the corporation**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The vice president of the state Congress, Surya Kant Dhasmana has alleged that the State Government is disposing of the assets of the Uttarakhand Transport Corporation (UTC) in violations of norms. Addressing media persons at the state party office here on Wednesday, he said that the assets of Transport Corporation are being handed over to the urban development department without following the norms and without granting compensation to the corporation. He said that the Congress party under leadership of Pritam Singh stands firmly

behind the roadways employees on the issue. The Roadways Karamchari Sanyukt Parishad (UKSP) has written a letter to the PCC chief asking his support on the issue. Dhasmana said that it is very strange that when the roadways employees place their problems before the government they are curtly informed that that the roadways is an autonomous body and they should manage their earning themselves but when it comes to the transferring assets of the corporation, the employees and the board of the corporation are not even asked. He added that a prime land in

Dehradun was transferred to the urban development department on the basis of a mere office note.

Questioning the motive of the government he said that if it is really interested to keep the transport corporation alive, it should first construct a new workshop first and a compensation of ₹100 crore should be provided to the corporation for transfer of its land. President of Roadways Karamchari Sanyukt Parishad, Dinesh Gusain, general secretary Dinesh Pant and others were also present on the occasion.

Dehradun was transferred to the urban development department on the basis of a mere office note.

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Dehradun was transferred to the urban development department on the basis of a mere office note.

# PMHS announces schedule of elections

**Voting to elect new body of the powerful association of doctors to be held on December 22**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The voting to elect new body of the Provincial Medical Health Services (PMHS) would be held on December 22. Declaring the schedule on Wednesday, the state election officer of PMHS, Dr B S Jangpangi said that the state election committee consisting of the senior radiologist of the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya hospital Dr Manoj Upreti and senior Pathologist of the hospital, Dr J P Nautiyal decided the schedule.

He informed that it was also decided that the elections would be held in the district headquarters under the leadership of Chief Medical Officers (CMO) or his representative to maintain total transparency in the process.

Dr Jangpangi said that the nomination for the various posts would be accepted from December 1 to 8 and the candidates can withdraw their nominations on December 15. The results of the election would be declared on December 27. The elections would be held for the post of President, Vice Presidents (four), general secretary, additional general secretary (two), finance secretary and editor.

The biennial elections for the governing body of powerful body evokes interest of the medical fraternity.

# Shopkeepers ordered to stop sale & use of plastic cans



PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The Kumbh Mela officer Deepak Rawat has directed vendors, along the Ganga in Haridwar, to stop selling and using plastic cans used to carry water of the holy river. While issuing a deadline of 15 days to stop the use of plastic cans in the area altogether, he also directed confiscation of all the

plastic cans he came across during his inspection of the area on Wednesday.

Ahead of the Kumbh Mela to be held in Haridwar during 2021, the State Government is focusing on various aspects. One of these is to keep the city clean and activities environment-friendly also to ensure maintenance of the cleanliness of the Ganga. While con-

ducting an inspection here, the Kumbh Mela officer warned the shopkeepers and directed that strict action would be taken if they are still found selling plastic cans after 15 days.

The municipal corporation of Haridwar commissioner has also been instructed to take necessary actions regarding this.

# Lithuanians register genealogy in Haridwar

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A group of Lithuanian citizens visiting Haridwar, influenced by the ancient culture of India registered their genealogy during their visit to Har ki Paldi here on Wednesday. While on a three-day visit to Haridwar, the group from Lithuania first performed a hawan on the banks of the Ganga.

The foreign visitors opined that the ancient Indian culture exerts a prominent influence across the world.

The Teerth Purohit accompanying them at Har ki Paldi said that to his knowledge, this was the first time when visitors from abroad had registered their genealogy here.

The Lithuanians opined that they felt there were many similarities between the culture of India and Lithuania.

They also expressed their happiness at being in India, participating in a hawan and offering their prayers to goddess Ganga.

# Roorkee poll BJP & Cong look forward to breaking trend

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

In the past elections held for the top post in the Roorkee urban local body, independents were elected in the last two polls for post of the municipality chairman and the last mayoral election. It now remains to be seen whether the Bharatiya Janata Party or Congress mayoral candidates will be able to break this trend in this election of the Municipal Corporation of Roorkee.

Voting in the Municipal Corporation of Roorkee election is slated to be held on November 22 with the results to be declared on November 24. For the mayoral position the Bharatiya Janata Party has fielded Mayaank Gupta while the Congress has fielded Reshu Rana, the younger brother of former mayor Yashpal Rana. The Bahujan Samaj Party has fielded former MP Rajendra Bady and Aam Aadmi Party has fielded Abdusslam while independent candidates Gaurav Goel, Subhash Saini, Chandraprakash, Deepak Kumar, Aadesh

Tyagi and Swati Kalra are also contesting for the mayoral



post. It is pertinent to mention here that in the past, during the election for the post of municipal council chairman in 2003, independent candidate Dinesh Kaushik won the election. Similarly, in 2008 another independent candidate Pradeep Batra was elected while in

2013, independent candidate Yashpal Rana was elected the mayor. Rana joined the Congress after being elected the mayor.

"This time the trend of independents being elected to the top post will be broken as Mayaank Gupta is sure to be elected mayor," said BJP dis-

trict general secretary Vikas Tiwari.

Congress MLA from Manglaur, Qazi Nizamuddin said that independents winning the past elections was just a coincidence.

The situation has changed now and the Congress has fielded a strong candidate. He alleged that the BJP had conspired against the previous mayor Yashpal Rana due to which he was unable to contest this time but still his name carries much weight due to the work he has done for Roorkee.

Meanwhile, independent candidate Gaurav Goel, who is a BJP rebel is also being considered a strong candidate by some.

It now remains to be seen whether an independent candidate is yet again elected to the top post in the Roorkee urban local body.

# Development graph of Haryana to be raised: CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said the concept of the land bank is being continuously worked on so that the development graph of the State can be raised.

Presiding over a meeting on the progress of the ongoing projects under the E-Bhoomi program and a review of the E-Bhoomi portal held here, the Chief Minister said that the present State government is starting various programs to reduce land disputes and he directed the officers to collect small pieces of land and small landholders and with their joint collaboration (on Cooperative basis) and find the possibility of getting the framing done by the farmers should be explored so that maximum benefit can be derived through this kind of farming by the farmers.

He directed the officials that a mechanism or system should be put in place at the earliest to deal with land cases and the distribution of the land of the people could be rectified. The Chief Minister also directed the officials that the land is required for various development projects and the



Panchayati land is constantly decreasing, therefore the emphasis should be on creating a land bank.

Khattar said a program is being run to set up vyayamshahas in the State villages and about 550 vyayamshahas have been set up in this direction. He directed the officials that wherever vyayamshahas are set up, wellness centers should

also be set up at the same place so that people can be provided facilities nearby. Apart from this, the Chief Minister has directed the officials that wherever consolidation in the villages is left, it should also be made available.

The officials informed that three projects have been completed under the E-Bhoomi portal program, out of which

two projects are from the Irrigation Department and one project is from the Public Works Department. The Chief Minister was informed that 6631 land is required for 178 schemes of E-Bhoomi for 13 departments. Similarly, 184 demands of 17 departments have been received for taking land on the E-Bhoomi portal. The Chief Minister was

told that proposals have been received for the full land requirement for 37 demands for which the certificate has been issued to the requisitioning department and a proposal for 2,766 acres of land against the requirement of 994 acres of land has been received. The Chief Minister was informed that in case of 50 demands, proposals for 2,533

acres of land have been received against the need of 3396 acres of land. The officials of the concerned departments informed about the progress of projects related to their departments on the E-Bhoomi portal.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala was also present in the meeting. Others present included, Principal

Secretary to Chief Minister Rajesh Khullar, Additional Principal Secretary to Chief Minister V. Umashankar, Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Agra, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Navraj Sandhu, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Department, Vijai Vardhan, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Alok Nigam, Additional Chief Secretary Industries and Commerce Department, Devender Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Finance T.V.S.N. Prasad, Principal Secretary, Town, and Country Planning Department, Apoorva Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Department Anurag Rastogi, besides others.

agricultural land, private land, land under government departments, Shamalat, Panchayati, should be done separately and with this, the land categories should also be identified separately.

He said Principal Secretary, Development and Panchayats, Sudhir Rajpal has been directed to compile the details of the Gram Panchayat properties under Lal Dora and make it available to the Survey of India. He said that later the details should be matched with the map prepared through drone and further it should also be verified by the Gram Sabha so that it could be verified that who owns the said property.

The Chief Minister directed the officials that the traces of the boundaries of other states adjoining Haryana should also be resolved according to the maps prepared by the Survey of India.

In November 2018, Chief Minister had announced that the villages in Haryana will be made free from Lal Dora so that the plots and houses inside Lal Dora could be registered and people could buy and sell their properties and this step will certainly, reduce fights and disputes in the village.

## KARNAL VILLAGE TO BECOME LAL DORA FREE, DECIDES KHATTAR

On Good Governance Day, the Sirsi village in Karnal district will become the first village in Haryana which will be made to be free from Lal Dora as Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar took the decision in a review meeting held here.

Khattar said tagging of all types of properties including

## Slew of measures taken to improve power supply: Hry Power Minister

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

The State Government has taken slew of measures to improve power supply to the people of the State, Haryana Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala said on Wednesday.

"The power department officers have been directed to increase power supply to the agricultural fields from eight hours to 10 hours in the State. Apart from this, the officials have been told repair hanging electric wires and faulty electricity poles in both urban and rural areas within a time period of 10 days," he said.

Ranjit Singh Chautala had recently joined the Khattar cabinet after formation of newly BJP-JJP-led coalition government in the State after he had supported BJP from the first day of the Haryana election results that threw up a hung assembly. He had earlier served as the state agriculture minister between 1987 and 1989.

Talking to The Pioneer, Chautala said that the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has entrusted on him an important task and now it is his duty to live up to the expectation of the people of the State.

He said officers have been strictly directed to take necessary steps to bring efficiency in the system. At the end of this month, people will find positive change in both the power and jails. Chautala said, "Since Monday, we have enhanced supply for agricultural purposes from eight hours to 10 hours."

Expressing deep concern about environmental pollution, the Power Minister said that the officers have been asked to immediately find a



permanent solution for the stubble burning.

"No officer or employee will be harassed unnecessarily and if anyone has any problem, he can come and meet him directly at any time. However, no laxity in work will be tolerated. The officers doing good work will also be encouraged," the Minister added.

The Power Minister said, "If power cables which are touching the ground or roofs of houses in villages and cities are not fixed within 15 days, suspensions will take place. Two children have recently died in Sirsa due to low-lying power cables."

"Our priority is to give 24-hour power supply in villages. In many villages, defaulters are not paying bills. There are power stations in villages, but no power due to defaulters. As per statistics, Badhra, Jind, Panipat and Gohana had a high number of defaulters, but there has been improvement in recently past and further improvement in this have been directed to the officials concerned," he added.

On renewable energy, Chautala said that solar power panels would be set up in sparsely populated areas in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar at a cost of ₹7,500 each, which would provide three points of supply to users.

Apart from this, he has also directed the department officials to explore the possibilities of setting up a biomass project in Jeevan Nagar of district Sirsa.

On stubble burning, the power minister said, "Around 50 lakh tonnes of paddy stubble will be used for producing electricity from next year. We will lead the country in this aspect."

An agreement has been signed with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for setting up a Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in the state for disposal of Stubble. About 24 lakh metric tons of stubble will be consumed in 200 projects for the production of 1000 TDP CGB, he said, adding 24 firms have given a proposal for 38 project to set up a CBG plant of 234 tonnes per day capacity in Haryana.

Apart from this, stubble will also be used in thermal plants. About 50 to 55 lakh tonne of stubble is produced in the State every year. For its disposal, several ambitious projects are being started in the State, in which about 40 lakh tonne of stubble will be consumed, the Minister added.

He said, "As per department reports, within the last two years, power distribution companies have come in a profitable position and customer satisfaction has also increased in cases of new power connections."

He said that the power officers have been strictly directed to ensure that power related complaints of the general public should be listened carefully at the complaint centers and strict action should be taken against the officer or employee who is found guilty in such complaints.

## Haryana Agri Min bats for promoting horticulture

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Agriculture and Framers Welfare Minister Jai Prakash Dalal on Wednesday said horticulture should be promoted in a big way the State and farmers' produce should be processed, packaged and branded and sold directly in the market, which will increase the income of the farmers.

Taking a meeting of Horticulture department here, in which he reviewed the schemes and works of the department which are currently being run, Dalal gave directions to prepare an action plan for the coming years. Director General,

Horticulture Department Arjun Saini, Joint Director Ranbir Singh and other officers of the department were present in the meeting.

He said Haryana will have to move in the direction of horticulture along with agriculture-oriented State and for this, FPOs should be set up at village level or cluster level for the process, packaging and branding of framers produce. He said that Delhi's market is very big market neighbouring with Haryana, due to which farmers' produce will be sold at market price, farmers' income will definitely increase. Dalal directed the officials

that on the places which have sandy land and scarcity of water, research should be done about cultivation of any special vegetable or fruits or flowers grown according to season on that land.

Director General, Horticulture Department, Arjun Saini informed that in the year 2014 the horticulture area in the State was 4.39 lakh hectares and in the year 2019, a target of 5.54 lakh hectares has been set, of which 5.26 lakh hectares has been completed, which is 7.98 per cent. He informed that the target is to take the horticulture area by 10 per cent by the year 2030. He informed that horti-

culture work is being done in about 1700 villages.

## REVIEWS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPT

Jai Prakash Dalal, who is also Animal Husbandry Minister asked the officials that efforts should be made in making Haryana a leader in milk production, providing better medical services for livestock and further, promote the wool trade in the State.

In a meeting of Animal Husbandry Department held here, he discussed the works and future action plan of the department. Giving directions to the officials, Dalal said that along

with agriculture, the officials should also take care of the other options to increase the income of the farmers. He said that in this series, new schemes should be drafted to promote milk production. He said that every animal should be given a Unique Identification number by tagging it so that every type of information related to it can be available and further their productivity and medical treatment and all other types of records will also be kept.

Additional Chief Secretary Animal Husbandry Department Sunil Kumar Gulati and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

## Declining paddy arrivals in mandis: Punjab modifies paddy procurement period

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In wake of declining paddy arrivals in the mandis, Punjab Government on Wednesday modified the paddy procurement period.

Informing, the state Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said that earlier, the paddy procurement during Kharif Marketing Season 2019-20 was slated for October 1 to December 15, 2019, but it has now been altered and the paddy procurement period would now culminate on November 30.

However, the milling period remains the same, he said adding that the Union Ministry of Food has given due approval to the revision.

Ashu said that majority of the paddy arrivals have taken place, so much so that since past few days, there has been no

paddy arrival in 477 out of 1,844 mandis in the State with meager arrivals in others.

Paddy procurement to the tune of 160.91 lakh metric tonnes has been accomplished till November 19, he said adding that with share of Government purchases being 159.80 LMT and that of private millers being 1,11,128 metric tonne.

As per the 72 hours norm, 100 per cent lifting of the purchased paddy has been achieved and payments worth ₹26,946.94 crore have been transferred to the accounts of arthiyas or farmers by the Government, he informed.

Reiterating the State Government's commitment to purchase every grain in the market, the Minister appealed the farmers to bring their crop in the grain markets by November 30 so that they may avail the benefit of MSP.



Geetanjali Grover poses after being adjudged the first runner up in Mrs Uttarakhand competition. Pioneer photo

## Dy CM Dushyant reviews proposed airport project

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Wednesday reviewed the proposed airport project with the officials of the department.

He said that he has held discussion with the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and also had recently met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi to get international recognition for the Hisar airport. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary of the department Devender Singh apprised the Deputy Chief Minister that expansion of the airport is to be done in three phases. In the first phase the length of the runway will be increased from 3600 feet to 4200 feet and it will be further

increased to 12,000 feet. He said that the Haryana Government has already requested the Central Government to set up Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub for the service of Air Force and Army aircraft and helicopters at Hisar Airport.

It was informed that about 3 thousand acres of government land are available in Hisar. Apart from this, Hisar is about 160 kilometers from Delhi and is connected to the national capital via National Highway 10.

Singh informed that Spice Jet has signed an MoU with Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology to run a flying school in Hisar and Spice Jet flying training will be provided free of cost to two girls of Haryana.

## 3 jawans from Punjab killed in Siachen avalanche cremated

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The mortal remains of three Army personnel, who were among the four killed after

being hit by an avalanche in Siachen, were consigned to flames with full military honours at their respective native places in Punjab on

Wednesday. Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh announced a financial assistance of ₹12 lakh each for the next of kin.

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE**

1, Sangita Devi Spouse of 4083165N Rank HAV Mahendra Singh R/o Vill Nathuwawala (Kalinga Colony), P.O. Nathuwala Dehradun have changed my name from Sangita Devi to Sangeeta Negi.

मेरी भूमि का मूल विक्रय पत्र संख्या 9892, खसरा सं 442/6 रकबा 0.057 एकड़ स्थित मौजा रायपुर जिला देहरादून जो इन्द्रजीत गून पुत्र श्री गौर गोविन्द गून निवासी एफ-125/4, ओएफओडी स्टेट, रायपुर से विक्रय पत्र दिनांक 20.11.1998 के द्वारा क्रय की गयी थी वास्तव में खो गयी है। किसी अन्य व्यक्ति के द्वारा इसका प्रयोग अवैधानिक होगा।

सुनील शैलिन राम पुत्र स्व. बीरराम निवासी- रायपुर प्लॉट थानो रोड, नियर स्पॉर्ट्स कॉलेज, रायपुर, देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड

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**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

Sr.DEN/II/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 179-DRM-MB-19-20 closing date 17/12/2019 16:00 hrs. Name of work - Provision of Divyang friendly toilets (D & E category stations) & toilets at goods sheds under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/Moradabad. Tender closing date/time - 17.12.2019 16:00. Cost of work Rs. 68,95,127.16. Earnest Money Rs. 1,37,900.00. Tender Cost Rs. 5000.00. Bidding start date 03.12.2019 and Period of Completion 06 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Tender No. 179-DRM-MB-19-20 Dated - 18.11.2019 3718/2019

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# Raut complains about seat allotment in RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday attacked the BJP-led NDA Government and also wrote to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu saying moving him to the fifth row is an attempt to humiliate him and the party.

In a letter addressed to Naidu, Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut said, "I think that this decision was taken by someone deliberately to hurt the sentiments of Shiv Sena Party and to suppress our voice."

"I may remind you that when NDA was in Opposition, I was allotted a 3rd row seat in the House in view of my seniority in Rajya Sabha, but now, what I feel, it is clearly shows that my seat has been allotted in the fifth row intentionally to humiliate me and my party's status in the House," Raut said.

Sanjay Raut has said he fails to understand the reason behind "this unwarranted step

of re-allocation of seats since there is no formal announcement about the removal from NDA."

The senior party leader and MP has further said that the move has hurt the dignity of the Parliament and has demanded that he be allotted a seat in any of the first three rows according to the decorum of the House.

Raut has also raised questions on Venkaiah Naidu's conduct of Rajya Sabha and said, "Chairperson is above party affiliations and should take decisions in a non-partisan manner."

In his letter to the Rajya Sabha chairman, Raut has also said that there is no reason behind this seat change as Shiv Sena is still officially a part of NDA.

He has said there has been no "formal announcement about the removal from NDA". Allies Shiv Sena and BJP



Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut

fought the Maharashtra assembly elections together and got a clear mandate to form the government. However, soon after the results were announced, the two parties struggled over power sharing and later they severed ties.

Both the parties has since then made several vicious attacks to blame each other for the stalemate over Government formation in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena has even removed its lone minister in the NDA Government at the Centre in order to facilitate talks with arch rivals NCP and Congress.

# Congress seeks resumption of SPG security cover for Gandhis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Anand Sharma on Wednesday demanded in the Rajya Sabha restoration of the elite SPG security cover to the party president Sonia Gandhi and her family as also former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh by "rising above partisan politics."

Senior BJP leaders, however, maintained the decision to withdraw the SPG cover of Gandhi family and Singh was taken by the Home Ministry based on changed threat perception.

Earlier this month, the Centre replaced the Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover given to Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by according them 'Z-plus' security category of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Singh's SPG cover was withdrawn in August.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the House, veteran Congress MP Sharma said there was a clear evaluation of threat perceptions to the four leaders and withdrawal of SPG cover makes them vulnerable.

"It is the responsibility of the state to protect its leaders," he asserted, while pointing out that the Congress-led UPA Government had not disturbed SPG protection of former Prime Ministers, including that of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and also of other protectees.

The security cover was neither diluted nor withdrawn during the 10-years of UPA rule, Sharma further said. Underscoring that after withdrawal of the SPG cover to Gandhis and Singh, there are concerns which are well founded, Sharma said, "We would urge the Government that these issues of personal safety, security and lives of our leaders have to be beyond partisan political considerations."

"Please rise above that. Review and restore (SPG security cover). That would be in national interest, otherwise intention will be questioned today, tomorrow and in the future," he told the House.

Defending the Government's decision to downgrade the security cover, senior BJP MP Subramanian Swamy said the decision has been taken by the Home Ministry, and

moreover the threat perception to the Gandhis has disappeared with the end of the LTTE in Sri Lanka." Threat perceptions have always been the judgement of the Home Ministry. It has been always been a special committee in the Home Ministry which decides.

If there is any question about it, one can go to court and challenge it," Swamy said. Swamy further said the threat originally arose out of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "That issue has disappeared because of two reasons," Swamy said. "First there is no LTTE" and second the "attitude" of protectees who have been asking for reduction of punishment of those involved in the assassination and even Sonia Gandhi had written to the President of India in this regard. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he too was not in favour of reduction in punishment. Meanwhile, Congress youth-wing members on Wednesday burnt the effigy of Home Minister Amit Shah to protest the withdrawal of SPG security cover of the Gandhi family.

# Rahul questions media silence over 10K tribals' detention in Jharkhand

"Our 'sold out' media may have lost its voice; as citizens can we afford to?"

— Rahul Gandhi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday hit out at the media after 10,000 tribals in Jharkhand were reportedly charged under the "draconian" sedition law, saying it should have raised a "storm" but it did not.

"That any Govt could slam the draconian 'sedition' law on 10,000 Adivasis, fighting against State oppression, should have shocked the conscience of our nation & raised a media storm. But it hasn't," Rahul tweeted.

He also slammed the media for not raising it properly. "Our 'sold out' media may

have lost its voice; as citizens can we afford to?" Rahul tweeted. According to a report, 10,000 adivasis were booked under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code by Jharkhand police.

The case relates to the Pathalgadi movement in Jharkhand's Khunti district where engraved stones were installed in villages in 2017 granting special autonomy to tribal areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.

The police filed cases and levelled sedition charges against 10,000 tribals, as per the media reports. Jharkhand will go to polls from November 30 in five phases.

# WhatsApp expresses regret over Pegasus snooping row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

WhatsApp has written to the Government expressing "regret" over the Pegasus snooping row, and has assured that it is taking all security measures to address concerns. Senior Government officials on Wednesday said that the Information Technology Ministry asked WhatsApp to reinforce its security wall, and that no more breaches at the messaging platform will be tolerated. Earlier in the morning, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, IT Minister

Ravi Shankar Prasad said Cybersecurity agency CERT-In has issued a notice to WhatsApp seeking details on targeting of mobile phones of

## SPYWARE WAS DEVELOPED BY ISRAEL-BASED NSO GROUP

Indian citizens by Israeli spyware Pegasus.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing committee, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, met here to examine the WhatsApp snooping issue. As per the notice issued by the Lok Sabha secretariat for the meeting, the panel will be briefed by representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy

on the subject - "Citizens' data security and privacy."

Tharoor, who heads the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, had written a letter to the other panel members, saying the alleged use of technology for snooping on Indian citizens was a matter of "grave concern" and it would be discussed at the next meeting of the committee on November 20.

Last month, the Facebook-owned company had showed that Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using Pegasus spyware. According to WhatsApp, the spyware was developed by Israel-based NSO Group and

had been used to snoop on about 1,400 users globally, including 121 users from India.

Following the Government's notice seeking more information on the attacks, WhatsApp had responded saying it had alerted the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in September that 121 Indian users had been targeted by Pegasus.

A WhatsApp spokesperson, in an e-mailed statement, said the company is deeply committed to protecting the privacy of its users in India "by providing industry-leading security for all messages and calls and by staying ahead of advanced threats to user security". WhatsApp has over 400 million users in India.

# MPs raise concern on Surrogacy Bill clauses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While supporting most of the provisions of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019, Rajya Sabha members on Wednesday expressed reservation in clauses which mandates that only a close relative can be a surrogate mother and provisions of five years of marriage for commissioning parents.

Cutting across the party line, they sought modifications in provisions such as time frame for abortion, time limit of age and prior informed consent, among others. Some of the members also sought provisions for allowances and insurance along with maternity leave for the surrogate mother, besides relaxation in num-

bers of surrogacy.

The Bill was introduced in the Upper House on Tuesday by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. It has been passed by the Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session.

Participating in the debate, Jairam Ramesh (Congress) said that it was a "very complicated bill" and the Government should get an amended bill passed after considering the suggestions of the members.

"It is very complicated bill. We all agree that surrogacy should be regulated but in what form, it is still debated," he said, adding that the bill should have come after the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) bill as the Government is "dealing with surrogacy but not dealing with

the technology of surrogacy," he said.

P Wilson (DMK) said the bill has provisions for permission for abortion within 90 days, but sometimes there are cases of medical emergency, and surrogate mother cannot wait for such period.

There should be provision of post-approval as well, he said while Vijaysai Reddy of the YSRCP, while supporting the bill, sought clarity as in which close relatives of the couple opting for surrogacy could be considered for the procedure under the provisions of the bill.

Manoj Kumar Jha (BJD) pointed out that the bill was silent on same-sex couples and people who were in live-in relationships while Aam Aadmi Party's Sushil Kumar Gupta

said the bill in the current form would end up surrogate mothers exploitation.

Vikas Mahatme of the BJP said that with passing of the bill in Parliament, the exploitation of poor surrogate mothers would end in the country while Congress's Ameer Yajnik said the bill is much needed but in the current form contains various gaps.

Binoy Viswam (CPI), D P Vats (BJP) Banda Prakash (TRS), Chhaya Verma (Congress), C P Thakur (BJP), Vijila Sathyanath (DMK) Lal Singh Vadodia, Gopal Singh (BJP), Harshvardhan Singh Dhangarup (BJP), Gopal Narayan Singh (BJP) and Jugul Singh Mathurji (BJP) also participated in discussion on the issue.

# Sena MP questions 'strict rules' for building in Defence areas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Members in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday questioned 'strict rules' for construction or renovation of houses around the defence establishments or even in the vicinity of residential colonies of armed forces in the cities, the Government informed them that it was revising no-objection guidelines for buildings and ensure that security is not compromised while accommodating development needs.

Shiv Sena member Rahul Shewale said in the Lok Sabha during the Question hour that he was unable to repair his house due to restrictions on building construction in the vicinity of defence establishments. He also sought that the definition of national security should be relooked at.

"I am an MP and my father was a Naval officer. But I am unable to repair my own house," said Shewale whose party had recently split with the

BJP in Maharashtra over the issue of Government formation in the State. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a former Defence Minister in the last Modi-Government, said there is "no conflict" between civilians and armed services on the issue.

In October 2016, the Defence Ministry had issued a circular regarding guidelines for issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for building constructions. As per the guidelines, Army stations requiring NOC from the Local Military Authority (MLA) within distances specified have been identified.

It is a "sensitive issue" but the situation is not that no permissions have been given for projects, said Sitharaman who was responding to certain supplementaries as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was not present in the House. The House was discussing a question about defence establishments and restrictions on buildings in their vicinity.

There are projects that are getting clearances. After 2017, as many as 22 proposals related to Mumbai were received and out of them, only one is under examination. Seven projects were given permission, she added.

"Without hesitation, permissions were given," the Minister said even as she stressed that national security cannot be put in danger. The minister said during her tenure, she had six meetings on the issue and assured that matter is "almost nearing the stage of finalisation".

"342 establishments of Indian Army have been identified under the circular dated October 21, 2016. No establishment of Air Force, Navy and other establishments of Army have been identified," Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in a written reply.

"The matter is being monitored to ensure that the security of defence establishments does not get jeopardised while accommodating development

# Lok Sabha MPs demand strict action against chit fund firms, promoters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While passing the Amendments to Chit Fund Bill on Wednesday Lok Sabha members demanded strict action against chit fund firms and its promoters who siphon money of the poor. Participating in the debate several BJP members lauded the Government's move, saying this will help protect the money of the economically weaker section.

Saugata Roy (TMC), however, questioned the delay in bringing the bill. He said the bill was also introduced in the last Lok Sabha but was then forwarded to the Standing Committee on Finance. The panel gave its recommendations in August 2018 but it has taken more than a year for the Government to bring the fresh bill with amendments, he said. "We have to address the anomalies in the financial system," he said.

Roy said two BJP members

from West Bengal had wrongly referred to State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the chit fund scam and her name should be expunged from the record. Anurag Sharma (BJP) said there are over 30,000 registered chit funds in the country and the unregularised would be more than 100 times the number. He stressed that more people should be brought in the formal sector.

Meenakshi Lekhi (BJP) said there was a need for financial literacy in the country to avoid people from falling into the trap of such financial system. She said people who invest in chit funds are many a time unaware that when banking system gives an interest rate of nearly 8-9 per cent, then how can one provide an interest of nearly 30 to 40 per cent. P P Chowdhary (BJP) said the amendments to the bill may appear small but will have long term ramifications in saving people's money.

# Requested HCs to expedite 10-year-old cases: Shankar

LAW MIN INFORMED IN LOK SABHA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The issue of piling up of huge pending cases in the courts figured in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday with Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad saying his Ministry has requested all High Courts to clear 10-year-old cases immediately to bring down pendency of cases as amidst the reports of a cyber attack on the Kudankulam nuclear power plant, Union Minister Jitendra Singh told the concerned members that "if at all an error like this happened, it was confined to the administrative block".

Among other issues raised during the Zero Hour in the House, Satabdi Roy of the Trinamool Congress said the Ministry of External Affairs has refused to give her a no-objection certificate for attending a film festival in China.

The MP said she had to face a lot of harassment for get-

ting the visa and when it did come she was not given the required NoC without being offered any reason. She said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was getting pictures clicked with Chinese President Xi Jinping while she has been denied a visit to China. At this point, the Speaker Om Birla asked another member to raise his issue. BJP MP Shankar Lalwani asked the Centre to work to waive passport requirement for pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

Taking up the issues relating to crores of cases pending in the courts, the law minister said it is his for the court to clear the backlog in the court as Government is always there to provide infrastructure.

Congress MP Manish Tewary, however, did not agree with the minister that the Government was not accountable or the piling up of cases in the courts.

The Minister said his Government has taken various measures to improve the infrastructure of various courts

across the country so that justice delivery is expedited.

The Modi Government has already given 50 per cent amount for infrastructure improvement, he said, adding, the National Judicial Database is now in place.

Besides, he said, the government has made 478 appointments in high courts and number of Supreme Court Judges has been increased.

On pendency of cases in various courts, he said, all high courts have been requested to immediately clear civil and criminal cases which are pending for 10 years. "I would take this opportunity to again request Chief Justice of all high courts to immediately dispose of cases which are pending for 10 years," he said.

More than 43 lakh cases are pending in 25 high courts in the country and over 8 lakh of these are over a decade old.

Prasad also said there is a case for All India Judicial Service but there are reservations expressed by some high courts.

# Doval-led committee to appoint India's first CDS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level committee headed by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval is likely to finalise the modalities for appointing the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in the next three to four weeks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced in his August 15 speech the creation of the post of CDS as single point military advisor to political leadership.

The proposal to create the CDS was hanging fire for more than 20 years after the K Subrahmanyam committee on higher defence reforms favoured the creation of such a post for synergy amongst the three Services.

As regards the Doval led panel report, sources said here on Wednesday the Government has asked the Army, Navy and

IAF to recommend the names of their senior most commanders for the new position. As of now indications are that Army Chief General Bipin Rawat may become the first CDS as he is the senior most amongst the three serving chiefs. He is due to retire as the Army Chief on Dec 31.

In a major defence reform to keep pace with fast changing war fighting capabilities world over, Modi on August 15 announced the creation of post of the CDS to promote synergy and integration of three Services including the army, navy and air force. The CDS will be single-point military advisor to the political leadership on matters of modernisation, operational preparedness and fight jointly.

The proposal for creation of the CDS was pending for the last 20 years after a Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval

then Home Minister LK Advani recommended it. A review committee headed by K Subrahmanyam to fine tune higher defence management in the wake of Kargil war in 1999 had given this proposal to the GOM.

However, successive Governments did not go in for the crucial reform citing lack of political consensus. Also, the three Services could not come on the same platform leading

to delay of creation of the CDS. Many western countries including the UK have the institution of CDS.

Prior to the land mark reform made public by the Prime Minister on August 15, he had made the political leadership's inclination apparent during his speech on Kargil Vijay Diwas in July where he stressed on "jointness" and said it was time to connect among three services in terms of "action and system."

Making the important announcement during his Independence Day speech here, Modi said time has come to enhance coordination among the three services to deal with security challenges facing India.

"To further sharpen coordination between the forces, I want to announce a major decision from the Red Fort: India will have a Chief of Defence

Staff. CDS. This is going to make the forces even more effective," he said. The Prime Minister said as head of the three services, the CDS will ensure synergy and provide effective leadership to the armed forces in dealing with security challenges. In a tweet then, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said the announcement has been made keeping in view the much needed reform to streamline and further improve the coordination among the three forces and their functioning. "CDS will have a long lasting and a positive impact on India's security," Singh said.

The creation of the CDS will eventually lead to the formation of tri-service theatre commands intended to create vertical integration of the three forces. The CDS will be a single window advisor to the Government and also synergise

long term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three services. After Modi's announcement, the defence Ministry commenced the process to select the CDS, his tenure and other related issues through the Doval led panel.

Also, the Defence Ministry will have to take a call on the seniority of the CDS. At present, the three Chiefs are four-star generals and it remains to be seen whether the CDS will be a five-star general therefore senior to the Chiefs. If the CDS is four-star general, then he will be first among equals, it was learnt.

While the GOM proposal was lying in cold storage since 2001, in 2012, the Nareish Chandra committee recommended the appointment of a Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) as a midway to allay apprehensions over the CDS.

# 3-day Global Bio-India Summit from today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A three-day mega event will kick off from Thursday here with an aim to showcase India's potential in bio-tech sector to the world as well as to chart out an actionable roadmap to catapult the industry on the global map.

Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the Global Bio-India Summit, 2019 that will witness academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium & large companies coming together on the same platform which will facilitate acceleration of the innovation ecosystem in the country.

Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology

& Chairperson BIRAC, said, "Global Bio-India Summit is being organized for the first time in India. Biotechnology is recognized as the sunrise sector - a key driver for contributing to India's USD 5 Trillion economy target by 2025."

More than 25 countries besides 11 States from India are participating in the event which is being held at Aero City in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Invest India. Various MoUs will be signed while there would be several interesting events such as "NanoBioTech-2019" and Nano for Agri-2019" which will cover most recent research and developments in their respective fields, said Dr Manish Diwan from BIRAC.

# 'Only if required', Kamal on ties with Rajini

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**  
As MNM founder Kamal Haasan on Wednesday reiterated his intention to join hands with his contemporary 'Superstar' Rajinikanth politically, the ruling AIADMK continued to target the duo, calling it a 'mirage' and insisted the actors can't harm the party's prospects.  
Though Haasan expressed his willingness to partner with his four-decade old cinema colleague, he made it clear he would do so "only if required" and for the sake of Tamil Nadu.  
While AIADMK Coordinator and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam said the duo's possible partnership would not affect his party, his Cabinet colleague D Jayakumar said the duo was like 'mirage' that would "disappoint" the person believing it to be water.  
He also likened them to an 'illusion'. Haasan's comments on joining forces with Rajinikanth came a day after both actors hinted at coming

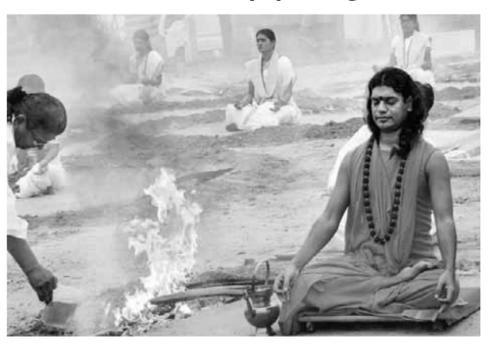


together keeping in mind Tamil Nadu's welfare.  
"My friend Mr Rajinikanth and I are of the same opinion that if need be all hands should join for the sake of Tamil Nadu and we are no exception," he told reporters here.  
"That is our attitude, we

would join hands) if required only. We will, if required, and that too for Tamil Nadu's sake," he said. Beyond their friendship, Tamil Nadu's welfare was important, he added.  
Haasan also ruled out any timeframe for the two actors possibly working together politically. "The positive thing (from the developments) is that there is an assurance we will work for Tamil Nadu," he said. When a scribe asked if Rajinikanth would join his MNM, Haasan shot back saying it was "not fair" to pose such questions. Responding to Haasan's statement, Panneerselvam said none can affect the ruling party.  
"The AIADMK's base is very strong. We are not worried who joins hands. This movement is cadre-based," he told reporters. While many political parties could come into existence they can, however, do no damage to the AIADMK, he added.  
However, his party and cabinet colleague Jayakumar seemed to be more harsh towards Haasan and Rajinikanth, calling them a mirage and 'illusion'. "A mirage, illusion is being created — it is like those who went believing it was water and getting disappointed," he said. "Rajini or Kamal or Vijay (another top actor who is rumoured to be harboring political ambitions) are all illusions. They cannot survive in Tamil Nadu politics," the Minister said.  
To another question, he described top actor Ajithkumar as "dignified and dedicated to his profession". Ajithkumar is considered Vijay's rival, and known to keep away from controversies, although he had once publicly told then Chief Minister and late M Karunanidhi, that actors were forced to attend certain events which became a debating point.  
Exuding confidence that the possible Rajini-Kamal duo cannot do harm to the AIADMK-led alliance in the state electorally, Jayakumar said "none will stand before" the coalition, comprising of BJP, DMK and PMK.

# Swami Nithyananda booked, two disciples held for 'kidnapping' kids

**PTI ■ AHMEDABAD**  
An FIR was registered against self-styled godman Swami Nithyananda on the charges of alleged kidnapping and wrongful confinement of children to make them collect donations from followers to run his ashram in Ahmedabad in Gujarat, police said on Wednesday.  
Police also arrested Sadhvi Pranpriyanka and Priyatatva Riddhi Kiran, both women disciples of the controversial godman, on charges of allegedly kidnapping at least four children, keeping them in illegal confinement in a flat and using them as child labourers to promote activities of the ashram to collect donations.  
Nithyananda was booked on the similar charges after police recorded statements of the four children who were rescued from a flat and the ashram, "Yogini Sarvagyaapeetham", a police officer said.  
Sadhvi Pran Priyanka and Priyatatva Riddhi Kiran are responsible for managing the ashram, he said. "We have arrested two disciples of Swami Nithyananda after two children in the age group of 9 and 10 years enrolled at the ashram, told us that they were tortured and made to work as child



File photo of self-styled godman Swami Nithyananda

labour and kept in an illegal confinement at a flat in the city for over ten days.  
"Similar allegations were made by two other children rescued from the ashram on the basis of a complaint filed by their parents," Dy Superintendent of Police (Ahmedabad rural), KT Kamariya said.  
The accused persons have been booked under Sections 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent to secretly and wrongfully confine a person), 344 (wrongful confinement for ten or more days), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 502 (sale of printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).  
They have also been booked under Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the police officer said. "The two children (rescued from the flat) have been handed over to the child welfare committee which is questioning them and trying to locate their parents," Kamariya said.  
The rescued children told police that they were forced to take part in a religious ritual and were harassed, he said.  
"They were being made to work for the ashram by force to collect donation from followers by sharing and uploading various ritual materials," the DYSP said.

# Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC in Poonch

**PTI ■ JAMMU**  
The Pakistan Army violated the ceasefire on Wednesday by resorting to small arms fire and shelling with mortars on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir's Poonch, a Defence spokesman said.  
The firing from across the border in Krishna Ghati sector started around 1645 hours and was retaliated by the Indian Army "befittingly", the official said, adding the Pakistani army initiated the cross-border firing.  
There was no report of any casualty in the Pakistani shelling, the spokesman said.  
Meanwhile, General Officer Commanding, Star Corps, Lt Gen JS Nain visited forward areas of Jammu-based 'Tiger division' and reviewed the operational preparedness of the forces, he said.  
The Corps Commander exhorted the troops to be ever-vigilant towards the external threats facing the country and complimented them for their stellar performance against all odds, the official added.  
The GOC was briefed by GOC, 'Tiger Division', Maj Gen Sharad Kapur on the operational readiness of the division as also the current security scenario in Jammu, the spokesman said.

# Navy inducting large no. of state-of-art assets: Prez

**PTI ■ KANNUR**  
Indian Navy is inducting a large number of highly capable and state-of-the-art assets and equipment, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Wednesday as he highlighted the strategic importance of the seas in the well-being of people of the country.  
Addressing the Naval cadets after awarding the President's Colour to the Indian Naval Academy, the President said that India is a maritime nation and highlighted the strategic values of its long coastline and several islands which are acting as the country's 'national outposts'.  
"A significant proportion of India's trade and energy needs

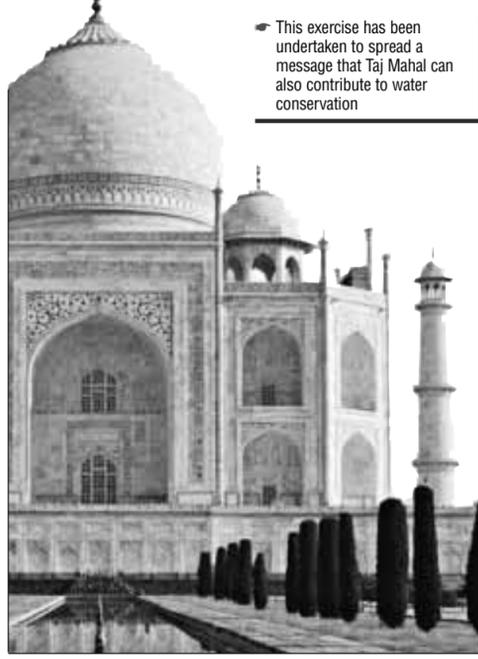


President Ram Nath Kovind presents the 'Presidents Colour award' — the highest honour that is bestowed upon a military unit to Academy Cadet Captain Sushil Singh in Kannur, Kerala, on Wednesday

are met through the medium of the oceans. Safety of the seas and maritime commons, therefore, remains a critical requirement to ensure the economic and infrastructure development on land, as also to ensure well-

being of its people," he said at a function organised at the Ezhimala Naval Academy in the district.  
Underscoring the security challenges — both in the conventional and asymmetric domains — facing the country today, Kovind said, "The country looks upon you to deliver, each and everytime, whether it is a full fledged conflict, natural calamity, law and order challenge or our diplomatic mission".  
Hailing the Indian Navy as the country's prime instrument to ensure maritime security, Kovind said, "You will be pleased to know that our Navy is inducting a large number of highly capable and state-of-art assets and equipment".

# ASI to use waste water from RO treatment to replenish water table around Taj Mahal



- This exercise has been undertaken to spread a message that Taj Mahal can also contribute to water conservation
- A total of 30,000 litres of drinking water is provided daily through the RO (Reverse Osmosis) process for consumption
- While 30,000 litres of waste water will be diverted into stepwell and well, remaining 10,000 litres will go into borewells

**PTI ■ AGRA**  
The ASI has begun doing its bit to replenish groundwater around Taj Mahal, diverting waste water discharged during the RO treatment to a stepwell built during the Mughal period. Of the 40,000 litres of waste water generated within the Taj Mahal complex, some would also be channelised into a well and four borewells that have been constructed for this purpose.  
This exercise has been undertaken to spread a message that Taj Mahal, a place which sees maximum tourist footfall in the country, can also contribute to water conservation, Vasant Kumar Swarnkar, superintending archaeologist of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Agra Circle, told PTI on Wednesday.  
A total of 30,000 litres of drinking water is provided daily through the RO (Reverse Osmosis) process for consumption, he said. In the process, 30,000 litres of waste water is generated and another 10,000 litres is wasted during consumption. So overall, 40,000 litres of water is being wasted everyday, he said.  
While 30,000 litres of waste water will be diverted into stepwell and well, remaining 10,000 litres will go into borewells, Swarnkar said. He said water will be channelised through PVC pipes to replenish the water table at 120 feet.  
The Taj Mahal complex has six RO systems which provide 750 to 2,000 litres of water every hour, he said, adding that the Mughal era mausoleum is open to tourists for 10 hours every day.

# ASI asks internet service providers to boost signal to promote cashless ticket booking for Taj

**PTI ■ AGRA**  
The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has asked major internet service providers to boost signal strength near monuments and hotels in Agra, so that tourists can easily book tickets online via "QR code standees" placed there to visit the Taj Mahal.  
Agra Circle Superintending Archaeologist Vasant Kumar Swarnkar told PTI that ASI has contacted BSNL, Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, Jio to increase their signal strength near the sites the standees have been put.  
"BSNL has assured it will do the needful within 15 days," Swarnkar said. QR code standees offer tourists an option to book tickets by making online payment through mobile phones by scanning the codes.  
After tourists scan the code, they are connected to the ticketing portal. They can book 30 tickets — 20 for adult visitors and 10 for children — at a time. Tourists can also directly visit the ticketing portal to book tickets online.  
The ASI official said the district administration is monitoring the progress with the internet service providers.

# SC to hear plea seeking removal of dead trees near Agra mental hospital falling in Taj zone

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to hear on Friday a plea seeking to remove some dried up trees near the mental hospital at Agra which falls under the Taj Trapezium Zone housing protected monument Taj Mahal.  
A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde took note of submissions of a lawyer, representing the Government hospital, that certain dead trees be allowed to be removed as they "scaring mental patients". It has been alleged that the Forest department of Agra Zone has denied the permission to remove even dried trees in view of the apex court's earlier orders in this regard. Apex court, which has been hearing the PIL filed by environmentalist MC Mehta, has restrained cutting or removing trees in the Taj Trapezium area.  
The PIL has sought protection of the Taj from the ill effects of polluting gases and deforestation. Earlier, apex court, in 2014, had allowed Agra civic corporation to cut down 38 trees in protected area of Taj Mahal under Taj Trapezium Zone but had directed it to plant thrice number of trees in the compound or nearby areas. The corporation had submitted the trees need to be cut down to renovate the tehsil building. PTI

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM CORRIGENDUM NOTICE						
SR NO.	LETTER / MEMO NO. & DATE	NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD / CORP / AUTH	OLD REFERENCE / NIT / TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT / BOARD CORP / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	Ch-02/XEN DD-III/B-622 dt. 15-11-2019	UHBVN	NIT- 279 P&D/2019 (Bt No. B-622)	Corrigendum-I Clause No. 25 i.e. "Time for completion" against this instant NIT may be treated as 06 (Six) Months instead of 12 (Twelve) Months as mentioned in NIT uploaded.	www.uhbvn.org.in	CE/P&D, UHBVN, Panchkula Ph. No. 3019145, 3019146 Email: cepdc@uhbvn.org.in, xend83@uhbvn.org.in

RO NO. 79251 Dt. 20-11-2019

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM CORRIGENDUM NOTICE						
SR NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD / CORP / AUTH	LETTER / MEMO NO. & DATE	OLD REFERENCE / CE / NIT / TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT / BOARD CORP / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited	Ch-48/XEN/P-1/ MM/QH-1/ 2541 dated 15-11-2019	Notice Inviting Tender No. 04/U-H/MM/ XEN/MM/ QH-1/ 2541 dated 14-09-2019	Amendment in the delivery schedule	www.uhbvn.org.in etenders.hry.nic.in	ceem@uhbvn.org.in 9357169013

RO NO. 79259 Dt. 20-11-2019

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM CORRIGENDUM NOTICE						
SR NO.	LETTER / MEMO NO. & DATE	NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD / CORP / AUTH	OLD REFERENCE / NIT / TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT / BOARD CORP / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	Ch-15/CEH/PPC/SE/C&R-1/ LTP-1/ 300 MW SOLAR dated 14-11-2019	Haryana Power Purchase Centre	82/CE/ HPPC/ LTP/ 100 MW SOLAR	Date extension along with amendments	www.uhbvn.org.in www.bharat-electronictrade.com	CE/HPPC, Shakti Bhawan Sector -6 Panchkula/ cephpc@gmail.com 0172-2586836

RO NO. 79255 Dt. 20-11-2019

# BANARASHINDUUNIVERSITYROW Muslim prof's father sings bhajans, offers namaz

**PTI ■ JAIPUR**  
The group of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) students protesting against the appointment of a Muslim at their Sanskrit department might just change their minds if they visited the professor's father.  
At a temple in premises of Shree Ramdev Gaushala Chetanya Dham in Bagru, 35 kms from the Rajasthan capital, Ramzan Khan participates in the aarti, sitting at a harmonium and singing a bhajan.  
The atmosphere there is in sharp contrast to the protest by some students at the BHU. They say only a Hindu can teach Sanskrit. But a visit to Bagru, where the family lives in a modest three-room house, reveals that the professor grew up in an atmosphere immersed in Sanskrit and "Hindu traditions".  
His father Ramzan Khan himself holds the Shastris qualification in Sanskrit, composes religious songs and performs 'gau sewa' at the nearby cattle shed. At the same time, he visits the mosque and offers namaz.  
The local Hindu community as well as his own relatives are okay with this. "I was very happy when my son was appointed at the prestigious BHU. The protest

by students is unfortunate and I would like to urge the agitating students to recognise my son and see what kind of background he has," he said.  
"My son wanted to learn Sanskrit like me so I got him admission at the school. He had the blessings of the teachers, acquired a high qualification and got selected at BHU," Khan told PTI on Wednesday.  
"I am confident that if the students listen to him with patience and see his family background, they would be convinced and satisfied," he added. Ramzan Khan has had a better deal than his son.  
"I never faced discrimination on the basis of religion. We all live in brotherhood. I go to the mosque and often offer namaz, I go to the temple and do Krishna Bhakti and gau sewa," he said. He said Sanskrit runs through his veins.  
"My father also used to sing songs at temples. I learnt this from him. He made me learn Sanskrit and I also started dedicating time for gau sewa, and also composed songs. My time goes in Krishna and Bhagwad bhakti," he said.  
At temples, he sings songs dedicated to Rama, Krishna, Shiva and other Hindu deities.

Singing bhajans at temples and events like "jagrans" is also his source of livelihood.  
Hindu seers in the area have come out in support of the family after the BHU row.  
"This is very condemnable that a person who is highly qualified in Sanskrit and got appointed on merit is being opposed only because he is Muslim. This intolerance should be stopped," said Saurabh Raghvendra Charya, a 'sadhu' from the Raghunathdham temple near Bagru.  
"All our religious functions and the temple aarti are incomplete without Ramzan Khan. People in large numbers turn up to listen to him. He does it all in dedication to Krishna bhakti and never expects anything in return," said Mohan Lal Sharma, a priest from another temple.  
"He too is a Sanskrit scholar, serves cows and loves them," the priest added. While Ramzan Khan meets people who call on him following the BHU protests, other family members appear reluctant to do so.  
"I only want to convey that people should see the qualifications of my son instead of judging him on the basis of religion," he said.



Ramzan Khan, father of Feroze Khan, sings bhajans at a temple near Jaipur. PTI

## BHU students continue protest, Muslim professor feels 'insulted'

**IAN S ■ VARANASI**  
The students' protest against the appointment of a Muslim professor in the Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan in the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) entered its 14th day on Wednesday with the students refusing to give up on their demand.  
The BHU administration continues to maintain that the appointment of professor Feroz Khan is in accordance with the prescribed norms and there is no question of his removal.  
The BHU administration has issued a statement, saying, "The idea behind the establishment of the university was to contribute in nation-building by providing equal opportunity of study and teaching to all deserving people without any discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, gender and sect."  
The statement also said that Khan's appointment was a unanimous decision made by a selection committee under a transparent process.  
The Muslim professor Feroz Khan, meanwhile, said that he felt 'insulted' by the incident and added that he would have never applied for the job if the university had mentioned in the advertisement that they did not want a Muslim.  
Students sitting on dharna, on the other hand, have started reciting Hanuman Chalisa to underline their opposition to a Muslim faculty member.

# Income Tax raids on Tollywood biggies

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
The officials of Income-Tax (I-T) Department on Wednesday conducted simultaneous raids on Ramanaidu Studios in Hyderabad and other premises owned by popular Tollywood producer Daggubati Suresh Babu. The searches are underway against another biggie S Radha Krishna, who owns production houses, Haarika and Hassine Creations and Sitara Entertainments.  
According to information, the searches are on in 25 locations across Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Visakhapatnam.  
The raid began early in the morning on Wednesday and media reports suggest that officials are going through I-T returns filed by the production house over the last few years, to examine alleged tax evasion," said the sources.  
The raids are expected to continue until Wednesday evening. Some documents were also examined and seized by the officials, media reports added. An official statement is yet to be issued and further details are awaited.  
According to information, the searches are on in 25 locations across Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Visakhapatnam. A majority of the locations are properties owned by Telangana-based film production house owners.  
Ironically, both production houses are readying to release their new films. Haarika and Hassine is all set to release its next movie 'Ala vaikunthapurramulo' starring Allu Arjun, while Sitara Entertainment's last production was Premam, remake of 2015 Malayalam film. The romantic drama featured Naga Chaitanya and Shruti Hasan.  
According to sources, the sleuths are suspecting massive tax evasions in production, distribution and exhibition earnings. Ramanaidu Studio is set for a December release of 'Venky Mama' that stars the uncle-nephew duo Venkatesh and Naga Chaitanya.



Police detain a Kerala Students Union (KSU) activist during a protest in front of the Ernakulam Police Commissioner's office in Kochi on Wednesday. The KSU had called for a march to protest against the functioning of the Kerala University where allegations of manipulation in marks have surfaced and the mysterious deaths of two minor Dalit sisters at Walayar, who were found dead inside their home after being allegedly exploited sexually. PTI

## JU teachers observe cease work demanding full implementation of revised UGC pay scale

**PTI ■ KOLKATA**  
The cease work by teachers of Jadavpur University demanding full implementation of the revised UGC pay scale disrupted classes for the second day on Wednesday.  
A spokesman of Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA), the main representative body of university teachers, said an estimated 450 teachers assembled before the main administrative building in the afternoon hours holding placards as part of the two-day cease work on November 19 and 20.  
The JUTA spokesman claimed that no classes took place in any of the four faculties — Arts, Engineering and Technology, Science and Interdisciplinary Studies — as the teachers did not take classes. The cease work was supported by the All Bengal University Teachers' Association (ABUTA-JU chapter), and West Bengal College and University Teachers' Association (WBCUTA). ABUTA (JU) general secretary Goutam Maity said teachers from Vidyasagar University, Rabindra Bharati University and Calcutta University were present at the agitation to express solidarity.

# Akhilesh responds to Shivpal's offer with a cold silence

**IAN S ■ LUCKNOW**  
The olive branch extended by Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSP) president Shivpal Yadav to his estranged nephew and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has, apparently found no takers.  
More than 24 hours after Shivpal Yadav put forward a proposal for unity on Mulayam Singh Yadav's birthday on November 22, Akhilesh Yadav has chosen to completely ignore the overture.  
Shivpal had suggested that the birthday celebrations of Mulayam Singh should be held in their native village Sefai in Etawah and the entire family should come together for the event. Akhilesh, however, has directed all district units of his party to celebrate the occasion in Lucknow, sources said.  
It is not yet known if Mulayam Singh would opt for Lucknow or Etawah on his birthday. According to a former SP minister, known for his proximity to Akhilesh Yadav, "Too much water has flowed under the bridge. Shivpal Yadav has damaged the Samajwadi Party in the Lok Sabha elections by cutting into our votes and paving the way for BJP's victory. It will not be easy to forget all the bad blood that prevails between the two family members and their parties."  
The mood is upbeat in the Samajwadi Party following its victory in three assembly seats in the recent assembly by-elections. "We have proved that we are the main opposition party in UP and our victory has given clear indications that SP is firmly on the comeback path. Akhilesh is now working towards strengthening the party organisations and nothing will divert his attention from the job right now," the former Minister added.



## NBW issued against Azam Khan, family

**Rampur:** The Rampur district court has issued non-bailable warrants against Samajwadi Party MP Mohd Azam Khan and his family.  
The matter is related to the dispute in birth documents of Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam, who is an SP MLA.  
Azam Khan, his wife and son Abdullah Azam were to appear in court on Tuesday but neither of them appeared after which the court issued the non-bailable warrants against them. The next date of hearing has been fixed for December 2.  
BJP leader Akash Saxena had filed a case against Azam Khan and his family under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 of IPC. Abdullah Azam had reportedly given different birth certificate in his passport and then the election affidavit and the case was filed against the family on this issue.  
There are over 84 criminal cases pending against Azam Khan and his family in Rampur. These cases are related to land grabbing, encroachment, book theft, statue theft, power theft, buffalo theft, goat theft and forgery.  
Azam Khan has failed to get anticipatory bail in the cases. IANS

# Andhra college's bid for plant conservation with QR codes

**IAN S ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
At a time when Quick Response (QR) codes have become common for digital payments across India, a college in Andhra Pradesh is showing how the technology can benefit students and help in the conservation of plants.  
The initiative of PB Siddhartha College of Arts and Sciences here is not only helping the students get information about plants at their fingertips but is also expected to contribute in plant conservation.  
Students or anyone can use their smart phones to scan the QR code hung in the trees on the campus to access all the information about the plant ranging from its botanical name to its medicinal value.  
Any app generating QR code and available for free on the online stores can be used to scan the QR code and access the information. The user will



will help conserve such species by growing them in their gardens," Srinivas Reddy, head of Botany Department at the college told IANS.  
The department has developed herbal garden on the college campus with 60 varieties of medicinal plants like Tulsi, mustard, aloe vera and spearmint.  
It has also grown 20 other varieties. These include "Gyrocarpus Americanus", whose wood is used to make the world-famous Kondapalli toys. The scarcity of the wood, locally known as "Tella Poniki" has affected the toy manufacturing in Kondapalli near Vijayawada.  
The Botany Department worked for a month to collect all database about trees in the college campus and assigned QR codes to them. They catalogued the trees according to their species and incorporated vital information.

see what has been incorporated and for detailed information can refer to books or do the Google search.  
Those scanning QR code will not only know the scientific name of the plant, but also its status by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which releases the status of all species every year.  
"These days people have awareness about conservation of plants, but they don't know which plant has to be conserved and what is its name. The IUCN status shows which are the endangered species. We hope that educated people

### UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM PUBLIC NOTICE / TENDER NOTICE

SR NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD / CORP / AUTH	NAME OF WORK / NOTICE / TENDER	OPENING DATE / CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / T/EMD (APPRO X) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAIL/ EMAIL	TENDER REF. NO. / TENDER NO.
1	CE/HPPC/ UHBVN, Sector-6, Shakti Bhawan, Panchkula	RIP for appointment of consulting firm for providing Load Forecasting to HPPC	15-11-2019 02-12-2019 (13:00 Hrs)	EVD @Rs. 100,000/- in the form of Demand Draft	www.uhbvn.org in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Chief Engineer Fax No. 0172-2586836 cehppc@gmail.com	RIP No.83/CE/HPPC/ 2019-20 dated 15-11-2019

RO NO. 79260 Dt. 20-11-2019

### DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)Dr.XI

ROOM NO. 308, VARUNALAYA PHASE-1, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005  
Telefax 011-23554487 / Email : eecdr11.djb@nic.in

#### Short NIT NO. 03 (2019-20) (PRESS TENDER)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Date of release of tender on e-procurement system	Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement system
1.	Face lifting / renovation of A wing gallery and lift lobby at First Floor, Varunalaya Phase-II	25,15,268/-	20.11.2019 at 12:30 hours onwards Tender ID : 2019_DJB_184111_1	25.11.2019 upto 15:00 hours

Further details, in this regard, can be seen on Delhi Government web-site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. Any further corrigendum / addendum / clarification, if any, will be uploaded on website only.  
ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Sd/- EE (C)Dr.XI  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 543/2019-20

### Office Project Manager, Construction Unit Uttarakhand Pejal Samsadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam

Ghingharikhal, Ranikhet, Dist. Almora  
E-Mail: pmranikhet@rediffmail.com Fax & Ph. No.: 05966-220690

Letter No. 1640 / NIVIDA/241 Date: 08-11-2019

#### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Pejal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Pejal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, for The following Works.

Sl. No.	Name Of Work	Cost of Work (in lacs)
1	Construction of Primary School Building and apartment work at Bamori Tarula.	28.06 Lacs
2	Construction of Primary School Building and apartment work at Bheema devi.	28.29 Lacs.
3	Construction of Primary School Building and apartment work at Manihar Matela.	28.29 Lacs.

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 09.11.2019 at 10:00 hrs. to 25.11.2019 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or obtained from office or phone no. 05966 220690 of office of tender inviting authority.  
Letter no.-1719/tender/255, Dt- 18.11.19 PROJECT MANAGER

### SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (Pr.)-I Central Zone Shiv Mandir Marg, Jal Vihar, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi-110024

#### PRESS NOTICE FOR NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. EE (Pr.)/CNZ/TC/2019/20/09 Dated : 18.11.19

FOR ONLINE TENDERING TIME TABLE PLEASE REFER [www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER). 1. Improvement and Strengthening of roads by dense carpeting from H.No. D-15 to D-75, H.No. D-75 to D-75 (Rotary), DD-19 to DD-27, Poornima Sethi Hospital Road, Kalkaji Ward No. 90-S, Central Zone. Tender Amount : Rs. 21,36,278/-. Estimated Amount : Rs. 25,34,700/- Earnest Money : Rs. 50,700/- Tender Cost : Rs. 500/- H/A : K-150-1157. 2. Imp. & Stg. of road by providing Dense carpeting from .... in Amrit Nagar in Kotla Mubarakpur W.No. 60-S, CNZ. Estimated Amount : Rs. 35,46,000/- Tender Amt.: Rs. 32,79,403/- Earnest Money : Rs. 72,200/- Time of Completion : 3 Months. Tender Cost : Rs. 500/- H/A XL-VIII-S (MLALAD). For details and further development, please refer SDMC website regularly i.e. [www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER). Last Date of Download/Purchase Tender Document : 28.11.19 02:00 P.M. Closing of Bid : 28.11.19 03:00 P.M. Opening of Financial Bid : 29.11.19 03:30 P.M.  
RO No. 109/DPI/S/2019-20 E.E. (Pr.)/Central Zone

### DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I, OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET: NEW DELHI-110017

NIT NO. 56(S-1) (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Desilting of deep and silted up sewer lines manholes of Vasant Kunj Institutional area, Vasant Kunj Phase-2 against deficiency charges deposited by D.D.A. under EE (South)-I. (Re-invited)	Item Rate/ 65800/-	2019_DJB_184059_1 20.11.2019	10.12.2019 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Sd/- Advt. No. J.S.V. 547/2019-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I

### PRESS NOTICE

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG-S.SALMARA/2018-19/12/2019/18208 Dated - 19/11/2019

The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following works from registered contractors under A. P.W.D. (Building) Registered Contractor [Class-I (A, B & C)] Assam, having experience of similar nature of work.  
Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 20/11/2019(04:30 PM) to 29/11/2019(2:00 PM)  
The bidders must be enrolled in [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)

Package No	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
20T	AUGMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE (RCC G+1) FOR CLASS IX & X AT EXISTING KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (KGBV) BUILDING OF MANKACHAR, SOUTH SALMARA MANKACHAR DISTRICT	Rs. 64,26,700.00	12 (twelve) months	Rs.1,28,500.00 (for General) Rs.64,250.00 (for reserved Category)	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs. 3000.00

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

## Myths about Kashmir

Facts and figures on J&K tabled in the House may paint a rosy picture but won't change ground realities



**K**ashmir's smokescreen becomes so dense by the day that in the end, it solidifies as the only truth, or a picture of it, so relentlessly it is pushed down our throats. And with stories of the non-cooperative Kashmiri and the Western media bias drowning out the validity of the ugly truth that does make it to the surface, the myth takes hold of the mindspace as it is easier to digest narratives that operate within simplistic binaries than raise complex questions. Like the response the Government has tabled in the Rajya Sabha, that

stone-pelting has subsided ever since the abolition of Article 370 in Kashmir and that tourist footfalls have increased, apparently generating an additional ₹25 crore as revenue since August. The first claim gets negated by the government's own admission that 700 plus people have been detained during the same period. And the bubble of a thriving tourist economy has been burst by a Kashmiri traders' association claim that the former State has suffered a ₹12,000 crore loss since the lockdown. Home Minister Amit Shah, too, painted a picture of normalcy, telling the Rajya Sabha how schools and colleges were open, the apple industry was recovering, any preventive curfew was only intended to disable Pakistan-sponsored militancy and that there has been no bloodshed since Kashmir became a Union Territory. As if alienation has been the sole byproduct of exported terrorism. He also defended the blockade of internet corridors, saying the fight against terror propaganda meant that security is prioritised over everything else. Yet, even going by the sanitised reportage from the Valley, communication remains a challenge with landlines operating in fits and starts and patchy internet even at media centres. Yes, the Centre through its agencies is picking up apples but truckers from the plains are being attacked randomly and crates are full of some bad apples, literally, with separatist messages imprinted on them. The entire economy is gasping with the lockdown affecting logistics and supply chain management. Existing small and medium-scale businesses are floundering, delivery service start-ups are on the verge of a meltdown with suspended services, the flight of labour and the absence of internet. No tourist, foreign or domestic, is knowingly planning a visit to Kashmir. Violence, either by militant groups, hitbacks of angry citizens or punitive strikes by security forces, makes for a bigger picture when one joins the dots. And the silence is deceptive in the absence of middle ground between polarities. With citizens also resorting to civil disobedience, refusing to open businesses or keeping their children away from school, it could be the proverbial lull before the storm, a fear psychosis or a siege mentality.

Facts and figures can be tweaked but the truth lies elsewhere as a figment, and that is costing us our credibility. While the world and even much of the domestic opinion, in principle, accepted the withdrawal of Article 370 as operable, the never-ending lockdown is raising more questions about our militaristic ambitions than democratic propriety. The Government's continued detention of politically elected representatives, who it says had done nothing to control militancy and played the Indo-Pakistan dynamic for their continued relevance, has stifled the only voice of the locals. Nothing explains why the most pro-India voice among them and somebody who has been the BJP's blue-eyed boy, Omar Abdullah, or even Sajjad Lone continue to be detained. Or why they are being psychologically worn out in dehumanised conditions. If the Government wants to peddle normalcy, then it has to prioritise civil and political engagement, no matter how chaotic or negative the result may be. Restoring civil rights is a must if it wants its governance agenda to not sound like a fable but intended action. A big move always generates big reactions but muzzling them won't help in a political economy called Kashmir. Egoism must make way for reasoned pragmatism and a majoritarian Government should have the strength to stomach the pitfalls than fogging out reality. The world could soon turn intolerant of us.

## Turmoil in telecom

How long can companies overlook unsustainable charges? The Government must intervene on taxes



**B**ritish telecom giant Vodafone's threat to quit India seems to have jolted a few officials in the Government. After all, if such a famous corporate name could be jolted by policies and unfair tax demands, how would smaller, less famous foreign investors fare in the country? There has been a degree of damage control exercise by both Vodafone and the Government after the first stories emerged in London newspapers but the single best thing that seems to have happened since then is that Indian telecom companies across the board

have realised that their current charges are unsustainable. They are now speaking of increasing tariffs next month onwards. This is on expected lines for, in real-money terms, telecom charges have been declining year after year even if data is excluded. Data charges per megabyte transmitted today are barely a per cent of what they were a decade ago. Low charges have helped put data in the hands of virtually every Indian but good times were never going to last forever.

While the quantum of the increase remains to be seen, after years of unsustainably low charges, coupled with the constant need to invest in new infrastructure, most telecom operators in India are bleeding. The desperation to be seen as the largest player in a huge market led to unsustainable rates, first for voice communications and later for data after the entry of Reliance Industries' Jio, which benefitted from several aspects of a late entry. It was able to invest in better and cheaper infrastructure, not needing to carry the can for low revenue consumers. Surely, the Supreme Court's ruling on taxes being applicable to "annual gross revenues" for telecom operators rather than for "revenues" must be seen as a harsh one. The Government should do something to mitigate the extent of the payment but an increase in call and data rates is much needed now. Complaints about call quality and lack of network connectivity have become far too common and networks need investment to improve services. For that, India needs a sustainable telecom industry. It is almost certain that with the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) being taken up in droves by Government-owned telecom operators BSNL and MTNL, the State might be exiting the telecom space once and for all, keeping just a secure communications backbone for intelligence and military purposes. If that indeed is the case, the Government must ensure that all telecom operators are in good financial health. At the same time, the coming years will see next-generation 5G networks, with the Government expecting to make thousands of crores in the spectrum auctions, something that appears to be more of a pipedream than anything else right now. The Government runs the risk of killing the golden goose and finding a hollowed out shell inside. That means allowing operators to raise prices and most importantly, refute allegations of favouritism that tend to stick when it comes to Mukesh Ambani.

# Neighbour's border envy

While China has undertaken multiple development projects near the Indian border, Delhi has been very slow and remains hesitant to see tourists in restricted areas



CLAUDE ARPI

**R**ecently, the Indian media was agog with news about the latest deployment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) close to the Indian borders. One website, the *Indian Defence News*, affirmed: "China strengthening military base near Uttarakhand's Lipulekh Pass," which is located near the tri-junction between Nepal, Tibet and India. It explained: "The new base has 20 parking hangars and also maintenance hangars. Medium-lift helicopters for the local Army aviation brigade have also been spotted... There are signs of a military build-up opposite Lipulekh Pass on the northeastern tip of Uttarakhand." It cited some intelligence sources saying that the PLA had built a helipad close to the pass and also "installed two surveillance cameras, a Long Range Reconnaissance and Observation System (LORROS) and a solar panel."

Some other reports mentioned model villages being built by Beijing near the Indian border. This is not new, though the scale should worry New Delhi. The information about Lipulekh Pass is probably linked to the new airport coming up near Purang (Taklakot); it will serve the Kailash/Manasarovar area.

On June 9, 2018, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Tibetan Autonomous Region's (TAR) provincial government announced that Tibet would soon have three new airports. An official communiqué stated: "Construction of the three airports, all above the altitude of 3,900 metres, should begin in 2019." The new airports are to be located in Lhunste county in Lhoka (called Shannan by the Chinese) area, north of the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh; the second will be between Tingri and Lhatse counties of Shigatse City, north of Zangmu, the border post with Nepal, and the last in Purang, near Lipulekh.

It was then announced: "The airports should be completed in 2021; by then, there will be eight airports in TAR." The news agency added: "At present, the preparatory work for the three airports is under way. The preferred sites have been determined;" the idea is "to consolidate the border and to promote the deep integration of the military and the people." While tourism and "cultural" industries remain the pillars of the so-called stabilisation, defence is also vital for the Chinese authorities — one of Chinese President Xi Jinping's pet projects is the Military Civilian Integration (or "fusion").

Another of Xi's favourite schemes is to make "patriotic" Tibetans "the protectors of their sacred homeland." The last two years have seen the mushrooming of model villages near the Indian border; they are known as "Xiaogang" or "moderately well-off villages." The pretext for building more than 100 such border villages is "poverty alleviation." Tibetans need to be pulled out of poverty (incidentally, is it not strange that 70 years after the arrival of the communists on the plateau



and the so-called liberation of Tibet, the populations still lives in such pitiable conditions?).

But "poverty" is not the only motivation. Xi once famously declared: "Govern the nation by governing the borders; govern the borders by first stabilising Tibet; ensure social harmony and stability in Tibet and strengthen the development of border regions." These villages are following the "double-support model city", which translates into full military and civilian integration.

The authorities have started implementing the theory of their boss by providing decent housing to the villagers and enticing the local recalcitrant Tibetan population to their side. Local satraps have a new leitmotif, the inhabitants of China's borders (with India) should be "the protectors of the sacred homeland and the builders of happy homes." The construction of "model" villages on the Tibetan side of the Indian border, mainly north of Arunachal Pradesh and also in Himachal and Ladakh, is the outcome of this. Several senior communist leaders have visited these new villages, either north of Kibithu in the Lohit valley; in Metok, north of Upper Siang district; in Yume (also written Yumai), north of Takshing in Upper Subansiri or in Lepo, Marmang and Tsona, north of Khenzimane and Tawang.

Take Metok County, for example. *China Tibet News* reported that there are 46 administrative villages (including one

multi-ethnic inhabitation area consisting of Monpa, Lhopa, Tibetan or Han) with a total population of 13,725. "In 2018, the county's GDP has reached 606 million yuan (\$99 million); farmers and herders' per capita disposable income and cash income have reached 10,380 yuan (\$1,687) and 8,833 yuan (\$1,486) respectively."

In October, 133 villagers belonging to 29 households moved into their new houses. Reports said how "all the township's residents are living in free houses provided by the Government," in Puma Changthang township, north of the Bhutan border. "Sharing a 25-km border with Bhutan, where the average altitude tops 5,300 metres above sea level, the Puma Changthang township is in Nagartse county; it is renowned as the world's highest township."

The report explained: "Resettlement in new housing provided by the Government is part of its efforts to ensure the entire population lives comfortably in border areas... Project construction includes villagers' houses, party's committee offices, village clinics, water supply and roads" and, of course, these "multi-ethnic" villages will welcome Han Chinese.

Take another example. It was reported that Tibetans in Bayi village of Nyingchi City, north of Arunachal Pradesh, have come together and jointly "built a beautiful hometown as well as a better life." Incidentally,

places called Bayi (or 8-1 for August 1, the PLA anniversary) are usually under the Army's management.

The article said that by the end of 2016, 16 impoverished villagers were lifted out of poverty through pairing assistance (ie, with the support of a mainland province), through participation in the collective economy and self-employment: "Bayi Village improved farmers and herders' cultural living standards, supported the construction of a "cultural" square, a village library and also organised various cultural and sports activities such as Tibetan circle dance, tug of war, lifting stones or archery."

But at the same time, a review committee in Tsona county warned: "All townships and villages must come together to improve the village rules and regulations [of the party], standardise the daily behaviour of the villagers and strengthen the rural revitalisation strategy goals."

"Standardise the daily behaviour" is ominous. On the Indian side, everything moves slowly as usual. A welcome exception is the Sisseri River bridge in the Lower Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh, recently inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It will cut down travel time from Pasighat to Roing by about five hours. But the Government remains hesitant to see tourists in "restricted" areas. China does not have this problem.

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

“  
**WHILE TOURISM AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES REMAIN THE PILLARS OF THE SO-CALLED STABILISATION, DEFENCE IS ALSO VITAL FOR THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES — ONE OF CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S PET PROJECTS IS THE MILITARY CIVILIAN INTEGRATION (OR FUSION)**  
 ”

## SOUNDBITE

The BJP had promised to build the country but it is working to make India's best organisations hollow and sell them. Sad.



**Congress leader** —Priyanka Gandhi

We should use cinema to implant the thought of normalcy in people's mind, especially those who are not well-versed with the topic of homosexuality.



**Actor** —Zareen Khan

The terror-crime nexus is an existential global threat. In order to combat this menace, the international community must keep ahead of new trends and technologies



**Indian envoy** —Syed Akbaruddin

It was astonishing that my seating position in the Rajya Sabha was changed. This was done intentionally to humiliate me and my party's status in the House.



**Shiv Sena leader** — Sanjay Raut

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Welcoming change

Sir — This refers to the article, "What lies ahead for Sri Lankan Tamils?" (November 20) by Kalyani Shankar. It is an intriguing story as to how the newly-elected Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, former Defence Minister and brother of former President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa, led a brutal crackdown on Tamil Tiger separatists, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and cornered it during the Eelam War IV. This culminated in the elimination of LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran.

This is why Gotabaya came to be known as the "terminator" despite the fact that he carried the infamy of alleged staged killings of Tamil separatists as well as journalists in the civil war during his regime as the Defence Minister. The Lankan President's administrative strategy fructified at the end of the day and ended Sri Lanka's nearly 30-year civil war with the LTTE. His present election as the President is again a manifestation of his political sagacity.

The writer's plea about appre-

### Make JNU a success model

This refers to the editorial, "Student uprising" (November 20). It is a truth that in today's polarised times, we have to pay through the nose for subsidising comforts and facilities enjoyed by our politicians. Even poor people have to share this burden in the form of indirect taxes that constitute a major part of our tax regime. But in return, can't we expect subsidy in education for our own children? It was unfortunate that the Delhi Police used brutal force against a number of students from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), who participated in the protest march to Parliament, demanding a total rollback of the hostel fee hike. Students are of the view that two in five boarders cannot afford the hiked fees and as a result, this would hamper the aspirations of the young. This will further make education a commodity only for the rich and higher middle class people.

JNU's fee structure was designed in a way to provide low-cost, high quality education to all — cutting across caste, class and economic divisions — and, thus, make the country's education system a model of plurality. While it must be accepted that a reasonable fee hike is needed, it must also be ensured that the once highly-reputed university is not divested of its original pur-



pose. A country cannot prosper if the right of a large section of its population to education gets hijacked. Education is indeed the only way to break the vicious cycle of poverty. Now that a committee has been formed by the Centre to look into the impasse over fee hike, a noble way should be found to address the concerns of those students who are financially not able to pay their fees.

**Sujit De**  
Kolkata

hensions being harboured by the Tamil minorities in Lanka, who did not cast votes in Gotabaya's favour, carries weight.

But now, as President, Gotabaya must think differently, keeping in mind the holistic

development of the country and amelioration of one and all, irrespective of their political leanings, beliefs, faith, religion, regions, language or colour.

**Azhar A Khan**  
Rampur

### Television day

Sir — Though digital platforms have increased their presence in today's times, television is still the most important and the greatest

tool for entertainment. It was in December 1996 that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed November 21 as World Television Day. This day recognises the role and importance of television in our day-to-day lives. It has been at the core of the information revolution, driving reliable visuals, news and entertainment from across the globe at people's doorstep.

**Falguni Aswani**  
Ujjain

### Come to the rescue

Sir — It is unfortunate that a number of telecom giants have been registering eye-popping losses in the last quarter. This, coupled with intense competition and bitter disputes over policy compliance, has compelled them to raise tariffs. With no clarity over how they will pay their accumulated dues, the Government, which is examining this issue, must waive off penalties and interest against telcos.

**Suchitra**  
Via email

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## No bad soldiers, only bad bosses

If thousands of policemen take to the streets to express their displeasure, it simply amounts to complete failure of command



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA

Today, I am on cause of action, or lack of it, if any, pertaining to national interest. Not on prescribed judicial process or procedure, except to recall the universally accepted dictum: Justice is blind. Blind, because it cannot see and must never try to see colour, creed, caste, class, community, character, or distinguish/discriminate between either an erring cop or a roving counsel. Law punishes, after following due process thereof, the culprit. I am concerned over the nasty clash of November 2019 between policemen and counsels on the streets of Delhi, Capital of India's 1.3 billion people.

To start with, I don't belong to the Indian Police Service. Yet, I have had the rare privilege as junior "subaltern", to work directly with two legends of the Indian police, K Sankaran Nair in IX Asian Games 1982 and with RN Kao, for short stint, thereafter. Both of them were amazing and extraordinary professionals of superior, rare quality. Both were workaholics, who knew how to command and also demand in a stentorian manner, mission success. Both told a junior non-IPS officer like me at first sight: "There are no bad soldiers; there are only bad commanders." Their crisp advice: "Carry out the assigned task. I am with you always. In success or failure, don't worry." It was an unprecedented reassurance from two superiors in a span of two years. In retrospect, I see the success of my two commanders owing to their inherent ability to command, control, communicate with conviction, objectivity and fairness, and, yet with guts, to demand the impossible to turn defeat into victory; à la Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, General JN Chaudhuri and Lieutenant-General Zorawar Chand Bakshi. Not everyone, therefore, can command simply by wearing a commander's uniform. That's a harsh reality. Hence, recalling my 38-year-old experience, I froze seeing at least 7,000 police personnel taking to the streets, to express their grievances, defying their top brass, on live TV.

If thousands of subordinates of uniformed service take to the streets to express their displeasure and fury, it simply amounts to complete failure of command and the posting and deployment of the entire top brass of the force need a close re-look. It's time to transfer, re-train and reform. It reflects a complete disconnect between command and the corps. It's an abominable state of affairs for an aspiring superpower status-seeking State.

That the police rank and file is treated like doormats by all political hues is a reality too stark not to be noticed. One instance will suffice. On December 3, 2004, I was driving back to my office after attending the All India Revenue Sports Meet Zonal inauguration by Viren Shah, Governor West Bengal. At a traffic signal, there was a commotion owing to a brazen red light violation in the busy Dalhousie Square of Kolkata, adjacent to Writer's Building, the seat of the State Government. The traffic sergeant on duty showed exemplary promptness to flag down the errant cab driver and impose a fine. But the dutiful cop was pounced upon by the law-violating driver and five more cabbies. I just couldn't take the sight of the cop's bloodied face. I, as Commissioner Customs, went back and promptly wrote a demi-official letter to Kolkata Police Commissioner suggesting that the officer assaulted should be recognised at once and law violators be booked. A fortnight later in my office came three unknown visitors and one of them virtually fell at my feet to say thanks and broke down. I was dazed. It transpired that my letter to the Police Commissioner not only lifted the traffic sergeant's instant suspension "for gross dereliction of duty and rioting" but also brought him a reward and recognition. I felt happy that my letter gave justice to an honest professional in uniform.

I can go on. My four-decade-long diary has some real-life stories for the future. Nevertheless, the narrative would remain incomplete without one of the most macabre cases of murder of a 1971-batch West Bengal-cadre IPS officer Vinod Mehta that was masterminded, instigated, executed by the political class of this country. It was Sunday, March 18, 1984, a Holi holiday. Deputy Commissioner Port, Mehta was "on-call", along with two more Deputy Commissioners, with armed forces, in the vicinity to thwart anticipated trouble. Despite advance inputs, preparation and deployment, Mehta was lynched by a fanatic mob and none of his IPS colleagues came to his rescue. The Communist Chief Minister of West Bengal and his cohorts were busy scheming and manoeuvring the next move. Nothing happened in that murder case. No politician lost his chair. No criminal was punished. Only the words of my two legendary police bosses of yesteryears ricocheted and haunted me: "There are no bad soldiers; there are only bad commanders." The political bosses are commanders of India. They haunt me even today. Every day.

(The writer, alumnus of National Defence College, is the author of China in India)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

FIVE YEARS AGO THE CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI USED TO BE THE ONLY ONE COUGHING, BUT NOW THE WHOLE CITY AND HOUSE IS COUGHING.

—BJP LOK SABHA MP PARVESH VERMA



THIS SHOWS BJP'S INTELLECTUAL BANKRUPTCY. IF THEY THINK PERSONAL ATTACKS ON CM'S HEALTH WILL END POLLUTION, THEN DO SO DAY AND NIGHT.

—AAP SPOKESPERSON RAGHAV CHADHA

# Not a RECiPe for disaster

India's perennial inward focus emerges across trade discussions. This is counter-intuitive, since the country has benefitted greatly from globalisation and liberalised market access



MOHIT KALAWATIA RAGHAV PRIYADARSHI

At the recently-concluded Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that despite seven years of negotiations, his Government had decided not to join this plurilateral regional trade bloc that was launched by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders and six other countries during the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2012.

The objective of launching RCEP negotiations was to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN member States and its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners.

Announcing the country's decision to stay out, Modi said, "India stands for greater regional integration, as well as for freer trade and adherence to a rule-based international order. India has been pro-actively, constructively and meaningfully engaged in the RCEP negotiations since inception. India has worked for the cherished objective of striking a balance, in the spirit of give and take. Today, when we look around we see during seven years of RCEP negotiations, many things, including the global economic and trade scenarios, have changed. We cannot overlook these changes."

Modi's decision came in the backdrop of intense domestic pressure from various stakeholders, including political parties, State Governments and various industry lobbies. Indian decision-makers were persuaded to shun the free trade partnership due to shrill concerns that India would become a dumping ground for Chinese products, adversely impacting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and also cripple its dairy industry due to the presence of majors such as Australia and New Zealand in this trade grouping.

Interestingly, India's decision to withdraw from the RCEP came despite the Ministry of Commerce's High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) recommending that the country adopt an optimistic outlook towards RCEP. The HLAG, constituted under the chairmanship of Surjit Bhalla — Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council — comprised other high-ranking members such as Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and former Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher. The HLAG was tasked with recommending steps to boost the country's share in global merchandise and services trade, and formally came out with its recommendations only days before the Prime Minister announced India's withdrawal from RCEP. Since then, the Commerce Minister has clarified that India may still join the partnership if its concerns are addressed, though such an eventuality seems unlikely in the near future.

To an extent, India's decision to withdraw was also influenced by the perceived negative outcomes of earlier trade pacts it had entered into with Japan, Korea and the ASEAN. A central theme which emerges across trade discussions, of which India is a part, is the country's perennial inward focus. This stance is counter-intu-

“ TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS COHERENCE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NODAL BODY, ON THE LINES OF THE ERSTWHILE TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET. SUCH A BODY CAN ENABLE CONSULTATIVE DECISION-MAKING, EFFICIENT INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION AND BETTER DEFINITION OF THE COUNTRY'S TRADE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES ”



itive since India has benefitted greatly from globalisation and liberalised market access, evidenced not only in its services exports but also through import of primary and intermediate goods for domestic value-addition and re-export.

Further, the impending stalemate at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), precipitated by the US's efforts to render the WTO appellate body comatose, necessitates an exploration of other routes for trade enhancement. Bilateral and plurilateral trade arrangements such as the RCEP have thus emerged as a preferred alternative. Since the beginning of the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the WTO in 2001, the number of such arrangements in force globally has grown more than three-fold. During the same period, India inked trade agreements with the ASEAN, Japan, South Korea and Singapore. However, since 2011, India has not signed any further bilateral or plurilateral trade agreements, primarily due to a growing perception that opening up of trade borders has not served the country well.

Contrary to this perception, such agreements have contributed immensely towards trade creation. For instance, India currently has a trade surplus of \$2.5 billion with Singapore. Similarly, India's trade deficit with ASEAN vis-à-vis its total trade deficit witnessed a continuous decrease from 9.9 per cent in 2007 to 6.6 per cent in 2017; despite the fact that ASEAN's share in India's total trade has remained more or less constant. Meanwhile, India's deficit with China, a non-FTA partner country, increased from 18 per cent of the total trade deficit in 2007, to 40 per cent in 2017. Even within the aegis of the WTO, the concept of flexible multilat-

eralism has found several supporters. Flexible multilateralism allows WTO members to advance and conclude plurilateral agreements where full consensus is not yet possible. Examples of such plurilateral arrangements include the Information Technology Agreements (ITA-I and II) — while India is a signatory to ITA-I, it has refrained from adopting the second iteration. More recently, taking forward the approach of flexible multilateralism, 76 countries decided to initiate discussions on trade related aspects of electronic commerce. India has so far not joined the discussion, citing the erosion of policy space and the digital gap between member countries among other reasons, for not doing so.

Looking ahead, if India wants to achieve its target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, then considerable efforts and resources are required to push its exports. More importantly, the country will have to review its frozen approach towards bilateral and plurilateral arrangements. Indeed, along with other like-minded countries, the country should continue to ensure that the relevance of a multilateral trading system is maintained. However, it is also important that in light of changing global trade dynamics characterised by forward and backward linkages, it cannot afford to ignore preferential agreements, or even limited trade deals like the one it is currently exploring with the US.

Given India's political-economy compulsions, it is understandable that the country remains wary of entering into far-reaching trade agreements proposed by advanced jurisdictions. But India must nevertheless adopt an alternative strategy to advance its self-

interest. It is better to sit in the negotiating room and disagree than to leave the room altogether.

Going forward, the Indian leadership must resist the temptation of abstaining from decisions due to perceived costs in the short-run. To begin with, there is an urgent need to fix internal decision-making mechanisms. A more concerted and coordinated effort across Government departments in evaluating trade partnerships should be the way forward, instead of convening inter-ministerial discussions as a reactionary measure. Government departments should engage with the industry on a more frequent basis on issues of market access and to determine sub-sectoral competitiveness.

Further, the country's relative strengths and domestic industry participation in specific value chains should inform prioritisation of trade partner negotiations. At present, the Commerce Ministry reaches out to the industry for inputs only after the country has initiated trade discussions — this mechanism largely remains ineffective as it fails to solicit detailed and usable submissions within predefined timelines.

To ensure that there is coherence in the decision-making process, the Government should explore the establishment of a nodal body, on the lines of the erstwhile Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) of the Cabinet. Such a body can enable consultative decision-making, efficient inter-ministerial coordination and better definition of the country's trade priorities and strategies.

(Kalawatia and Priyadarshi work at Koan Advisory Group, New Delhi. The views expressed here are personal.)

# The creeping death that we must fight

All sources of NOx and NO<sub>2</sub>, be it transport, industries and power generation, should be tackled keeping in view the health emergency that the country faces today



KOTA SRIRAJ

At a time when air pollution levels are becoming a constant threat in India and across the world, we need to deal with two most damaging gases, nitrogen oxides (NOx) and nitrogen dioxides (NO<sub>2</sub>). NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> are produced from the reaction of nitrogen and oxygen gases in the air during combustion, especially at high temperatures. Hence, in areas with high vehicular traffic, especially large cities, the amount of NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere as air pollution can be significant.

NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> gases react to form smog and acid rain as well as being central to the formation of fine

particles (PM) and ground level ozone, both of which are associated with adverse health effects. Exposure to PM pollution and deadly ozone, even for a short duration, can worsen respiratory conditions and asthma and lead to emergency hospital admission, especially for those with pre-existing heart or lung disease and in the elderly and children.

India, too, is in the crosshairs of spiralling NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> levels. The *Air Pollution Global Cities Ranking Report* released by Greenpeace found that 15 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are located in India, highlighting the country's air pollution crisis.

The organisation analysed the satellite data generated using the methodology of Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI), which monitors vertically integrated amount of several atmospheric trace gases, including NOx and NO<sub>2</sub>. Based on the analysis of this satellite data, Greenpeace India put the culpability of rising NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> levels on transport and indus-



trial clusters which are creating India's worst nitrogen dioxide hotspots such as Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad, given the fact that these cities have high vehicular population and petrol/diesel consumption. According to the satellite data collected between February 2018 and May 2019, coal consumption and industrial clusters like Sonbhadra-Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Korba

in Chhattisgarh, Talcher in Odisha, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, Mundra in Gujarat and Durgapur in West Bengal were also found to be equally polluting when it comes to NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In January 2019, *Airpocalypse III*, another report by Greenpeace India, identified 139 cities where air pollution levels exceed national standards but were not included in the National Clean Air Programme

(NCAP) that was recently released by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The report states that even if we are optimistic and assume that air pollution across India can be reduced by 30 per cent by 2024, 153 cities will be left with pollution levels exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and only 12 cities will comply with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

To highlight the severity of the crisis, even after a 30 per cent reduction, PM10 levels in Delhi will still be about 168 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, almost three times the national standard of 60µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

India is already paying a price for the current nitrogen dioxide levels with increasing cases of asthma, lung damage, heart attacks and lung cancer. NO<sub>2</sub> also contributes to the formation of PM2.5, a dangerous air pollutant.

It is estimated that air pollution, ambient PM2.5, household and ozone air pollution collectively caused 3.4 million deaths worldwide

in 2017 and over 1.2 million in India. PM2.5 alone resulted in more than 6.7 lakh deaths in India in 2017.

The proliferation of NO<sub>2</sub> levels and the consequent increase in PM2.5 levels require urgent intervention and action from the Government. All sources of NO<sub>2</sub>, be it transport, industries and power generation, should be tackled keeping in view the health emergency India faces today.

Additionally, the emission standard deadlines for coal-based power plants and industries must be strictly adhered to, even as the industrial and electricity sectors' transition to cleaner alternatives for power generation must be speeded up.

In fact, according to a 2015 report by IIT-Kanpur, a 90 per cent reduction in NO<sub>2</sub> from power plants in a radius of 300km from Delhi can reduce nitrates by 45 per cent, which will effectively reduce PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations in Delhi and help us breathe better.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



## BRING OUR KIDS BACK FROM SYRIA

Those who joined IS should be punished. Their children should not. It shames the UK that IS' downfall, the closure of a vicious chapter which should have heralded progress, appears instead to have hardened attitudes in such a way as to place civilised values in doubt. It is one of the UK Government's first duties to protect blameless British children from harm. Those trapped in Syria must be repatriated without delay. (The Guardian editorial)

# Sebi needs to be more muscular: Tyagi

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday said the regulator has always adopted a prudent and discussion-based approach on all issues but it "perhaps needs to be more muscular" to build trust among whistleblowers to reach out to it.

The remarks come in the wake of a whistleblower approaching US watchdog SEC with a complaint against IT major Infosys instead of Sebi. Infosys is also listed in the US.

"Our approach has to be prudent, to have discussions with the market participants on each issue. I don't want to boast, but we will go through with consultative process on intermediaries, on market participants and we will follow the process as to what needs to be done," he said.

Speaking to reporters after Sebi's board meeting here, Tyagi also said that last year, there

contradicting the view that Sebi is very muscular.

"Why would anyone approach other regulator? I have no answer to that, but perhaps that is contradicting your view that Sebi is very muscular. Perhaps, Sebi needs to be more muscular to have the trust built in those people that they should in fact make a reference to Sebi," he noted.

Sebi is looking into the whistleblower complaint of alleged lapses at Infosys.

According to Tyagi, the regulator has taken a lot of steps to expedite cases.

"We have four members, 12 sanctioned posts of CGMs (Chief General Managers) as adjudicating officers and we take this quasi judicial work really seriously. There have been delays in the past, but if you see the disposals in the last one-and-half to two years, that has definitely improved from earlier years," he said.

## Sebi tightens disclosure norms on loan default for listed firms

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Tightening its disclosure norms for listed companies, markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday asked them to report full facts of any loan default within 24 hours for any failure of repayment of principle and interest amount beyond 30 days.

The move will ensure better disclosure and transparency, Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi told reporters after the board meeting.

"The board has decided that in case of any default in repayment of principle and interest on loans from banks or financial institutions which continues beyond 30 days from the pre-agreed payment date, listed entities shall promptly, but not later than 24 hours from the 30th day, disclose the fact of such default," Sebi said.

The decision has been taken to address the gaps in the availability of information with respect to defaults, the regulator said.

This would be applicable from January 1, 2020.

There have been several instances of huge loan defaults by corporates, including in cases like Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS). In many cases, the disclosure about loan default has been very late and share prices have fallen sharply.

"The objective of new default disclosure is to get more openness to help investors," Tyagi said.

Asked whether RBI agreed to the new norms, Tyagi said that a deputy governor of the central bank is on the board of Sebi and therefore they are also in agreement.

"One day default disclosure was not agreed to by the board. This scheme of 30 days is implementable," he said referring to an earlier proposal of making a loan default disclosure within a day of default.

Tyagi also said that the board had discussions on proxy advisory firms as well and will discuss more in the next meet.

### BUSINESS CORNER

**ARYABHATTA GANIT CHALLENGE FOR CLASS 8-10**

**New Delhi:** To promote mathematical competencies required to face the challenges of 21st Century, a joyful mathematics competency assessment — Aryabhata Ganit Challenge is being conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education for the students of classes VIII to X. The ability to reason logically and present arguments in creative and convincing ways is a skill that is becoming increasingly important in today's world. In mathematics, it is essential that students learn with proper reasoning and assumptions, they can arrive at results that they can fully trust to be true in a wide variety of real-life contexts. The Aryabhata test will mainly focus on the extent to which children are able to apply mathematics to their daily life and it is aiming to promote joyful learning of Mathematics.

**7 CANINES RETIRE FROM CISF**

**New Delhi:** CISF on Tuesday organised a ceremony to felicitate the seven (07) canines of CISF Unit DMRC Delhi, who retired after completing their successful tenure. After taking basic training of six (06) months at CISF Dog Breeding Training Centre at CISF 5th Reserve Battalion, Ghaziabad, these canines were detailed to perform various essential tasks of keeping DMRC safe and secure from multi-dimensional threats. It was the first time in the history of CISF Unit DMRC Delhi that a ceremony was organised on the retirement of canines to honour their dedication & devotion to duties.



**BRPL & ORACLE UTILITIES ORGANISES EVENT**

**New Delhi:** BRPL & Oracle Utilities organised an event recently to discuss the findings of an ambitious Behavioural Energy Efficiency pilot being undertaken in South and West Delhi. Among others, it was addressed by the DERC Chairman Hon'ble Justice S S Chauhan & eminent speakers from USTDA, Oracle Utilities & BSES. BRPL CEO Mr Amal Sinha also addressed the gathering.



**Gadkari directs NHA to ensure best technology for FASTag project**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday directed NHA to ensure deployment of best technology for success of FASTag project.

The directions were issued in course of review of the project by Road Transport, Highways and MSME Minister Gadkari. From December 1, toll payments will be made only via FASTag under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme, the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

FASTag is a radio-frequency identification tag, affixed on vehicle's windscreen, which enables automatic deduction of toll charges from prepaid account linked to it without stopping for cash transaction. The programme is being implemented pan-India to remove bottlenecks and ensure seamless movement of traffic.



**GAIL RATED AS THE TOP GAS-TRANSMISSION FIRM**

**New Delhi:** GAIL (India) Limited has been awarded as the top Indian company in the Gas — Transmission Sector at the Dun & Bradstreet Infra Awards 2019 held here. The award was presented by Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways General (Retd.) VK Singh to GAIL Director (Finance) AK Tiwari and Executive Director (O&M) SV Prasad. This is the second time that GAIL has received this award.



**GAIL HANDS OVER 7 TIPPERS TO CHANDIGARH CIVIC BODY**

**Chandigarh:** Supporting the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" campaign in the city, GAIL (India) Limited on Wednesday handed over seven tippers (dumpers) and 142 tri-cycle carts to the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation (CMC) in the presence of GAIL Independent Director Shri Sanjay Tandon. The vehicles were handed to Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, IAS, Special Commissioner, CMC at a ceremony here by GAIL Zonal Chief General Manager Shri Lalit Bhadd and Chief General Manager (CSR) Shri Anoop Gupta. GAIL provided support of ₹1.13 crore for the seven tippers (dumpers) while the financial support for the 142 tri-cycles was ₹35 lakhs.



**Electropreneur Park to nurture 10 budding entrepreneurs this year**

**New Delhi:** With an aim to promote ingenious manufacturing in electronics system development and maintenance, Electropreneur Park, an initiative of IT and Electronics Ministry is all set to nurture yet another 10 budding entrepreneurs in the sector. In this connection, proposals from ESDM start-ups for its pre-incubation, incubation and visual acceleration programs have been invited wherein a program will run for a period of one and a half year. **PNS**

## WhatsApp expresses 'regret' over Pegasus snooping row

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

WhatsApp has written to the Government expressing "regret" over the Pegasus snooping row, and has assured that it is taking all security measures to address concerns, top government sources said.

The sources, who requested not to be named, said the government has asked WhatsApp to reinforce its security wall, and that no more breaches at the messaging platform will be tolerated.

Last month, the Facebook-owned company had showed that Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using Pegasus spyware.

According to WhatsApp, the spyware was developed by Israel-based NSO Group and had been used to snoop on about 1,400 users globally, including 121 users from India.

Following the government's notice seeking more information on the attacks, WhatsApp had responded saying it had alerted the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in September that 121 Indian users had been targeted by Pegasus.

A WhatsApp spokesperson, in an e-mailed statement, said the company is deeply committed to protecting the privacy of its users in India "by providing industry-leading security for all messages and calls and by staying ahead of advanced threats to user security."

WhatsApp has over 400 million users in India.

"The government also plays a critical role here and we are committed to continuing to engage them in a timely manner on sensitive issues related to user privacy and security. We regret that we have not met the government's expectations for proactive engagement on these issues and will strive to do better," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson also noted that the company will work with the government to "address their appropriate concerns".

In response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Cybersecurity agency CERT-In has issued a notice to WhatsApp seeking details on targeting of mobile phones of Indian citizens by Israeli spyware Pegasus.



According to WhatsApp, the spyware was developed by Israel-based NSO Group and had been used to snoop on about 1,400 users globally, including 121 users from India

## WhatsApp vulnerability: CERT-In issues advisory

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Indian cyber security agency has warned WhatsApp users against a "vulnerability" that can compromise their individual account without seeking permissions even as the popular social messaging app said users have not been impacted.

The Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In) has issued an advisory in this context calling the severity of the threat, being spread by an MP4 file, as "high".

The advisory comes in the backdrop of recent developments where WhatsApp had informed the Indian government in September that over hundred Indian users were targeted by the Israeli spyware -- Pegasus.

"A vulnerability has been reported in WhatsApp which could be exploited by a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on the target system," the latest advisory said.

The CERT-In is the nodal agency to combat hacking, phishing and to fortify security-related defences of the Indian internet domain.

A WhatsApp spokesperson said the company is constantly working to improve the security of their service.

"We make public reports on potential issues we have fixed consistent with industry best practices. In this instance there is no reason to believe users were impacted," the spokesperson said.

The Indian cyber security agency's advisory suggested "upgrading" to the latest version of WhatsApp to combat or tide over the problem.

## Ahead of bankruptcy process, RBI puts DHFL under administrator

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday superseded the board of the troubled Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) due to governance concerns and defaults on various debt instruments.

The central bank has also appointed R Subramaniakumar, the ex-managing director of Indian Overseas Bank as the administrator of the third largest pureplay mortgage lender.

The announcement comes after the government last week empowered the RBI to refer stressed NBFCs and HFCs having assets worth of at least Rs 500 crore to insolvency court.

"The Reserve Bank has today superseded the board of DHFL owing to governance concerns and defaults by DHFL in meeting various payment obligations," RBI said in a statement.

It further said shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the bankruptcy code, 2019 and would also apply to the NCLT for appointing the administrator as the resolution professional.

## Stalled housing projects worth \$66 bn faces bankruptcy proceedings

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Owing to the financial crisis and the slowdown in the real estate sector, residential projects worth around \$66 billion are facing bankruptcy proceedings, a recent survey said.

According to property consultant JLL, nearly 4.54 lakh units running behind their completion dates due to various reasons.

"In the current scenario, it is the residential real estate segment that presents the maximum amount of stressed assets. India's residential sector has been reeling under the pressure of delayed/stalled projects with 4.54 lakh units running behind their completion dates," the agency said.

Some of them are already under bankruptcy proceedings and the value of these projects is estimated to be \$66 billion, JLL said.

As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, a total of 115 insolvency cases have been filed as of September 2019 under real estate category. Of these 87 cases are under process while 28 are closed.

## Telcos have to pay ₹1.47L cr in past dues, says Prasad

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and other telecom companies owe the government as much as ₹1.47 lakh crore in past statutory dues, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told Parliament on Wednesday adding that there is no proposal at present to waive interest and penalties on such dues.

In replies to separate questions in the Lok Sabha, Prasad said telecom companies owe the government ₹92,642 crore in unpaid licence fee, and another ₹55,054 crore in outstanding spectrum usage charges.

These liabilities arose after the Supreme Court last month held that non-telecom revenues have to be considered for calculating statutory dues.

To a question on penalty imposed on telecom companies, Prasad said the outstanding SUC (spectrum usage charges) dues of various telecom service providers as on October 31, 2019, added to ₹55,054 crore.

"This amount is subject to be revised once the AGR (adjusted gross revenue) figures are finalised and assessments are done accordingly," the minister said.

The government has directed the licensees to make the payments in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court dated October 24, 2019, and submit requisite documents within the stipulated timeframe.

In another written reply, the minister said the provisional outstanding of the telecom service providers on account of licence fee stood at a cumulative ₹92,642 crore as on July 2019, and added that the amounts are provisional and subject to revision in light of the Supreme Court ruling on AGR matter on October 24, 2019. A Committee of Secretaries chaired by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has held meetings regarding the issues related to telecom sector, the minister said.

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that one unknown person was found dead on Footpath Ring Road Near Paramanand Hospital, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on Dated 11.11.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 13-A Dated 11.11.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unknown **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown **Age:** 70 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Wearing:** Gerau (Light Pink) Colour Kurta & White Colour Pajama & Bare Footed. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-23967889**  
**8750870123**

**DP/637/N/19**



## Satya Nadella tops Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list

**PTI ■ NEW YORK**

Microsoft's India-born Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list, an annual compilation that also includes Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga and Arista head Jayshree Ullal.

Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions".

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Aman S/o Sh. Jamaluddin R/o Village Niv Karori, PS Mohamadabad, District-Farukhabad, UP**. Age: 16 yrs, Height: 5'4", wheatish Complexion, long face. For identification mark "A Tabij in Neck and A cut mark on his nose" is missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Kalyanpluri, Delhi on 26.06.2019.

In this regard a **FIR No. 464/19 U/s 363 IPC dated: 03.10.2019** has been registered at **PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi**. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following.

**E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in** **S.H.O.,**  
**Fax: 011-24368639** **P.S., Kalyanpuri, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638** **Ph.: 011-22772251, 22772287**  
**011-24368641** **Ph.: 011-22772251, 22772287**  
**DP/7118/ED/19**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Black Color T-Shirt, Black Colour Legging, he was found MRD building, S J Hospital, New Delhi on 04.11.2019 at 19.13 pm.

In this regard a **DD No. 39A, dated 04.11.2019** has been lodged at **S.J. Enclave, New Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

**SHO**  
**P.S. SJ Enclave New Delhi**  
**DP/7155/SW/19** **Ph.: 011-24106346, 8750870834**



## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** 25-30 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'3", **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Round, was wearing Blue underwear, was found dead in the jurisdiction of **P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** at 06.00 Hrs. In this regard a **FIR No. 566/19, dated 08.11.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi**. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi**  
**DP/9535/NW/19** **Ph.: 011-27495198, 8750870227**



## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **Address:** Unknown was found dead on footpath, SPM Marg in front of RLY. Colony More Sarai, Delhi on 11.11.2019. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 28-A dated 11.11.2019** at **P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** 60 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** White baniyan and checkdhar Colour Lungi. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Katwali, Delhi**  
**DP/640/N/19** **Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121**



# Sensex perches near all-time high, Nifty ends just shy of 12k-mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex darted up 182 points to close just shy of its lifetime high on Wednesday, propelled by index heavyweight Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank.

After scaling a new intraday record of 40,816.38, the 30-share index ended 181.94 points, or 0.45 per cent, higher at 40,651.64. It is just 2 points shy of its all-time closing high, hit on November 7, 2019.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty closed just below the crucial 12,000-mark, advancing 59 points, or 0.49 per cent, to end at 11,999.10.

Reliance Industries led the gains on the Sensex in value terms, settling 2.47 per cent higher after touching its lifetime high of ₹1,571.85 (intraday). The shares have gained after the company's telecom arm, Reliance Jio, announced it will increase mobile phone call and data charges in the next few weeks, following similar announcements by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

Among other gainers, Sun Pharma rallied 5.73 per cent, IndusInd Bank 5.50 per cent and Yes Bank jumped 2.65 per cent.

L&T, Maruti, Tech Mahindra, ITC and PowerGrid

# RIL m-cap inches closer to ₹10 lakh crore-mark

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market valuation of Reliance Industries, the country's most valued firm, is fast nearing the ₹10 lakh crore mark helped by continuous rise in its share price.

At the close of trade on Wednesday, the company's stock rose 2.47 per cent to ₹1,547.05 on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 4.10 per cent to ₹1,571.85 — its record high. On the NSE, it climbed 2.56 per cent to close at ₹1,548.50.

The rally in the company's scrip helped its market valuation or market capitalisation (m-cap) rise to ₹9,80,699.59 crore. During the day, it zoomed to ₹9,96,415 crore. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio on Tuesday said it would increase mobile phone call and data charges in the next few weeks in compliance with rules, as it followed similar announcements by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea on tariff hike.

On the other hand, Kotak Mahindra Bank dropped 1.49

In terms of traded volume, 11.40 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 1.98 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Tuesday achieved another milestone, becoming the first Indian firm to hit m-cap of ₹9.5 lakh crore.

Last month, RIL hit the ₹9 lakh crore m-cap mark in intra-day trade, first by any listed company.

In August 2018, it became the first Indian firm to cross the ₹8 lakh crore m-cap mark. So far this year, RIL's share price has jumped over 37 per cent.

TCS is the country's second most valued firm with a market valuation of ₹7,91,002.70 crore followed by HDFC Bank with m-cap of ₹6,98,227.03 crore, Hindustan Unilever (₹4,38,796.58 crore) and HDFC (₹3,79,950.64 crore).

The m-cap figures of companies change daily with stock price movement.

per cent, HDFC fell 0.87 per cent and Tata Steel slipped 0.83 per cent. HUL, SBI and Bharti

# 'India offers huge biz opportunities for Central, Eastern European cos'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday said it has assigned a 'Baa1' rating to the proposed senior unsecured notes to be issued by Oil and Natural Gas Corp under its USD 2 billion medium-term note programme.

The outlook on the rating is negative, Moody's said in a statement.

"The notes' rating is in line with ONGC's Baa1 issuer rating, which is in turn primarily driven by its standalone credit profile as captured by the company's Baa1 Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA)," says Vikas Halan, a Moody's senior vice president.

The rating reflects ONGC's position as the largest integrated oil and gas company in India with significant reserves, production and crude distillation capacity as also its substantial operating cash flow generation capacity. It also factors the firm's solid credit metrics that have improved but remain constrained by volatile — although range-bound — oil prices and high shareholder returns.

At the same time, Moody's expected that ONGC will not be asked to share fuel subsidies, as long as oil prices stay below USD 70 per barrel.

"ONGC's issuer rating also

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"ONGC's issuer rating also

incorporates the company's high likelihood of extraordinary support from and very high dependence on the Government of India, in times of need. However, this assumption of government support has not resulted in any rating uplift, as the sovereign's rating is below ONGC's BCA," it said.

Given ONGC's strong credit metrics and status as a government-owned company, it enjoys strong access to debt capital markets and has substantial financial flexibility through equity stakes in Indian Oil Corp and GAIL India, which together were valued at about ₹21,000 crore as on November 14, 2019.

Moody's ratings for ONGC are based on the full consolidation of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) which includes the full consolidation of HPCL's 49 per cent-owned joint venture, HPCL-Mittal Energy.

The government owns 62.98 per cent of ONGC's equity and has the ability to appoint all of its board of directors.

"The negative outlook on ONGC is in line with the negative outlook on the Government of India's rating and reflects Moody's view that ONGC's ratings will be downgraded if India's sovereign rating is downgraded to Baa3 from Baa2," Moody's said.

# Swiggy to expand cloud kitchens to 12 new cities by March 2020

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food ordering platform Swiggy on Wednesday said it has set up over 1,000 cloud kitchens for its restaurant partners and plans to have more such facilities in 12 new cities by March next year.

In a span of just two years, the company has invested in over a million square feet of real estate space across 14 cities to help large, medium and small restaurant partners expand to more locations both within their city and across new cities through cloud kitchens, Swiggy said in a statement.

"Swiggy has always maintained that cloud kitchens will be the future of food delivery. Very soon, India will have the second-highest number of cloud kitchens in the world, only next to China," Swiggy New Supply CEO Vishal Bhatia said.

The milestone of Swiggy successfully creating over 1,000 partner kitchens shows the faith the restaurant partners have in the concept and bolsters company's pioneering efforts in enabling more success stories in the restaurant ecosystem, he added.

In a cloud kitchen concept, operators prepare, package and deliver food without providing any dine-in facility to end-consumers.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	12004.75	12038.60	11966.05	11999.10	59.00
ZEE	290.00	310.00	282.65	309.05	23.20
SUNPHARMA	427.20	460.60	423.85	448.50	22.60
INDUSINDBK	1402.20	1478.75	1402.00	1461.20	68.45
BPCL	528.90	548.00	522.05	544.00	25.05
DRREDDY	2746.35	2863.95	2745.00	2828.00	85.00
YESBANK	62.10	66.45	62.00	65.90	1.75
RELIANCE	1555.05	1572.40	1543.20	1548.50	38.75
CIPLA	472.00	483.70	468.00	486.65	8.55
COALINDIA	199.20	204.00	199.45	203.10	3.50
LT	1372.00	1393.35	1365.35	1381.10	13.55
TECHM	764.90	773.00	755.95	771.40	8.25
MARUTI	7120.00	7218.00	7040.00	7120.00	74.55
ADANIPOWER	364.50	377.10	364.00	366.70	2.65
NESTLEIND	14117.00	14289.00	13982.50	14202.30	85.20
ITC	249.30	251.30	246.70	250.70	1.40
POWERGRID	195.95	197.15	194.00	195.15	0.70
UPL	552.90	556.50	546.40	552.90	1.65
ICICIBANK	495.20	498.00	492.50	494.85	1.35
GRASIM	791.00	801.00	781.00	788.05	1.90
HDFCBANK	1273.00	1282.95	1267.00	1275.00	3.10
ONGC	132.85	135.25	132.25	133.05	0.25
JSWSTEEL	247.70	252.30	245.95	248.25	0.35
BAJAJ-AUTO	3145.55	3168.90	3130.50	3165.00	3.95
ASIANPAINT	1729.90	1748.85	1715.45	1723.00	1.65
ULTRACEMCO	4098.00	4130.00	4075.00	4104.00	3.85
AXISBANK	748.00	753.85	741.25	748.40	0.60
HEROMOTOCO	2478.00	2485.00	2436.30	2470.00	1.05
INFY	712.80	715.00	707.00	713.00	0.15
TCS	2121.95	2135.00	2094.50	2108.15	-0.65
M&M	562.25	568.45	557.50	561.05	-0.50
BAJFINANCE	4140.00	4182.00	4127.40	4130.40	-5.35
HCLTECH	1135.00	1137.70	1125.50	1132.20	-2.45
NTPC	117.30	117.60	116.05	117.05	-0.30
TATAMOTORS	167.75	170.20	166.20	167.30	-0.45
BRITANNIA	3120.00	3135.00	3060.00	3110.00	-10.35
TTAN	146.00	147.50	145.40	145.10	-1.10
BHARTIARTL	448.30	452.95	433.00	437.40	-1.95
VEDL	141.35	143.80	140.40	141.05	-0.65
WIPRO	251.75	251.75	248.40	248.95	-1.45
HINDUNILVR	2044.00	2052.85	2017.05	2026.00	-11.75
HDFC	2215.00	2221.00	2193.75	2196.00	-16.10
SBIN	332.00	332.50	325.10	327.80	-2.60
GAIL	125.20	125.35	123.80	124.10	-1.00
HINDALCO	193.00	195.85	190.20	190.80	-1.55
BAJAJFINSV	913.00	918.00	906.00	907.45	-78.25
TATASTEEL	401.00	408.30	397.20	398.20	-3.55
EICHERMOT	21747.00	21747.00	21395.00	21485.00	-262.35
KOTAKBANK	1623.00	1623.00	1596.20	1601.15	-12.65
IOC	133.70	134.25	129.80	131.00	-2.00
INFRADEL	257.10	260.30	237.50	242.60	-7.95

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28178.70	28349.65	28166.65	28245.95	174.05
IDEA	6.65	8.15	6.65	7.15	1.10
LUPIN	752.20	781.00	749.10	779.90	30.20
DABUR	458.00	470.90	455.50	470.00	16.30
AUROPHARMA	432.00	449.00	432.00	445.90	14.70
PIDILITIND	1300.10	1333.00	1300.10	1332.95	34.80
CADILAH	243.50	251.95	241.50	249.65	5.95
CONCOR	580.00	584.60	571.60	579.90	11.75
HINDPETRO	296.00	302.50	293.30	295.95	5.75
NMDC	100.60	104.25	100.50	101.90	1.85
SHREECEM	20003.40	20080.00	20003.40	20336.10	329.30
PETRONET	272.50	276.05	272.25	276.00	4.00
ASHOKLEY	81.80	84.70	81.00	83.15	1.15
DIVISLAB	1732.00	1797.80	1726.65	1756.60	23.90
BIOCON	258.85	265.25	255.50	262.00	3.45
GODREJCP	701.00	720.85	691.80	712.20	8.90
HDFCAMC	3618.00	3653.35	3575.00	3625.00	41.00
NHPC	23.50	23.65	23.30	23.55	0.20
HAVELLS	666.00	675.60	660.45	671.10	5.35
ICICI	1348.70	1370.00	1335.60	1350.50	10.25
HDFCLIFE	572.00	579.50	568.50	574.55	3.85
BOSCHLTD	15015.00	15395.05	14882.00	15055.20	82.45
PEL	1769.00	1822.30	1768.00	1771.00	9.65
MCDOWELL-N	610.00	619.00	608.30	612.50	2.85
SBILIFE	940.00	948.70	936.10	938.65	2.10
OFSS	3050.00	3098.00	3033.50	3060.00	3.60
AMBUJACEM	201.65	203.00	201.00	201.60	0.20
INDIGO	1440.00	1449.60	1417.50	1426.80	1.05
BERGPAINT	486.15	491.35	483.00	484.95	-0.10
URL	1236.00	1236.00	1230.00	1230.00	-0.65
SKTRANSFIN	1130.00	1138.45	1121.00	1125.10	-1.00
COLPAL	1531.00	1552.35	1523.05	1533.00	-2.35
PACIND	2906.00	2930.00	2887.95	2908.00	-49.65
ICICIRULI	306.40	310.65	305.15	303.30	-1.80
ACC	1497.00	1504.55	1481.00	1484.00	-7.15
PGH	1100.00	1125.00	1080.00	1080.00	-59.30
BANKBARODA	100.00	101.35	99.80	98.45	-0.55
MARICO	358.00	361.30	355.00	355.00	-2.25
PPC	118.90	119.90	117.40	117.65	-0.80
PNB	64.50	65.25	63.40	63.70	-0.45
HINDZINC	215.70	216.95	213.00	213.90	-1.80
BAJAJHLING	3757.00	3757.00	3692.00	3696.00	-34.40
L&T	1040.00	1044.45	985.50	989.90	-0.95
DMARK	1841.00	1868.00	1816.85	1819.10	-22.55
DLF	215.10	218.70	211.35	212.05	-2.90
MOTHERSUMI	133.75	134.95	131.80	132.20	-1.95
SIEMENS	1570.00	1597.95	1506.00	1543.20	-35.80
BANDHANBNK	537.00	543.50	505.65	523.55	-12.70
INDUSINDBK	2140.00	2160.00	2066.00	207.50	-5.20
GIDRE	255.50	258.50	246.00	246.90	-9.30
NIACL	154.30	154.50	147.55	147.70	-6.10

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	SPARC	153.50	164.15	153.10	158.55
RELIANCE	1552.55	1571.85	1543.55	1547.05	TATAGLOBAL	308.90	308.90	301.15	306.40
IDEA	6.62	7.93	6.62	7.07	IDFCFIRSTB	42.95	43.75	42.55	43.25
YESBANK	62.20	66.40	62.00	65.85	EICHERMOT	21700.00	21700.00	21394.65	21480.05
BHARTIARTL	446.95	452.95	437.25	437.25	ONGC	133.00	135.30	132.40	133.65
LUPIN	1368.80	1393.00	1366.00	1380.65	TATAMTRDVR	77.85	78.70	76.40	76.85
SUNPHARMA	426.90	460.60	420.00	450.20	MOTHERSUMI	134.10	134.90	131.85	132.30

**GLOBE TROTTER**

**TOMATO PRICE HITS ₹400 PER KILO MARK IN PAKISTAN**  
**Karachi:** The price of tomatoes hit a record high in Pakistan on Tuesday and reached ₹400 per kilogram from ₹300-₹320 per kg on Monday, as the Iranian tomatoes didn't reach the market.

**EX-UK CONSULATE WORKER 'TORTURED' IN CHINA**  
**London/Beijing:** A former employee of the UK's Hong Kong consulate has said that he was tortured in China after being detained during his trip to that country earlier this year.

**AILING SHARIF CONSULTS MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN UK**  
**London/Islamabad:** Pakistan's ailing former PM Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday consulted specialists at the Harley Street after he arrived in London in an air ambulance to seek better medical treatment for diseases.

**JEVISH GROUP CONDEMNS NAZI AUCTION IN GERMANY**  
**Berlin:** A Jewish group has sharply condemned an auction of Nazi memorabilia in Germany that includes Adolf Hitler's top hat, a silver-plated edition of his book "Mein Kampf" and a cocktail dress owned by his long-time girlfriend Eva Braun.

**NASA: WATER VAPOUR ON JUPITER'S MOON EUROPA**  
**Washington:** Scientists at NASA have detected water vapour for the first time above the surface of Europa, a finding that supports the idea of a liquid water ocean sloshing beneath the miles-thick ice shell of the Jupiter's moon.

**ARRESTS ORDERED IN PHILIPPINES VAPING BAN**  
**Manila:** Just hours after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced he would ban e-cigarette use, police were ordered on Wednesday to begin arresting people caught vaping in public and to confiscate the devices.

**SEIZED VESSELS RELEASED BY YEMEN REBELS: S KOREA**  
**Cairo:** Iran-backed rebels fighting in Yemen released three foreign vessels on Wednesday that they seized south of the Red Sea, freeing 16 crew members, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said. The vessels — two belonging to South Korea and one to Saudi Arabia — had been captured by Houthi rebels on their way to the Saudi port of Jizan. Two South Korean nationals were among those set free, the ministry said. The Houthis said they had detained the vessels for entering Yemeni waters earlier this week and routed them to the Red Sea.

# SL Prez names brother Mahinda as PM

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday named his elder brother and former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa as the new prime minister after incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe announced his resignation from the post following the election debacle.

Mahinda, the current main opposition leader, will assume duties soon after incumbent Wickremesinghe steps down formally on Thursday, AFP reported.

Mahinda was appointed the Prime Minister on October 26, 2018 by the then President Maithripala Sirisena, who sacked Wickremesinghe in a controversial move that plunged the country into an unprecedented constitutional crisis. He resigned in December as two crucial Supreme Court decisions made the former strongman's efforts to cling to



premiership untenable. The apex court later unanimously declared that the dissolution of Parliament by Sirisena was "illegal". Mahinda won power in 2005 and went on to become South Asia's longest-serving leader. He became the country's youngest ever parliamentarian in 1970 at the age of 24. The two brothers led a decisive campaign that helped end the island nation's three decade long civil war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe announced his resignation, days

after the ruling party's candidate lost the presidential election to Rajapaksa.

Rajapaksa defeated Wickremesinghe's deputy Sajith Premadasa.

In a special statement in Sinhala language, the Prime Minister said that he had met President Rajapaksa on Tuesday and discussed the future of Sri Lanka's Parliament, Colombo Gazette newspaper reported.

He said that while his Government still has the majority in Parliament it was decided to respect the mandate given to Rajapaksa at the Presidential election and step down.

"I will step down to allow the new president to establish a new government. I will officially inform him of my decision tomorrow," Wickremesinghe said.

He has been the leader of the United National Party (UNP) since 1994 and served as Sri Lanka's prime minister for

a total of three terms.

He was under pressure to quit and handover the government to the opposite camp after Rajapaksa won the presidential election on Saturday.

The UNP leader faced a revolt since Premadasa's defeat, a regular occurrence during the last 25 years whenever the UNP lost a major election.

Harin Fernando, a minister from the party's younger brigade, told reporters that they want Wickremesinghe to quit the party leadership and name Premadasa his successor for both the party leadership and the post of the main opposition leader.

"We will form our own party if he did not make the necessary changes this time," Fernando told reporters.

There will be a caretaker cabinet of 15 members to run the government until Rajapaksa will be constitutionally able to dissolve parliament after February 2020.



Police officers watch as workers clear the road in front of the Polytechnic University in Hong Kong on Wednesday. AP

## US Senate in unanimous support for HK protesters

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Senate unanimously adopted legislation on Tuesday supporting "human rights and democracy" in Hong Kong and threatening to revoke its special status granted by Washington, signalling anger with Beijing about a crackdown on protests in the Chinese territory.

The lawmakers also approved a measure that would ban the sale of tear gas, rubber bullets and other equipment that has been used by security forces to suppress the protests that have rocked Hong Kong for months.

China had expressed its "strong indignation" last month when the US House of Representatives passed a similar measure.

The chambers will now seek to reconcile the two bills into a single measure to pass Congress and go to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature.

"Today, the United States Senate sent a clear message to Hong Kongers fighting for their long-cherished freedoms: we hear you, we continue to stand with you, and we will not stand idly by as Beijing undermines your autonomy," Republican Senator Marco Rubio said on the Senate floor.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's top

Democrat, Robert Menendez, added that the legislation "makes it clear that the US will stand firmly and unambiguously with the legitimate aspirations of the people of Hong Kong."

## Beijing warns US diplomat of 'strong measures' over HK rights Bill

Beijing: China's foreign ministry on Wednesday summoned a top US diplomat over the Senate's passing of a Hong Kong rights Bill, warning of "strong" countermeasures against the United States should the legislation be signed into law.

Vice foreign minister Ma Zhaoxun called in acting charge d'affaires William Klein to lodge a "strong protest", the ministry said in a statement.

"We strongly urge the US side to immediately take effective measures to prevent this bill from becoming law" and stop meddling in China's internal affairs, the statement said.

"Otherwise, the Chinese side will take strong measures to resolutely counter it, and the US side must bear all the consequences," it said. AFP

## Sedition case filed against Sindh University students

Karachi: The Jamshoro police lodged a sedition case against some students of Sindh University, Jamshoro for allegedly chanting anti-Pakistan slogans and for being involved in wall chalking against the State, Pakistan media reported on Wednesday.

Two days ago there were reports that similar charges were laid against several other leaders, including the chairman of Sindh nationalist organisation Jeay Sindh Koumi Mahaj (Bashir Group), who has been booked for rebelling against the country and chanting anti-Pakistan slogans.

The case, registered against at least 17 students of the university, was lodged under Section 120-A (definition of criminal conspiracy),

120-B (punishment for criminal conspiracy), 123-A (condemnation of the creation of the state, and advocacy of abolition of its sovereignty), 124 (assaulting president, governor, etc. with intention to compel or restrain the exercise of any lawful power) and 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Inspector Ghulam Qadir Panhwar, the security head of the campus, The Dawn reported.

In his complaint, Panhwar said that on October 31 the hostel in-charge informed him that around 17 to 18 students of the Jeay Sindh group had raised slogans against Pakistan and the government of the country and had been involved in wall chalking outside the boys' hostel's main gate. IANS

## Impeachment sham debunked, says WH after public hearing

Washington: US President Donald Trump has claimed victory as the Democratic Party-controlled House of Representatives concluded its third public hearing on the impeachment proceedings against him for allegedly abusing his office for political gain in the run up to the 2020 presidential election.

The impeachment hearings are an effort by Democrats to establish whether Trump withheld US military aid to Ukraine to pressure the country's President Volodymyr Zelensky into announcing a corruption inquiry into Joe Biden, Trump's leading Democratic rival in the poll.

The Democrats are alleging that Trump's call with his Ukrainian counterpart was irregular and inappropriate

abuse of his office for political gain. "A great day for our Country! In the end we will win and save our Country from certain destruction," Trump tweeted soon after the House Select Committee on Intelligence concluded its third public impeachment hearings on Tuesday.

In the morning, Democratic lawmakers grilled Lt Col Alexander Vindman, a Ukraine specialist on the National Security Council (NSC), and Jennifer Williams, a top national security aide to Vice President Pence on Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky.

Later in the day, Kurt Volker, former special envoy to Kyiv, and Tim Morrison, another top NSC aide, testified before the powerful House Committee.

The White House called the impeachment process a sham.

"Today's second hearing is over, and the Democrats' central allegation in this impeachment sham has again been completely debunked," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said at the conclusion of the testimonies.

"Specifically, Ambassador Volker confirmed under oath that he had no indication whatsoever of anything that resembled a quid-pro-quo, corroborating his previous deposition testimony that 'there was no linkage like that,'" she said.

Grisham urged the American public not to tolerate the pretence of the Democrats. "With the Democrats' polttested 'quid-pro-quo' and 'bribery' narratives in shambles, the American public should not be forced to endure this charade for one more second," Grisham said. PTI

## Republicans target military witness in Trump impeachment probe

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

A US Army officer and key impeachment witness saw his loyalty called into question by Republicans on Tuesday, as he testified that President Donald Trump made inappropriate demands on his Ukrainian counterpart for dirt on rival Democrats.

Straining to fight back on abuse-of-power allegations against Trump, Republicans in Congress took aim at Lieutenant Colonel Alexander

Vindman, a respected member of the White House National Security Council, suggesting the Kiev-born immigrant's allegiance is not to the United States and so his testimony is dubious.

Testifying in the second week of televised impeachment hearings, Vindman steadfastly defended his patriotism, saying he had reported alarming pressure by Trump for Ukraine to investigate potential 2020 rival Joe Biden "out of a sense of duty".

## 2,887 days: Abe becomes Japan's longest-serving premier

Tokyo: Shinzo Abe entered the history books as Japan's longest-serving premier on Wednesday, but many of his ambitious goals, including a constitutional revision to strengthen the military, appear far from reach.

Wednesday marks Abe's 2,887th day in office, topping the record previously set by Iaro Katsura, a revered politician who served three times between

1901 and 1913. The 65-year-old is also the second-longest-serving leader of the Group of Seven major economies behind only German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has been in office since 2005.

Abe's grip on power remains firm as he passes the landmark, with his tenure likely to last until at least September 2021 and no clear successor yet on the hori-

zon. But the premier has plenty of unfinished business, saying earlier this year after a cabinet reshuffle that he hoped to "take on the challenge to create a new country".

He has reiterated his long-cherished ambition of revising Japan's post-war constitution to change the status of the country's Self Defense Forces. AFP

## Statue of George HW Bush's service dog to go on display on December 6

PTI ■ HOUSTON

A life-size statue of former President George HW Bush's beloved service dog will go on display next month at the presidential library in College Station, Texas.

Sully, 3-year-old Labrador assisted Bush during the last six months of his life before the 41st US President passed

in November 2018 at age 94. The dog became famous after he was photographed next to Bush's casket last December.

The bronze statue of Sully was created by artist Susan Bahary and it will go on display on December 6 in George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas as part

of the memorial exhibit.

"On December 6, a bronze, life-size statue of Sully will be on display in the Fidelity corridor as a part of the memorial exhibit. Stop by and see the amazing work of Susan Bahary, provided by America's VetDogs. @AmericasVetDogs Bahary Studios," the museum tweeted.

**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 v/s ANKUSH PUNDER O.A.No. 552/2018 & I.A. No: 1059/19**  
 1. Description of Property: Make: TOYOTA INNOVA GX 7 SEATER  
 Reg No: UP16BN4019  
 Manuf Year: 2017  
 Reserve Price- Rs. 10, 00,000  
 EMD- Rs. 1, 00,000  
 2. Date and Time of Auction: Dec 06, 2019  
 3. Auction Venue: Ridhi Godara Yard, Kataria Chowk Sector 17, Sukhrali 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 participants 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 06, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Shankar Kapoor.

**BEFORE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
**4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001**  
 OA NO. 302/19 DATE: 24.09.2019  
**STATE BANK OF INDIA** APPLICANT  
**VERSUS**  
**SH. JAGDISH CHANDRA & ORS** RESPONDENT  
 To, DEFENDANT  
**M/S SARE SAAMAG REALITY PVT. LTD.**  
 B-67, SARITA VIHAR, NEW DELHI-76  
 ALSO AT: PLOT NO. 46, UDYOG VIHAR PHASE-IV, GURGAON-122015  
 Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 42,26,375/- (RUPEES FORTY TWO LAKH TWENTY SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE ONLY)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **22.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M.**  
 Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.  
 BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL  
 SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**  
**Kolkata's Pride**  
**UP-KEEPING & CLEANING OF COACHES, SHEDS, OFFICES**  
**Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RS/NOA, Dum Dum Car Depot Complex, Metro Railway, Kolkata-700090** for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tender through e-tendering for the following work: **Name of work:** Up-keeping & cleaning of Coaches, Sheds, offices and attached premises at Tollygunge Carshed, Noapara Carshed & Kavi Subhash carshed and CC Office, M/Man rest room & RS maintenance staff room at Kavi Subhash and Dum Dum station for the period of two years. **Tender value:** ₹ 1,31,65,145.09/- **Earnest money:** ₹ 2,15,800/- **Date and Time of closing:** Up to 15.00 hours (IST) of 23.12.2019. **Notice Board Address:** Office of the Dy.CEE/RS/NOA, at above address. **Website particulars:** <https://www.ireps.gov.in>  
**Tender No.:** MR-EL-RS-NOA-OT-19-20-01  
**FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 The Sr.Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work. **1. Name of work:** Provision of "Divyang friendly Toilets" along with septic tank and soakpit at 8 Nos (NSG-5 & NSG-6) railway stations in the jurisdiction of SR/DEN-III/NDLS. **2. Approx cost of work:** Rs. 14,70,151.42 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Thousand One Hundred Fifty one and Paise Forty Two only) **3. Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 29,400/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only) **4. Cost of tender document:** Rs. 3000/- **5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender:** 13.12.2019 @ 15.00 Hrs. **6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. **No.No. 128-W/280/eTender Notice/NIT/39/2019-20/W-3**  
**Dated: 20.11.2019.** 3706/19  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## Three dead as Bolivian military lifts fuel blockade

La Paz: Three protesters were killed and 30 wounded in clashes on Tuesday with Bolivian security forces lifting an opposition blockade of fuel supplies to La Paz, the public ombudsman's office reported.

Troops and police had moved to lift the siege on a fuel plant in El Alto by supporters of ex-president Evo Morales that has caused acute shortages in nearby La Paz.

A spokesman for the ombudsman's office said two of the dead had been hit by gunfire, including a 31-year-old man.

"We are asking the authorities for an investigation," the spokesman told AFP, adding that 30 people had been wounded, all of them supporters of Morales.

The army said in a statement that "agitators and vandals" had attacked and partially destroyed the Senkata fuel plant in El Alto, "using high-powered explosives."

The deaths bring to 27 the number of people killed since unrest began in the wake of October 20 elections, according to a tally by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. A convoy of around 50 fuel tankers was able to leave the Senkata plant for the first time in more than a week after police and military forces using armoured vehicles secured the route to neighbouring La Paz. AFP



An Army helicopter flies over the road leading to the State-owned Senkata filling gas plant in El Alto, on the outskirts of La Paz, Bolivia, as supporters of former President Evo Morales set up barricades on Tuesday. AP

## 'Wide-scale' Israeli strikes kill 11 fighters in Syria: Monitor

Jerusalem: The Israeli Army carried out a "wide-scale" attack against Iranian forces and Syrian Army targets in Syria on Wednesday, killing at least 11 fighters, the Israeli Army and a monitoring group said.

In a rare confirmation of their operations in Syria, the Israeli Army said they carried out strikes against the Iranian elite Quds Force and the Syrian military, in response to four rockets fired at Israel a day before. At least eleven "fighters" were killed in the strikes, said Britain-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Seven were foreigners, its head Rami Abdel Rahman said,

though he could not confirm whether they were all Iranian. Four civilians were also wounded, he added.

Iran has fought alongside Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces in the country's eight-year civil war, heightening Israeli concern over the presence of its arch foe along its border.

"Whoever hurts us, we will hurt him," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

"This is what we did overnight vis-a-vis military targets of the Iranian Quds Force and Syrian military targets in Syria after a barrage of rockets was launched at Israel." AFP

## Two US troops killed in helicopter crash in Afghan

AFP ■ KABUL

Two American service members have been killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, US forces there said on Wednesday, adding that the crash appeared to be an accident, though the Taliban claimed they had shot it down.

A statement from US Forces Afghanistan said the crash on Wednesday was being investigated, "however preliminary reports do not indicate it was caused by enemy fire". It did not reveal the crash location and said it was withholding the names of those killed until next of kin could be told.

## 25 Migrants found alive in refrigerated truck on Dutch-UK ferry

The Hague: A ferry crew found 25 migrants in a refrigerated container on a boat sailing from the Netherlands to Britain on Tuesday, emergency services said.

The cargo vessel bound for Felixstowe returned to the Dutch port of Vlaardingen, near Rotterdam, as soon as the stowaways were found, they said in a statement.

The people found in the container received medical attention at the port and two were taken to hospital for further treatment for possible hypothermia.

The discovery comes the month after 39 Vietnamese people were found dead in a refrigerated truck in Britain, again laying bare the risks of illegal migrant routes to Europe.

"On board a ship it turned out that several people were found in a cooling container. The ship returned to the harbour," said the Rotterdam region emergency services on Twitter.

"The 25 people were taken off the ship and given the medical care they need. Earlier the message came from the ship that no people died. Two people were transported to hospital for extra medical care.

Twenty-three people were transferred to a police location after a medical check-up," it said. AFP

Trend Blazer

Jawaani Jaaneman postponed

Jawaani Jaaneman, starring SAIF ALI KHAN and TABU, has been postponed. The film, which was earlier scheduled to release on November 29, will now hit the screens on February 7 next year.

"It's rightly said, age is just a number... Jawaani Jaaneman in cinemas on February 7, 2020," tweeted the film's co-producer Jackky Bhagnani on Wednesday.

In the film, Saif plays a 40 year-old father and Alaia is his teenage daughter, while Tabu portrays an important pivotal character. The romantic comedy is directed by Nitin Kakkar.



'After hearing the narration (of Hum Bhi Akele, Tum Bhi Akele), I realised how significant the story is. Though Section 377 has been decriminalised, society's generation is certainly not okay with the reality that homosexuals are as normal as all of us. It is just another sexual orientation and nothing more. Unless society is supportive, how will the youth live freely?' —Zareen Khan

Actress PREITY ZINTA is back in action and that too on the American show Fresh Off The Boat.



Preity, who will feature as a guest star in an upcoming episode, has already starting shooting for the show. Announcing her new project, she took to social media and wrote, "And so it begins... On location to shoot Fresh Off The Boat. Now that the first day of shoot is over and I'm still alive and not shaking with nervous energy... here is a photo... It's amazing how a change of scene can make you feel like a newcomer. Loving it all."

Kevin is happy to join work again

Actor-comedian KEVIN HART looked healthy and in good spirits as he took the stage to surprise the audience before the screening of Jumanji: The Next Level here, and said he was glad that he could recover from his horrific car accident earlier this year, and be part of the Jumanji journey.

Hart, who is still recovering from the crash that left him hospitalised in September, surprised all when he walked onto the stage with castmates including Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Awkwafina and film's director Jake Kasdan.

He said, "I have never been more excited to be a part of something and see something grow."



Recreating the sequel to an iconic film can be tough, especially when its song has become an anthem for empowering people. IDINA MENZEL talks about the power of *Let It Go*

POWER OF MUSIC

When Idina Menzel first started performing *Let It Go* live in concerts, she thought the lyrics and soaring vocals would empower all those young girls in the audience dressed up as Elsa.

Instead, Menzel said she often walked away from those performances feeling just as inspired.

"I feel an extreme sense of pride about it," said Menzel, the Tony Award-winning performer who voices Elsa, a fiercely independent queen with the magical ability to manipulate ice and snow. The song especially resonated with her because at the time she was juggling several shows on Broadway and going through a divorce while "trying to put one foot in front of the other."

"But you see a little girl in a blue dress in the second row," she said and continued, "That's when you realise the song and film represents them. It's giving them permission to take ownership of who they are, and everything that makes them unique and different. But it's a reciprocity. It's coming back to me exponentially because I need to hear it too."

Menzel believes *Frozen 2* has the capacity to empower young girls, boys and others of all ages in the same way. The new film comes six years after the original broke box office records for an animated film, amassing \$1.2 billion in worldwide ticket sales. It was bolstered by *Let It Go*, which won a Grammy and two Oscars.

Jennifer Lee, co-director and writer of both films, said she didn't anticipate the success of *Frozen*. Lee said a conversation with a stranger demonstrated the film's impact.

"I met a woman wearing a handmade 'Let It Go' necklace, but she didn't have any idea who I was," Lee said. "She was talking, and I observed. She embraced the movie for herself. She felt the music spoke to her. It seemed to empower her. That's our goal."

Menzel is unsure if the sequel can generate the same astronomical numbers as the original. But she is hopeful the story and music can resonate with viewers and further the themes of the original, including showing that female characters don't necessarily need their male counterpart to rescue them from distress.

"I think it'll move people," she said. "I think the film is powerful. I don't know what the success of the music will be outside the film. But I know how I felt when



I heard (the songs). I know how much I loved recording them and getting inside of them. I think people will learn from Elsa who is always overcoming her fear to take the next step and risk."

In *Frozen 2*, Elsa finally embraces her powers, but she finds herself haunted by an unsettling voice from afar that no one else can hear. She ends up going on a dangerous journey to seek answers with her sister Anna, played by Kristen Bell. Also joining them are Anna's boyfriend Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), his reindeer friend Sven and the bubbly snowman Olaf, voiced by Josh Gad.

Co-director Chris Buck said the sequel has moments of being "fun and humorous," but the story also delves deep into Elsa and Anna's emotions. He said the main characters are trying to find their meaning in life. The film expands on challenges facing Elsa's kingdom of Arendelle, with Sterling K Brown joining the cast as a military officer and Evan Rachel Wood voicing the sisters' mother.

"The first film is more like Act 1 of a musical where you're setting up the characters' wants and who they are," Buck said. "In this one, we can do Act 2. Usually, those songs go deeper and they're more emotional. You find out more. The struggles are harder. We had that sort of template. That helped us shape it."

Bell applauded the creative team for taking their time. "They didn't just try to

come up with the follow up for whatever monetary or marketing sake," the actress said. "You can see a follow up from anything and you know in your soul, in your gut whether or not you connect to it. Like 'Oh those are the same characters I loved but didn't connect to them.' They waited to find something that people would connect to."

Lee said the biggest breakthrough came when husband-and-wife songwriting team Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Bobby Lopez delivered the song *Into the Unknown*.

"That changed everything," Lee said. "It was the most active song. It's a song that says to Elsa 'You've got to act. You've got to have the guts to follow what your life could be.' You see the change in her from the beginning to the end of the song. It started the whole engine for the whole movie."

Anderson-Lopez agrees. She said the music and film should compel women to trust their instincts in times of conflict.

"We're continuing to say that women need to listen to their gut and follow their gut," said Anderson-Lopez, who won two Oscars with her husband for *Let It Go* and *Remember Me* from the film *Coco*.

"You are powerful in your own unique way by speaking truth and rising up from the floor," she continued. "When the worst thing happens to you really does happen, you learn to do the next right thing. You take one step then another step, then another and stumble blindly toward the light. One breath. One step at a time." —AP

Frozen challenge



*Frozen 2* co-directors Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee say creating a sequel of the 2013 blockbuster hit *Frozen* was very tough, as they wanted to explore new places and introduce new characters without losing the essence of the story.

Set in fantastical land of Arendelle, *Frozen* is a story of two sisters Elsa and Anna who are on a path of finding acceptance and love, while trying to save their kingdom infused with heart-touching music and emotions. Elsa is struggling to accept her magical icy powers and effervescent Anna is trying to find a bond with her sister.

*Frozen 2* brings back their story as they continue on the journey of finding their own self, by tracing their past and piecing it together with their present.

"Making the sequel was extremely challenging. We wanted to have our characters go to a different place and go outside of Arendelle. And we knew we wanted to have new characters to expand this world a bit," Buck said.

"The challenge is how to stay true to the characters and let them grow. We have a map going on in our head of all these things," he explained further.

*Frozen* won an Oscar for Best Animated Feature. It became the highest-grossing animated film before remake of *The Lion King* took that position in 2019. And with great success comes great responsibility.

"When *Frozen* came out, it wasn't just our movie but the movie of the world. That was exciting to us and but that comes with a lot of expectations for the sequel. But truthfully, we agreed that we would keep that pressure outside the room and build

*Frozen 2* the same way we built *Frozen*, which is really talking about character first and then plot and then having the songwriters get involved and let the songs come from the story," Buck noted.

To this, Lee added: "It was the exact same team who built 'Frozen' and we made a pact that we're going to build it exactly as we did the first one. The challenges were much greater in terms of where do you go from here. But you have the foundation of these characters. The characters were a little bit of us and we all knew them so well."

The second part of the Disney franchise promises to be more intense as it traces the past of Princesses Anna and Elsa, voiced by Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel in Hollywood version, respectively, and piece together their present. *Frozen 2* will release in India in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on November 22.

What's the message for children in the second part? "The thing I love about my characters is that they never give up, no matter how many challenges we throw at them. They're incredibly strong. I think that's a really powerful message for everyone, not just young people," Buck said.

Lee feels *Frozen* doesn't tackle good versus, but looks at fear and love. "The first one looks at that through being different and I think the second one looks at that with change. Change is one of the hardest things in life to cope with. The fear of change can make you not act on the thing that's most important to you. So, that's the rustle of love and fear," she said. —IANS

The gender wars

The divide between men and women is more of a recent creation rather than something that has been passed on down the ages, says SAKSHI SHARMA

Are men from Mars and women from Venus? Contemporary literature would have us believe this. But if you travel back in time, Hindu mythology is replete with examples of the sacred feminine, a force that is to be reckoned with while inhabiting a sphere which is exclusive and sacred.

Urdu literature too is peppered with women being celebrated in ways that had nothing to do with their beauty. Kaifi Azmi's *Aurat* written more than 75 years emphasised, "Uth meri jaan, mere saath hi chalna hai tujhe, qalb-e-mahoul mein larzaan sharar-e-jang hain aaj;" (Arise, my love, for now you must march with me, flames of war are ablaze in our world today). It, of course, has become a part of folklore that the then-unmarried Shaukat decided that she would only be the wife of the poet.

At the InKpot India Conclave's session on *Gender Inequality: Men Are From Mars and Women From... Subjugation?* author Neelima Adhar, recited Kaifi's lines, raising the question that why is there a need to fight for equality when there are such men who are sensitive towards women, and want them to walk beside them?

Neelima didn't agree to the idea of a conversation on this topic. She said, "I don't subscribe to this title that men are from Mars and women are either

from Venus or subjugated. I am not a feminist. I am a happy and proud woman." Neelima argued that there is nothing like being equal or subjugated. "Every gender has a different space. And everyone wants that space to be respected," added she.

Other panelists disagreed and pointed out that Indian women are subjugated and confined to their homes and child rearing. They are exploited sexually and men (even a lot of other women) often are misogynistic in their treatment. Though Neelima agreed to this but she questioned the point of the conflict? "You have a space, occupy that, we have a space we'll occupy that," said she.

Talking about the Hindu mythology, she said, "In ancient times, women were the power centres because they could procreate. They were powerful. They could have as many husbands as they liked and change partners." But she agrees to the fact that

somewhere down the line the Hindu ethos has changed.

Neelima pointed out that attempts are being made to empower women and make them aware of their rights. Even in the government departments there are think tanks and ministries whose job is to empower women. There's rapid change in the mindset of the people. Social change too is taking place. Exposure and communication have become so vast and intense that women refuse to be subjected to atrocities. The momentum of change will keep on gaining strength and intensity.

"I am a privileged citizen. So I can say that I don't care about gender inequality. But the average Indian still feels that they suffer because of it," she said.

Pointing towards films that are being made she said that the awareness about women's rights has become profound. There is a shift in the attitude that 'we don't want a girl child.' Though we may



not agree, as the male gaze in commercial films is intense and sexualises women.

Another panelist, Nandini Bhalla, editor of a magazine believes that even though women are now doing so much more and breaking the glass ceiling, they are not taught the word "ambition" as whenever a woman mentions the word, it carries a negative connotation. We think that she is shrewd or a difficult person but we don't see it the same way when it comes to men. She said, "If a man says he is ambitious, he is seen as a go-getter. So women should be taught that it is good to

be ambitious. There are so many of them who don't want to be seen as too career-oriented. But it cannot be emphasised enough that there is nothing wrong in it. We have to sensitise women about being comfortable with ambition. Only when we feed these thoughts in their mind, we can achieve equality."

Female mentorship is also critical. Various studies have found that most of the women do not want to work with female bosses. But Bhalla feels that this is a huge flaw as women can be the best mentors for other women as they have fought for their

rights. When women support their own kinds and teach them skills, it can help us bring about a change.

Even today there is a serious pay gap which signals that there is a need to talk about equality. Bhalla said that if there was equality we wouldn't have been having this conversation. But it is good to have conversations as they lead to change.

She talked about how feminism is often being misunderstood as dominating men. But instead it means being equal to them. "There is no equality, so we need feminism."



Kartik Aryan, Bhumi Pednekar, Ananya Panday and singer Tulsi Kumar launched the song *Akhiyon Se Goli Maare* at PVR Plaza Connaught Place from the film *Patni Patni aur Woh*. The actor climbed in front of the poster display areas at the cinema hall, shook a leg and asked the people assembled there to watch the film which releases on December 6.



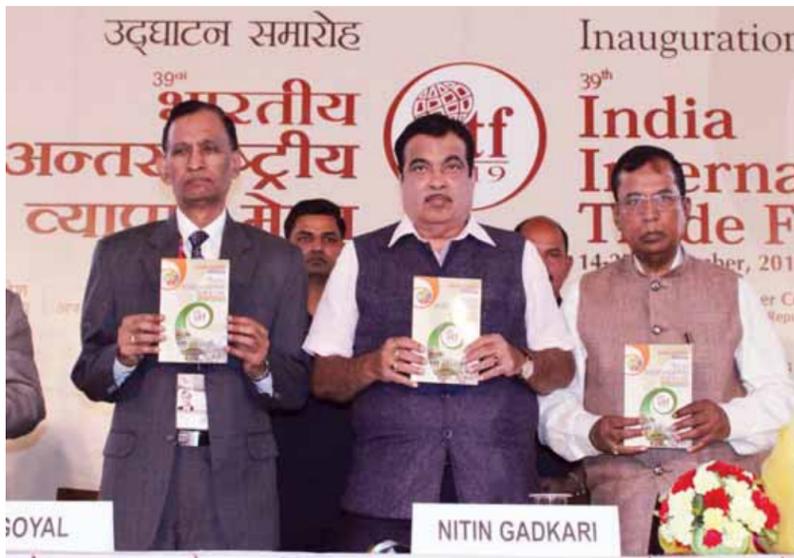
# A FAIR OF THE WORLD

The 39th edition of IITF focusses on MSME as a growth engine

A business conducive infrastructure such as the world class International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan is crucial for the growth and export promotion of MSME sector in India and we need at least 30 to 40 of them in the country," said Nitin Gadkari, the Minister of MSME, Road Transport and Highways, while inaugurating the 39th edition of the India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan.

Complimenting ITPO for holding the IITF with its theme *Ease of Doing Business* for the 39th edition of the fair, Gadkari informed that the Ministry was taking initiatives to create an online dedicated marketing portal for the sale of MSME products. He pointed out that in order to compete globally, there is a need to focus on quality through skilled and trained manpower. He informed that the Prime Minister had identified 150 economically backward districts which needed maximum involvement to maximise the production for alleviation of poverty.

Speaking on the occasion, Som Parkash, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry said that the IITF has carved a niche for itself in



Inauguration ceremony of the 39th edition of the India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan



Performance by world's first Sikh magician



Dance performance at Haryana Pavilion



Lighting of lamp



the global calendar besides occupying an eminent position in the Asian continent. He elaborated that reforms and policy initiatives

have ensured that the country has improved in "Ease of Doing Business" global rating. The Minister said that events such as IITF are crucial to doubling farmers income by 2022 and transforming India into a US\$ 5 trillion economy by the year 2024.

In his key note address, I C Goyal, CMD, ITPO indicated that the next edition of the fair would accommodate around five times more participants next year by increasing the area from 25,000 sqm space to 1.25 sqm lakh space.

Senior representatives from the 'Partner State' Bihar, Narmadeshwar Lal and the 'Focus State' Jharkhand, Aboobacker Siddique presented details of the achievements of their States, the policy initiatives towards "Ease of Doing Business", reforms and export potential.

In his welcome address, Rajesh Agrawal, ED, ITPO highlighted the salient features of the fair.

Also present on the occasion was Tahir Qadiri, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Afghanistan in India.

## Cementing old relationships



The Days of Moscow in Delhi warmed up over a cultural evening where vocal group Kvatro enthralled the audience with classical and fusion presentations, followed by noted dancing ensembles



Delhi in association with Government of Moscow celebrated 'Days of Moscow in Delhi' featuring a variety of activities including art, culture, heritage, sports and other areas of mutual co-operation on November 18 and 19. This was a part of the twin city agreement for tourism and education between the

Government of NCT of Delhi and Government of City of Moscow, 'Days of Moscow in Delhi' received an enthusiastic response, be it young students from Delhi Govt Schools who put up a commendable show while playing with Grandmaster Ivan Popov, or students from IIIT and other technical institutes, who made the best out

of the opportunity to interact with none other than Russian cosmonaut, Sergey Revlin.

The cultural extravaganza was orchestrated with the stellar performances of 'Berezka' and 'Kvatro' at Siri Fort, regardless of any language barrier.

Giving business communities from both countries the impetus

and direction to expand, the Conference presented an apt platform under the ever-expanding gamut of 'Days of Moscow in Delhi'.

The extensive cultural programme undertaken further bolstered the bilateral ties between the two city governments and explore the immense potential for future partnerships across multiple spheres.



## Banish the shame

A menstrual hygiene awareness camp was held on November 18 at GGSSS School, C Block, Dilshad Garden. This camp was conducted after the nationwide campaign #YesIbleed by SheWings. More than 1,000 girls were actively involved in this MHM camp where they were asked questions and were given important tips to be hygienic and safe during periods.

The event started with an opening speech by IAS Abhishek Singh who has adopted the school since 2016 when he was posted here as DM Shahdara. It was followed by an interactive session by IAS Durga Shakti Nagpal, Madan Mohit Bhardwaj, founder SheWings and RJ

Raunac (Baua). The school children opened up and talked about the issues they face and the stereotypes they have listened to all their lives.

After these interactive sessions, actor and MP from Gurdaspur Sunny Deol interacted with them. He appreciated the IAS couple Singh and Nagpal for the initiative.

He then spoke about how SheWings is a great initiative and more people should be involved in it. There was a session conducted by SheWings on period yoga. Anca Verma, former Miss Romania, donated sanitary products and interacted with the girls.

This camp made GGSSS the first school where an event of this scale and nature was organised.

## IGNCA celebrates foundation day

The Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel said that centre is preserving the dying form of art and culture.

As the chief guest at the 32nd foundation Day celebration at Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, (IGNCA) he talked about cultural heritage and river Narmada. He also released 20 new books and six DVDs on the occasion. The programme was attended by Nirupama Kotru, joint secretary (culture), Adwait

Gadnayak, DG National Gallery of Modern Art, Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary IGNCA Sudhamahalingam, Ajay Deshpande and many others.

On the occasion, two important exhibitions were also organised. One exhibition was based on Mahatma Gandhi showcasing oil paintings of Elizabeth Sass Brunner and her daughter Elizabeth Brunner and a



photo exhibition of DRD Wadia and Shambhu Shah who photographed many life aspects of Mahatma.

The second exhibition was focussed on the Tiji

festival. It is an important festival of the Mustang region of Nepal and Tibet and is based on the victory of good over evil. Celebrated Indian piano artist Enoch

Denials showcased his performance.

During the Tiji exhibition, there was also a performance of *Kabir Gayan* by Bheru Singh Chauhan. There was a discussion on the 13th century dance genre, Nrityawali and the recital of the rare instrument Sundari.

Carnatic musicians and singers performed with instruments like violin, tabla, *pakhawaj*, *mridanga*, *ghatam*, sitar and flute.



Meghalaya Tourism was awarded the Conde Nast Traveller India Readers' Award 2019 under the 'Favourite Emerging Destination' category

## District collector inspects cleanliness work

Collector Dr Sanjay Alung along with commissioner Prabhakar Pandey and other officers of Bilaspur Municipal Corporation (BMC) reviewed cleanliness at different places on Monday. Alung instructed the cleaning contract company, Lions Private Services, to pick the garbage.

The collector briefed the cleaning staff to pick up all the scrap and garbage while they inspected the bus stand area. Large quantities of plastic, water pouches and other waste things were found. The

collector expressed his anger on the zone commissioner and the officers of the Lions Services and requested them to start issuing notice.

During the inspection, people complained of the dirty water coming from the *sulabh* complex. The collector directed the zone commissioner to immediately change the toilet pipe and present the report.

The collector then directed all the zone commissioners to carry out a continuous inspection in their respective areas. He said that he will conduct



surprise inspections from time to time and will take strict actions against the concerned zone commissioner, cleaning officer and employees on receipt of complaints from citizens.

During the inspection, the Superintendent Engineer of the Municipal Corporation, GS Tamarkar, Deputy Commissioner Khajanchi Kumhar, Zone Commissioner DK Sharma, Health Officer Dr Omkar Sharma, Executive Engineer Mr PK Panchayati, Manager of Lion Services SK Singh and other officials were present.

**BAJAJ FINANCE**

**PERSONAL LOAN**

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While weddings are one of the biggest occasions of our lives, planning them can be quite stressful, especially when it comes to figuring out how you'll pay for the best venue, catering services, photographer, your outfits, food, jewellery and much more. And given the number of things you need to spend on, you may want to look beyond your savings to cover the costs.

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- Between 23 and 55 years of age
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Once you meet the eligibility criteria, you only need to fill up an online application form and submit your basic documents to avail the money.

# GINI IN A BOTTLE

## Wijnaldum becomes first Dutch midfielder to score hat-trick since Johan Neeskens in 1972; Ramsey takes Wales to Euro 2020

"It doesn't get any better. It's one of the best days of my life."  
—RYAN GIGGS

"We had the time of our lives in France (at Euro 2016). We inspired a nation last time out so we wanted to do it again."  
—AARON RAMSEY

"He's (Ramsey) a world class player. It's great to have him back and he showed tonight what a great player he is."  
—GARETH BALE

"We are playing some very, very good football. We are going to the finals confident and with a good run behind us. The team is young, but we're all having a lot of fun."  
—SERGE GNABRY

"This is obviously a dream come true, to play for the national team and score on your debut. I can't claim that I should be in the squad for the Euro finals, I just have to show what I can do."  
—MYRON BOADU



Georginio Wijnaldum made another stand against racism and after opening the scoring in the sixth minute he and Frenkie de Jong joined on the sidelines to bring their arms together to draw attention to their different skin colour

**AFP ■ CARDIFF**

Aaron Ramsey sent Wales to Euro 2020 with a brace to give them a 2-0 win over Hungary and a spot in next summer's finals, while Belgium completed their perfect qualifying campaign with a mauling of Cyprus.

Juventus midfielder Ramsey hit his decisive double either side of half-time at the Cardiff City Stadium to ensure that Ryan Giggs's side leapfrogged Tuesday's opponents into second place in Group E to snatch a spot at the multi-host tournament.

"I missed a lot of this campaign but it was all worthwhile to chip in with a couple of goals tonight," Ramsey told *Sky Sports*.

"We had the time of our lives in France (at Euro 2016). We inspired a nation last time out so we wanted to do it again."

**PERFECT BELGIUM**

The win gave Wales the final automatic place, with 20 teams

**NUMBER GAME**

**8** No player has scored more goals for Oranje in 2019 than Georginio Wijnaldum (Memphis Depay second with 6 goals).

**2** Georginio Wijnaldum is the first Netherlands player to score 2+ goals in consecutive appearances since Robin van Persie in 2013.

**18** Myron Boadu (18y 309d) is the youngest player to score for Oranje since Ryan Babel (18y 97d) in March 2005 (v Romania)

**4** Georginio Wijnaldum has scored what his first competitive hat-trick for club or country in four years and 32 days, when he scored four in a Premier League game against Norwich City while playing for Newcastle United in October 2015

**3** Serge Gnabry is the first player to score a hat-trick against Northern Ireland since Cristiano Ronaldo for Portugal in a World Cup qualifier in September 2013

**13** Serge Gnabry became the first player to score 13 goals in his first 13 selections with Germany since Gerd Müller 50 years ago.

**3** Wales' 2-0 win over Hungary secured their qualification to EURO 2020, only the third major tournament (World Cup and European Championship) they have qualified for, after the 1958 World Cup and EURO 2016

**60** Aaron Ramsey has netted what is his first brace for Wales in his 60th appearance for his national side; he has scored as many goals tonight as he had in his previous 12 international matches.

good run behind us. The team is young, but we're all having a lot of fun."

Georginio Wijnaldum meanwhile made another stand against racism as he also scored three times in the Netherlands' 5-0 crushing of Belarus.

And after opening the scoring in the sixth minute he and Frenkie de Jong joined on the sidelines to bring their arms together to draw attention to their different skin colour.

Myron Boadu made it a night to remember by scoring on his international debut to make it five three minutes from the end, collecting Kevin Strootman's pass before colly slotting home.

"This is obviously a dream come true, to play for the national team and score on your debut," said the 18-year-old.

"I can't claim that I should be in the squad for the Euro finals, I just have to show what I can do."

ready to contest the finals and another four spots set to be decided via the playoffs in March next year.

One of the favourites for the tournament which kicks off in Rome on June 12, Belgium, made it a perfect 10 wins from 10 with a 6-1 thrashing of Cyprus that saw Christian Benteke score twice.

The Crystal Palace forward is yet to score in the Premier League but opened Belgium's account in the 16th minute with a tap-in two minutes after Nicholas Ioannou stunned the Group I winners with a superb run and shot. He rounded off the scoring in

the 68th minute when he collected a neat through ball from Kevin De Bruyne — who also scored twice — and slotted past Neofytos Michael.

Tuesday's stroll means Roberto Martinez's side finish the qualifying phase as top scorers with a whopping 40 goals, with an average of four goals a game.

Russia, who finished two points behind Belgium, thumped San Marino 5-0 in one of a host of dead rubbers.

Germany and the Netherlands thumped Northern Ireland and Belarus to close their campaigns in style.

**GNABRY 'CONFIDENT'**

Serge Gnabry said Germany were heading to the Euros in a positive mood after hitting a hat-trick that sank the Northern Irish 6-1 and gave them top spot in Group C.

"We are playing some very, very good football," said Gnabry, who came off to a standing ovation on 80 minutes.

"We are going to the finals confident and with a



Mauricio Pochettino hugs Jose Mourinho at the end of PL match AP/File Picture

## Mauricio out, Mourinho in

### Former Chelsea & Man Utd boss handed task of reviving struggling Tottenham's fortune

**AFP ■ LONDON**

**SPURS SLIDE**

Argentine Pochettino was dismissed on Tuesday, with Spurs struggling in the league after picking up just three wins from 12 games.

The 47-year-old had transformed the club's fortunes since arriving in 2014, and although he failed to win a trophy, he took Spurs to the Champions League final for the first time in their history just six months ago.

But that masked indifferent domestic form in the second half of last season, and Pochettino was unable to reverse the slide in this campaign.

As well as tumbling down the league, they were knocked out of the League Cup by fourth-tier Colchester United and suffered an embarrassing 7-2 defeat at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

Mourinho arrives with the club 11 points outside the Premier League top four, though they are well placed to reach the last 16 of the Champions League.

**TRIBUTES**

The job done by Pochettino was all the more remarkable given the tight budget for transfers and wages in comparison with Tottenham's Premier League rivals, as the club built a new stadium at a cost of more than £1 billion (\$1.3 billion).

Much of Pochettino's success came from nurturing a squad of young players into household names such as Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Christian Eriksen.

A series of Spurs players paid warm tribute to their departing manager.

Tottenham and England forward Kane tweeted: "Gaffer, I'll be forever thankful to you for helping me achieve my dreams."

South Korean forward Son Heung-min said in an *Instagram* post that "words are powerless to express my gratitude".

"I am excited to be joining a club with such a great heritage and such passionate supporters," said Mourinho, who has won domestic league titles in Portugal, England, Italy and Spain.

"The quality in both the squad and the academy excites me. Working with these players is what has attracted me."

Mourinho's glittering CV includes Champions League titles with Porto and Inter Milan.

The 56-year-old also won three Premier League titles over two spells in charge of Chelsea, and returned to England to manage Manchester United in 2016.

"In Jose we have one of the most successful managers in football," said Spurs chairman Daniel Levy. "He has a wealth of experience, can inspire teams and is a great tactician."

"He has won honours at every club he has coached. We believe he will bring energy and belief to the dressing room."

The club tweeted a picture of their new Portuguese boss holding a Spurs shirt ahead of his first match in charge — a London derby at West Ham United on Saturday.

Mourinho was sacked by Manchester United last December following a poor run and has been without a club since, most recently working as a TV pundit.

He remains a big name but there will be questions over whether his pragmatic style can mesh with Tottenham's tradition of attacking football, a problem he also faced at Old Trafford.



Indian coach Igor Stimac speaks during post match press conference IFT/Twitter

## Stimac wants India to play without fear

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Blue Tigers head coach Igor Stimac, after the narrow 0-1 defeat to Oman in Muscat, pronounced that he wants his team to "play without fear" against any opponent they face.

"I want my India (team) to play without fear against anyone. Irrespective of whoever you are playing against, you always have a chance to win the game. We need to grab that," Stimac stated in the post-match press conference in Muscat on Tuesday.

He added, "If you are trying to change (your gameplan) according to your opponents, it shows your team's weakness — which is the last thing I would want for my team. We stick to our system and we are working on the players' strengths and conditioning."

The coach stated that India was the better team in the second half and while they have been doing good work in open play and creating opportunities to score, the lack of accuracy in the finishing is a problem they are facing.

"We were the better side in the second half but couldn't find the way to score a goal. This is our main problem which has been haunting us always. We are moving well, we are fighting, we are doing what's necessary but

## Euro format blasted 'scandal'

**AFP ■ LONDON**

The format for UEFA's continent-wide Euro 2020 has been labelled "a scandal" by Belgium star Kevin De Bruyne as European football's governing body faces a headache to ensure all host nations who qualify get to play at home.

For the first time, next year's European Championship will be played in 12 different host cities in 12 different nations, with Wembley staging the semi-finals and final.

The draw for what will be the second 24-team Euro will be held in Bucharest on Saturday, November 30.

Wales became the 20th nation to secure their spot when they beat Hungary on Tuesday, with the remaining four places going to the winners of play-offs to be held next March.

However, with UEFA having to ensure that host nations play group games on home turf while also keeping certain teams apart for geopolitical reasons, much of the suspense has already been removed from the draw.

For example, Ukraine and

Russia cannot face one another due to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. That means Belgium already know they will face Russia and Denmark — both of whom will host games — in Group B, leaving little suspense come the draw for the finals.

"It is a scandal, honestly," Manchester City star De Bruyne told Belgian television after his side's 6-1 win over Cyprus.

"Football is not really football anymore, it's becoming a business.

Belgium, Italy, England, Germany, Spain and Ukraine are the top seeds for the draw, while World Cup holders France find themselves in pot two along with the Netherlands. Reigning European champions Portugal are in the third pot.

SEEDINGS FOR EURO 2020			
Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4
Belgium, Italy, England, Germany, Spain, Ukraine	France, Poland, Switzerland, Croatia, Netherlands, Russia	Portugal, Turkey, Denmark, Austria, Sweden, Czech Republic	Wales, Finland, winners of four play-offs - Draw to be held in Bucharest on November 30
PLAY-OFF LINE-UP			
Path A	Path B	Path C	Path D
Iceland plus three from Bulgaria, Israel, Hungary and Romania	Bosnia and Herzegovina v Ireland; Slovakia v Republic of Ireland	Scotland v one of Bulgaria, Israel, Hungary or Romania; Norway v Serbia	Georgia v Belarus; North Macedonia v Kosovo - Play-off draw to be held on Friday, Nov 22



## Bale poses new problem for Zidane

**AFP ■ CARDIFF**

Zinedine Zidane faces another crossroads in his handling of Gareth Bale, who appeared to mock Real Madrid after Wales' 2-0 victory over Hungary on Tuesday.

After sealing qualification for Euro 2020 with a wild win in Cardiff, an ecstatic Bale celebrated next to his team-mates behind a flag that read "Wales. Golf. Madrid. In that order."

The flag was taken from the crowd after Welsh fans made a slogan out of comments made by former Real Madrid player Predrag Mijatovic during an interview with the Spanish radio station *Cadena Ser* last month.

"Bale thinks first about the Wales national team, then about golf and then about Madrid," said Mijatovic. "I have not talked to him but that is the impression I get."

Zidane must now decide whether to punish Bale and what form that punishment should take.

Bale is due to return to Madrid on Wednesday before joining up with the team again on Thursday at Valdebebas, ahead of Real Madrid's La Liga game at home to Real Sociedad on Saturday.

## Srikanth, Sameer progress in Korea

**PTI ■ GWANGJU**

India made a promising start at the Korea Open shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma advancing to the second round of the men's singles competition here on Wednesday.

The sixth seed Srikanth defeated Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent 21-18, 21-17 in match that lasted 37 minutes.

The former world No 1 Srikanth now enjoys a dominant 11-3 head-to-head record over the Hong Kong shuttler. He will face Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan in the second round.

Sameer Verma also reached the second round after his opponent Japan's Kazumasa Sakai retired midway with the score reading 11-8 in favour of the Indian.

However, it was end of the road for Sourabh Verma, who went down after winning the first game to local favourite Kim Donghun 21-13, 21-21, 13-21.

Sameer will take on Donghun in the second round.

## Pak pick two 17-year-olds to play against India

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Pakistan has been forced to pick two rookie 17-year-olds for their Davis Cup encounter against a full-strength Indian squad, after senior players Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan pulled out protesting against the tie being shifted to a neutral venue.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation named teenagers Huzaifa Abdul Rehman and Shoaib Khan, both of whom are ranked as lowly as 446 and 1004 respectively in the junior ITF ranking list for the November 29-30 tie that is shifted from Islamabad to Kazakhstan capital Nur-Sultan.

Yousuf Khan and Ahmad Kamil, also teenagers, along with Amjad complete the squad. With Pakistan's top players Aisam and Aqeel pulling out of the tie in protest against shifting out of matches to a neutral venue, the PTF was left with no option but to pick junior players.

"It could have been a good tie but for India.

We are sending junior players. Our senior Davis Cup team is not coming. We are sending our junior Davis Cup team. They are all 16-17 years old and will gain some experience," PTF President Salim Saifullah Khan said.

"India wanted to win this tie, so now they can win this tie easily. Everyday hundreds of Indians are coming to Pakistan. Our hotels in Islamabad are full of Indians but the six Indian players can't come. It's a shame," Khan added.

The winner of the tie will make it to the 2020 Davis Cup Qualifiers, from where the winning team will strive to make it to the World Group.



# Shami deadly on any surface: Saha



Indian pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav pose with the pink ball during team's first practice session at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday. BCCI/Twitter

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha on Wednesday brushed aside concerns about pink ball being a challenge for bowlers like Mohammed Shami who, according to him, can be trusted to come good irrespective of the ball's colour or the nature of the surface.

Shami had a match-haul of seven wickets among the Indian pace attack's collective haul of 14 scalps in the home team's innings and 130-run victory over Bangladesh in the first Test in Indore.

"With the form they (Shami, Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav) are in, the pink ball is not a factor. Especially (Mohammed) Shami, he can be deadly on any wicket. He has pace and is able to extract reverse swing," Saha said when asked whether colour of the ball will make more difference. Saha said that they haven't yet checked how much movement is on offer as far as pink ball is concerned. "We are yet to see the movement of the pink ball. But the colour of the ball won't matter with the current form of our pacers," Saha added.

A handful of Indian players,

## Star will telecast India's training today

IANS ■ KOLKATA

The excitement in the City of Joy is clearly visible and while the first four days of pink ball Test is already sold out, fans have also been coming to the Eden Gardens to watch the Indian and Bangladeshi players train for the Test which starts tomorrow. And for those who cannot make it to watch Virat Kohli and boys train on the eve of the game today can witness

including Bengal's Shami and Saha, have pink ball experience in domestic cricket but the wicketkeeper pointed out that it was a Kookaburra.

"The only change is the colour of the ball. It's made differently. There's also a change in the timing and picking the ball a bit difficult in twilight. It may help the pacers but will be challenging for the batsmen," Saha said.

**NEW BEGINNING**  
Senior Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin feels Day/Night

the practice live.

A Star official confirmed that this will be the first time that the training session on the eve of the game will be telecast by the host broadcasters.

"Yes, we will be telecasting Kohli and boys' training on Thursday (today) as we wish to give the fans a feel of what goes on hours before the two teams actually walk out to play their maiden Day-Night Test," the official said.

Tests will mark a new beginning for the traditional format in the country as the spectator count will improve drastically owing to the match timings.

The daily proceedings in the match will start at 1pm and wind up by 8pm.

"I just hope this marks the beginning of where we get huge crowds coming into the stadium and Test cricket gets its credit and obviously with the change in timings people can afford to finish their work and come into the game, watch it and enjoy it," Ashwin

"The pitch looks good. I am very excited. When have you last seen a Test match where first four days' tickets have been sold out."

—SOURAV GANGULY

said on Star Sports. His teammate Mohammed Shami is focussed on the challenges that await him in the game.

"The middle session should be the main focus for batsman while using the pink ball unlike the morning session that is usually considered the most important in a test match as it will have more of a swing in Eden Gardens," he said.

Shami said the bowlers will have to work very hard to extract any assistance from the pink ball.

"...The pink ball is only useful when there is a hard and grassy wicket because the ball goes straight.

"Pink ball is a very different ball and doesn't work like the white or red ball at all so there is a very low possibility that in the last session we get a swing or reverse so we will have to work very hard," he said.

## Finest cricketers to grace pink ball Test



Sourav Ganguly inspects the ground with other officials. AP

**KOLKATA:** India's finest cricketers including Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev will assemble during the country's first-ever day-night Test against Bangladesh, starting in Eden Gardens tomorrow.

The iconic Eden Gardens is all set to witness a musical extravaganza in the presence of former cricketers, celebrities and politicians during India and Bangladesh's first-ever pink ball Test.

According to BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, the second Test of the two-match series will be one to remember.

"Sachin (Tendulkar), (Sunil) Gavaskar, Kapil (Dev), Rahul (Dravid), Anil (Kumble) everyone will be there. In tea time, there will be carts going around the stadium with former captains in them," Ganguly said on Wednesday.

"There is a musical performance at tea time and at the end of the day there is a felicitation. Both the teams, former captains, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Minister will be there.

"Runa Laila will be performing, Jeet Ganguly will be performing. I am very excited. Just see the excitement, four days are already sold out in a Test match," he added.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and BCCI have put in place several plans to mark India's maiden pink ball Test.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to ring the 'Eden Bell' along with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the first day of the match.

Besides, a host of sporting starts, including star shuttler P V Sindhu, chess ace Viswanathan Anand and tennis sensation Sania Mirza are expected to grace the occasion.

As per plans, paratroopers are expected to fly into Eden to hand a pink ball each to captains Virat Kohli and Mominul Haque just before the toss.

The CAB has also organised a talk show featuring the 'Fabulous Five' of Indian cricket — Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and V V S Laxman during the 40-minute dinner break. They will talk about the historic 2011 Test win against Australia at the Eden.

The CAB also plans to felicitate sporting stars, including Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra, Sania Mirza, Sindhu and six-time boxing world champion MC Mary Kom. PTI



Daniel Vettori speaks during press conference on Wednesday. PTI

## Tigers wary of early sunset

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh's spin bowling consultant Daniel Vettori is done dwelling on the "negatives" and wants his team to feel excited about competing in its maiden Day/Night Test even though it happens to be against an incomparably formidable-at-home India.

"We are excited to play rather than think about the negatives," Vettori told reporters ahead of the Test.

"Visibility is fine, but the only anecdotal conversation I have heard is around being a little bit hard to pick up from point and square-leg. It will be interesting to find out if slips, gully and umpire is picking it up well. They say there's a small halo effect," he pointed out.

While a handful of players from India have played a pink-ball game in domestic cricket, Bangladesh's only experience with that was a one-off Day/Night four-day match in 2013 but none of the current team players were a part of that fixture.

Vettori conceded that early sunset in Kolkata could pose a massive challenge for his team's batsmen during the twilight hours.

"Pink ball plays normal at this time of the day, and in this light. I think the challenge will be when the Test is under lights. Sunset is quite early here — I think 4:30 pm. I think that'll be the time when we see the pink ball come into play," the former New Zealand captain said.

Vettori has not been a part of any Day/Night Test but he feels batting during the twilight period will be challenging.

"The twilight hour, dusk is when it seems to do a little bit more. My experience is only from watching on TV. It will be the period of the Test match when tactically things might do a few different things," he said.

"The wicket will be pretty good and that last session will be very interesting with the pink ball." With the pink ball expected to help seamers more, Vettori said Bangladesh pacers are equally excited.

"The four fast bowlers are very excited. It is a nice thing. Bangladeshi fast bowlers don't get to be excited a lot. I think they are coming to grips with a slightly different ball. It is the SG pink ball.

"I think most guys have limited experience with the Kookaburra one. But I think there's real optimism," he said.

The former New Zealand spinner is also hopeful that tweekers would come into play, especially in the first two sessions each day.

## Saif out of Eden Test

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh's reserve opener Saif Hassan was on Wednesday ruled out of the Day/Night Test against India owing to a finger injury.

The 21-year-old Hassan split the webbing of his finger while coming in as a substitute fielder during the first Test in Indore.

"The injury has not yet healed and the medical team is of the opinion that he will benefit from being rested to full recovery. Taking the state of injury into consideration, Saif has been ruled out of the second Test," the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said in a release.

The batsman was in line to make his debut in the historic pink-ball Test at the Eden Gardens, with regular openers Shadman Islam and Imrul Kayes failing to impress in the opener.

Hassan's injury means the embattled visitors will have to continue with the duo of Islam and Kayes, who managed all of 24 runs across two innings at Indore.

## Team for WI series to be announced today



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma's workload management and opener Shikhar Dhawan's poor form are expected to dominate the deliberations when the national selection committee meets here today to decide on India's limited-overs squads for the home series against the West Indies.

If all goes well, Rohit may get some well-deserved rest during the three-match ODI series against the Caribbean team so that he is fresh and rejuvenated for the tough tour of New Zealand next year where India will play five T20 Internationals, three ODIs and two Test matches.

Rohit's workload will be the prominent point of discussion as he has played close to 60 competitive matches (including IPL) this year.

While the onus will also be on Rohit to give his viewpoint, the possibility of him being given a break in at least one of the two formats looks strong.

The other person, who might feel the heat is senior opener Shikhar Dhawan. Dhawan hasn't been in the best of forms since he returned to cricket after sustaining an injury during the World Cup.

Mayank Agarwal's stupendous form in Test cricket and a very good List A career average of

50-plus and an above 100 strike-rate makes him a good choice to partner KL Rahul in case the selectors think of looking at the third opener's option.

The soon-to-be 34 Dhawan is also not expected to be around for a long time.

Ditto for Rishabh Pant, who will don the big gloves with Sanju Samson close on his heels.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has already started training and if Pant can't seal it during the upcoming series, he might face stiff competition from the 38-year-old legend once IPL comes calling.

With Hardik Pandya (stress fracture), Jasprit Bumrah (back surgery), Navdeep Saini and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (side strain) still recovering from their respective injuries, Shivam Dube and Shardul Thakur are expected to continue in the squad.

Spin bowling all-rounders Washington Sundar and Krunal Pandya — are also under the scanner due to their underwhelming performances.

With Yuzvendra Chahal doing well and if Ravindra Jadeja is not given another break, one among the two could get the axe.

India's new T20 sensation Deepak Chahar is expected lead the pace attack but Khaleel Ahmed's economy rate has been a problem.

## 'Ashwin deserves limited overs comeback'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spin great Harbhajan Singh feels Ravichandran Ashwin deserves a comeback in India's limited overs set-up as a reward for his recent exploits with the red ball.

With the management and selectors exploring options ahead of the T20 World Cup next year, opportunities have been given to the likes of Washington Sundar and Rahul Chahal.

As the selectors meet to pick the ODI and T20 squads for the West Indies series next month, Harbhajan said Ashwin should get another chance in the shorter versions of the game.

"This is what I feel, if you are looking to bowl a spinner upfront (which Sundar has been doing in T20s), you rather have a wicket-taker which Ashwin is. Why not (give him a chance)? He has also done a good job with the red ball



R Ashwin bowls at nets in Kolkata. PTI

recently," Harbhajan said on Tuesday.

"Ashwin spins the ball, he has got more variations. Someone like a Sundar needs to learn. I want him to do well. I am all for bleeding in youngsters but they must learn else they will be replaced, considering the stiff competition," said the 39-year-old.

Ashwin last played a limited overs game for India in July 2017, following which he and Ravindra Jadeja were overlooked for the shorter formats with wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Chahal replacing the finger-spinners. Jadeja was able to make a comeback but Ashwin hasn't.

Harbhajan, though, also believed that both Chahal and Kuldeep remain India's best bet for providing breakthroughs.

"They are your wicket-takers. People who are wicket-takers will always be in the game, be it Kuldeep or Chahal or whoever.

"You need to ask the management (if they should be playing every game). They (management) probably want to see what combination works well for them but good to see Chahal back and hopefully Kuldeep will be back too. In my opinion, they are your two best options," he said.

## Naseem to make Test debut

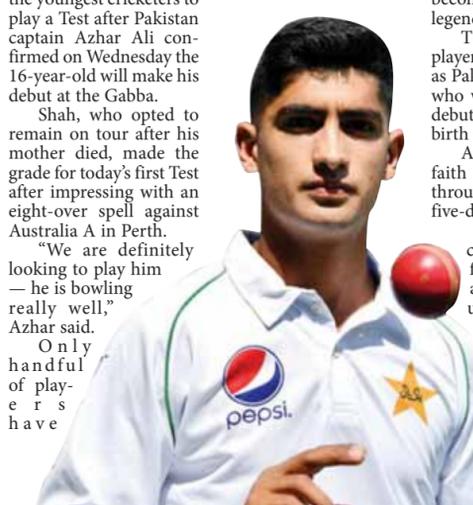
BRISBANE: Teenage bowling sensation Naseem Shah will become one of the youngest cricketers to play a Test after Pakistan captain Azhar Ali confirmed on Wednesday the 16-year-old will make his debut at the Gabba.

Shah, who opted to remain on tour after his mother died, made the grade for today's first Test after impressing with an eight-over spell against Australia A in Perth.

"We are definitely looking to play him — he is bowling really well," Azhar said.

Only handful of players have

Australia vs Pakistan  
Live from 5:30am IST  
SONY SIX NETWORK



made their debut aged 16, including Sachin Tendulkar who went on to become an Indian batting legend.

The youngest Test player is listed by *Cricinfo* as Pakistan's Hasan Raza, who was 14 on his 1996 debut, though his date of birth was later disputed.

Azhar said he had faith in Shah's abilities through a high-pressure five-day game.

"He's very fit, I have captained him in first-class matches and he has overs under his belt," he said.

"I'm sure that he can do that in Tests as well. I have no doubts in his fitness and his bowling skills." AFP

## Malinga does u-turn on retirement

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka captain and veteran pacer Lasith Malinga has had a rethink on his decision to retire after next year's Twenty20 World Cup, saying he can carry on for another two years.

Malinga, in March, had stated that he wanted to retire after the Twenty20 World Cup scheduled in October-November in Australia next year. But the 36-year-old, who captains Sri Lanka in the shortest format, now says he can play on beyond that.

"T20 is four overs and I feel with my skill, I can manage T20 as a bowler. As a captain, because I've played so many T20s around the world that I feel I can manage that period for maybe another two years," Malinga told *ESPNCricinfo*.



## Focus on Dhawan, Shaw in Super League stage

PTI ■ SURAT

The spotlight would firmly be on the likes of Shikhar Dhawan and young Prithvi Shaw when the Super League stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament begins here today.

The focus will be on Dhawan, who has not had a great run in recent times as well as Shaw, who recently returned to competitive cricket after serving an eight month retrospective ban.

Dhawan is currently going through a rough patch. The Delhi batsman had scores of 0(9) against Jammu & Kashmir, 9(6) against Jharkhand, 19(18) against Sikkim and 35(33) against Odisha in the league stage of the national T20 championship and he would be more than keen to turn things around.

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20  
Live from 2:20pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK



Mumbai opener Prithvi Shaw in action against Assam. PTI

Another promising opener who would want to make most of the opportunity is Shaw, who returned with a bang from a doping ban, slamming a half-century against Assam in the last game of the league stage for Mumbai.

Twenty-year old Shaw will have to make optimum use of the Super League stage if he has to impress the national selectors and make a comeback to the national team.

In all probability, Shaw will open for Mumbai, replacing an injured Jay Bista, with senior pro Aditya Tare.

His teammates and three India players — Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube and Shardul Thakur — also have an opportunity to cement their places in the Indian T20 squad with good outings.