

**WORLD 7**

POTUS: DOUBLE STANDARD NEVER SEEN IN US HISTORY

**MONEY 8**

WORK ON TO PUSH MSME EXPORTS: GADKARI

**SPORT 11**

PACERS ENGINEER ANOTHER INNINGS WIN

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**USUALSUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Diplomacy key to India-Lanka ties

By the time this column appears, the trends, if not the results, of Sri Lanka's presidential election should be known. It is always hazardous to anticipate the outcome of an election since voters are often — though not always — inclined to defy conventional wisdom and opinion polls. Not that the Sri Lankan election industry has evolved as much as India's where opinion polls and exit polls have acquired an independent life, sometimes quite distinct from the election itself. Yet, based on a brief visit to Sri Lanka last month and some previous experience of politics in that charming island, some forecasts are in order.

My reading of the polls suggest that the SLPP candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, enjoys a distinct advantage over his UNP rival Sajith Premadasa, the son of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa. How clear that advantage is and whether the election will go into the counting of the second preference votes — where the first preference votes of the JVP and an Independent candidate promoted by a few NGOs will matter are difficult to anticipate. However, barring the truly unexpected, it would seem that President Sirisena will be succeeded by another member of the family of the man who was defeated in 2014.

My reading of the presidential election is based on three observations.

First, it was pretty apparent that Gotabaya ran a streamlined, professional campaign. This was in sharp contrast to the UNP campaign that suffered from a relative shortage of resources and internal cohesion. Initially the UNP nomination was supposed to go to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe. However, the party felt that rather than bear the entire burden of a strong anti-incumbency, it was preferable to go with Premadasa, who, despite being a Minister in the Sirisena Government, was not too strongly identified with the regime. The desire to make a fresh start was understandable but Premadasa has not been able to rope in many of the traditional UNP voters.

**How a relationship is negotiated depends ultimately on diplomacy rather than either the past or stated positions. If the Modi Government can reach out to the winner and persist with an economy-first approach and support for counter-terrorism, relations with Sri Lanka are bound to be healthy. It does not matter if Gotabaya or Sajith Premadasa wins. That is a choice for Sri Lanka's voters**

Secondly, despite being very closely identified with his elder brother's presidency, Gotabaya has an image that is more technocrat than politician. He is seen to attach a great deal of emphasis on governmental efficiency, education and technology. Moreover, his plans to slash personal and corporate taxes are quite radical. Indeed, going by the manifesto, Gotabaya seems to be making a big pitch to transform Sri Lanka into another Singapore — originally a dream of President JR Jayewardene that was scuttled by the civil war.

In electoral terms, this suggests that Gotabaya may be able to prevail in Colombo and some of the adjoining Sinhalese-dominated towns that had tilted the balance against Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2014.

Thirdly, the Islamist bombings last April had a devastating effect on Sri Lanka's economy and its tourism industry. The fear of terror attacks reviving once again has put national security back on the political agenda. As the architect of Sri Lanka's military victory over the LTTE in 2009, Gotabaya is seen to be a tough no-nonsense politician. It is an image that will stand him in good stead in this election.

In 2014, the loss of a chunk of the SLPF vote and the huge 80 per cent turnout in the Northern Province where Tamils predominate had contributed to Sirisena's victory by a narrow margin. This time there is no reason to suggest that Tamil regions are sufficiently motivated to turn up in such large numbers. The feedback suggests that there is a palpable mood of disappointment with the Sirisena Government over regional autonomy. This would mean that while Premadasa will win a majority of Tamil votes in the Northern Province, this might not be enough to offset the lead Gotabaya is likely to secure in the traditional Sinhalese area. Indeed, it is nothing short of curious that many of Colombo's Left-liberals have suddenly begun singing praises of the "progressive" credentials of the JVP candidate. Earlier, the JVP was debunked as the voice of extreme Sinhala nationalism.

The facile view is that India will be very upset with a Gotabaya victory, in case it happens. This assumption is centred on the post-defeat comments of Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2014 when he accused R&AW of interfering to secure his defeat. Moreover, the Rajapaksas are seen to be pro-China, while the UNP is understood to have good relation with India.

This assumption forgets a few cruel truths. First, the civil war against the LTTE was won in 2009 by the Sri Lankan Army thanks to some tacit support from India. Gotabaya was the man who maintained links with the national security establishment in India. Secondly, the generous contracts to China, particularly in Hambantota, followed India's own unwillingness to participate. Thirdly, the sale of the facilities in Colombo and Hambantota were negotiated by the UNP and not the Rajapaksas. In his manifesto, Gotabaya has promised an independent foreign policy that avoids being linked to any of the great powers.

How a relationship is negotiated depends ultimately on diplomacy rather than either the past or stated positions. If the Modi Government can reach out to the winner and persist with an economy-first approach and support for counter-terrorism, relations with Sri Lanka are bound to be healthy. It does not matter if Gotabaya or Sajith Premadasa wins. That is a choice for Sri Lanka's voters.

# DELHIITES IN DEEP WATER

## Capital flunks all 19 potable tests; safest Mumbai doesn't need ROs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites have neither fresh air to breathe nor safe water to drink. The drinking water supplied to residents in the national Capital has failed on all the 19 parameters — odour, iron, calcium, ammonia, chloride, anionic detergent and coliform among others. In contrast, Mumbaiers may not even need to buy water purifiers or reverse osmosis (RO) units. The drinking water in India's commercial capital passed all the tests of quality standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The other two metros, Chennai and Kolkata, too didn't fare well, and are at the 13th and 14th place respectively.

Of the 21 capital cities where water quality was tested, Delhi was at the bottom with all samples failing to meet the BIS norms. Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar bagged the joint second spot in the rankings with Ranchi coming in at third.

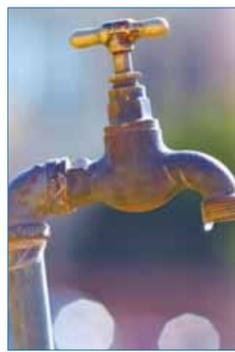
Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manufacturers to meet the BIS quality standard. However, the BIS norm for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies which supply piped water. Unlike Europe and other developed countries, India doesn't have any

RANKING	CAPITAL	NO OF SAMPLES THAT FAILED	NO OF PARAMETERS IN WHICH SAMPLES FAILED	PARAMETERS IN WHICH THE CITIES FAILED
1	Mumbai	0/10	0	—
7	Chandigarh	10/10	2	Aluminium, Coliform
13	Chennai	10/10	9	Turbidity, Odour, Total Hardness, TDS, Chloride, Fluoride, Ammonia, Boron, Coliform
14	Kolkata	9/9	10	Colour, Turbidity, TDS, Magnesium, Barium, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Aluminium, Coliform, E. Coli
15	Delhi	11/11	19	Odour, TDS, PH, Turbidity, Colour, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Aluminium, Manganese, Iron, Calcium, Nitrate, Phenolic Compounds, Anionic Detergent, Ammonia, Chloride, Sulphide, Coliform, E. Coli

certification for potable water.

The BIS lifted samples from the Capital cities across the country to test water quality on several parameters. Announcing the findings, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said, "All the samples lifted in Delhi have failed, but all samples of Mumbai are clear, and tap water of Mumbai is safest to drink."

In Delhi, the samples were taken randomly from 11 places like Krishi Bhawan, Janpath (residence of Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan), Pitampura, Ashok Nagar, Mukundpur, Burari, Karawal Nagar, Sonia Vihar, Seema Puri and Nand Nagar. In Krishi Bhawan, housing several Central Government offices, the sample failed to meet seven parameters of BIS norms, while water from Paswan's residence failed on three parameters. All the 11 samples failed to



- In the 1st phase samples of piped drinking water supplied by municipal corporation/local authorities were drawn from various locations across Delhi
- In the 2nd phase, samples from 20 State capitals were drawn. These were: Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Raipur, Amravati, Shimla, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Patna, Bhopal, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Lucknow, Jaipur, Jammu, Dehradun,

- Kolkata and Chennai
- In the 3rd phase, samples from capital cities of the North Eastern States and from Smart Cities have been drawn and are under test
- In the 4th phase, it is proposed to test samples from all the district headquarters of the country by August 15, 2020.
- Unlike Europe and other developed countries, India doesn't have any certification for potable water

meet the 19 parameters like odour, colour, turbidity, PH, total dissolved substances (TDS), hardness, alkalinity, aluminium, manganese, iron, calcium, nitrate, phenolic compounds, anionic detergent, ammonia, chloride, sulphide, coliform and e-coli that make up the BIS standard.

The tap water is supplied by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). In most places, water pipes are running alongside and crossing sewage lines and drains in Delhi, which make the water supply susceptible to sewage contamination, officials said. In Mumbai, all the 10 samples met the standards set by

the BIS. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) supplies water to the residents in Mumbai. In Kolkata, nine samples failed 10 quality parameters while in Chennai, all 10 samples failed in nine parameters. The samples in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar failed in one parameter each —

phenolic compounds and chloramines respectively. In Ranchi, the potable water test failed on four parameters, while in Shimla on aluminium and Chandigarh on two parameters, "aluminium and coliform". According to officials, testing was conducted for organoleptic and physical tests, chemical test, toxic substances and bacteriological tests in the first stage. In the next phase, they will also undergo virological and biological tests for major disease carriers. The study, conducted by BIS for the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry, tested 10 samples in 21 capital cities to see if they met the Indian Standard 10500:2012 (specification for drinking water).

Paswan said he has written to State Governments asking them to clarify what helps his Government can provide to make tap water drinkable.

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## Sabarimala Day 1: 10 women in barred age group sent back

PTI ■ SABARIMALA

Amid tight security, thousands of devotees offered prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple when it opened for the annual Mandala-Makaravilakku puja on Saturday, though police said ten women were sent back from Pamba base as they were in the "barred" age group.

The temple has reopened just days after a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court referred to a larger Bench the matter related to entry of women into the hill temple and other issues related to various faiths.

The State and temple precincts had witnessed protests by right-wing outfits and BJP workers last year after the LDF Government had decided to implement the Supreme Court verdict of September 28, 2018, allowing women of all age groups to offer prayers at the shrine.

Though the apex court did not stay its earlier order allowing entry of women in the Lord Ayyappa temple, the LDF Government in Kerala this time said the shrine is not a ground for activism and made it clear that it would not encourage women who want to visit the temple for publicity.

Police on Saturday evening said at least ten women, who were part of a 30-member



Devotees arrive at the Lord Ayyappa temple that opened for two-month long Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season in Sabarimala on Saturday

group from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, were sent back from Pamba, five km from the shrine, as they were found to be in the age group of 10-50 years. Females in this age group have traditionally been barred from praying at the temple.

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## RCom chairman Anil Ambani, four directors resign

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Communications chairman Anil Ambani and four other directors have resigned from the company, which is going through insolvency process, according to a regulatory filing.

The chief financial officer of the debt-ridden company, Manikantan V, too has resigned, the filing said.

"Anil D Ambani, Chhaya Virani, Manjari Kacker have tendered their resignation as Director of Company on November 15th, 2019," the filing said.

Ryna Karani and Suresh Rangachar tendered their resignations on November 14 and

November 13, 2019, respectively. The development comes a day after RCom posted a consolidated loss of ₹30,142 crore for July-September 2019 due to provisioning for liabilities after the Supreme Court ruling on statutory dues.

This was the second highest loss posted by any Indian corporate till date.

Ambani was once in the world's top ten rich persons list but now the company is struggling to even sell assets for the recovery of dues.

The company, which is going through insolvency process, had made a profit of ₹1,141 crore in the corresponding three months a year ago.

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## CAPSULE

**SHIV SENA NOT TO ATTEND NDA MEETING**  
Mumbai: The Shiv Sena, which is holding talks with the Congress and NCP for Government formation in Maharashtra, said on Saturday that it would not attend a meeting of NDA constituents on the eve of the Winter Session of Parliament.

**NZ WOMAN FOUND DEAD AT PAHARGANJ HOTEL**  
New Delhi: A 49-year-old woman from New Zealand, who had come to India to get married as per Indian traditions, was found dead in a hotel in Paharganj here on Saturday morning, police said. The victim has been identified as Tuiali Polly Anne.

**RAJAT SHARMA RESIGNS AS DCGA PRESIDENT**  
New Delhi: Senior journalist Rajat Sharma on Saturday resigned from the post of president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association, citing his inability to continue amidst "various pulls and pressures" within the organisation.

**V-P CALLS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCRIBES**  
New Delhi: By starting their own newspapers, political parties and business groups are promoting their vested interests and compromising the values of journalism, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday. Highlighting the perils of fake news, he said it is time for media bodies to come up with a code of conduct for journalists.

## Just breather! Air quality to fall again

### Delhi air improves from severe plus to very poor, relapse likely from Nov 20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The air pollution in Delhi on Saturday improved significantly from the "severe plus" to "very poor" category, with overall Air Quality Index (AQI) at 360. However, the relief is short-lived as the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) has forecasted that air quality may deteriorate again from November 20 due to western disturbance.

SAFAR said, "Strong surface winds are flushing out the accumulated pollutants. No drizzling last night greatly

helped air quality to recover." The high surface winds in Delhi will continue for the next two days (till Nov 19) to consistently improve the air quality, the forecaster added.

Local factors — temperature and surface winds — play vital roles in dispersion process of suspended particulate matters (SPMs).

On Friday value of AQI on was above 500, which falls under severe plus category.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution on Sunday is predicted to be under 2 per cent, SAFAR said.

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## Amnesty India got foreign funds in FCRA violation

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd, booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for alleged violation of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), used commercial methods and circuitous funding, including funds receipt under the head of FDI, to circumvent the provisions of the FCRA after being prohibited from receiving such funding, sources said here on Saturday.

The revelation has come after scrutiny of the Amnesty account books by the agency investigators a day after it conducted searches at three loca-

tions in Bengaluru and the national Capital on the premises of Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd and Indians for Amnesty International Trust in Bengaluru for the violation of the FCRA.

A number of Amnesty entities allegedly received foreign contribution amounting to ₹36 crore from Amnesty International UK through Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd despite denial of permission to Amnesty's trusts to receive foreign contribution by the foreigners division of the Union Home Ministry that oversees FCRA implementation, sources said.

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**SHOW TIME**

# Boring & nothing new to offer



**MARJAAVAAN**  
\*ing: Riteish Deshmukh, Siddharth Malhotra, Tara Sutaria, Rakul Preet Kaur  
Rated: 5/10

It is sad that Bollywood has forgotten to make romantic movies. Gone are the days when a boy met a girl. A villain tried to separate them. But love conquered all and the hero and heroine were united in the end. It was happily ever after. Today, Bollywood is only taking a leaf out of some of the earlier romantic movies made and giving them a twist to fit the 21st Century mood. Unfortunately, *Marjaavaan* doesn't even have that to offer to its viewers. It could be that director Milap Zaveri failed to see *Ek Villain* which had a similar starcast. The only difference was that instead of Tara Sutaria, the love interest was Shradha Kapoor. Those who have seen *Ek Villain* would see the similarity. Siddharth Malhotra is from the wrong side of the society — a goon who does all the bad work for his boss whom he is

indebted to. But falls in love with the girl and wants to turn good for her. In steps the villain. Again Riteish Deshmukh. The least Zaveri could have done is to not take the same starcast and make a movie on similar lines.

However, all is not lost here. Deshmukh instead of doing movies like *Housefull 4* that don't make any sense to those like to watch movies that have some content, should actually switch to doing roles where he plays the bad guy. Like in *Ek Villain*, Deshmukh excels here too as the bad guy somewhat with a twist in his character. Siddharth Malhotra does what he does best. Play the baddies at the drop of a hat; all this with his bare hands, a tad difficult to digest given that the baddies that he is fighting are all armed with the latest machine guns. And yet, our hero is able to come out as the winner. A total disconnect with reality. Overall, it is a movie that is not worth a watch.

— Shalini Saksena

# No saving this disastrous affair

**MOTICHOOR CHAKNACHOOR**  
\*ing: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Athiya Shetty, Vibha Chibber, Navni Parihar, Vivek Mishra  
Rated: 5/10

It is unfortunate that an actor, the calibre of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has done films like *Sarfarosh*, *Badlapur* and *Manjhi-The Mountain Man* would actually agree to sign on the dotted line for *Motichoor Chaknachoore*. One doesn't understand the thought that went into him accepting the role. He can't be that desperate to play the lead.

Yes, here Siddiqui plays the hero with Athiya Shetty. There are a few things horribly wrong with this pairing at many levels. First, the two actors have no chemistry; they are awkward at best. Given that Shetty is doing the pursuing while Siddiqui just goes with the flow should have had some laugh out loud moments. The only time when a smile comes is where Siddiqui has been given some funny dialogues. '36 ke hain, kab tak brahmachari bankar baithe rahe. Naati, kaali, patali, takli, kisi se bhi byah kar lenge. *Naamko mourat hi chahiye bas*' the dialogue reeks of desperation but at least it is funny given the context in which it is said.

Then there is the whole loud message that is staring at our faces that of dowry. If that was the intention of the director Debamitra Biswal, to highlight the problem of dowry in the country, he should ensure that the film walked that path and the content suited the purpose.

All that this film managed to do was to show that a 36-year-old man is desperate to get married. A strict no-no. — Shalini Saksena



## Plan Your Sunday

**Rider Mania**  
Venue: Goa  
When: November 22 to November 24, 2019  
Rider Mania is an annual motorcycling festival where Royal Enfield owners and enthusiasts come together in Goa. It is the largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorcycles and riders in Goa to celebrate the spirit of motorcycling. More than 8,000 riders have already registered to be in Goa for this festival. Attendees will also participate in competitions, expert sessions, art and a series of symphonic concerts. This year's Rider Mania is going to be yet another feather in Royal Enfield's passionate endeavour to bring together the perfect mixture of experience and youthful vigor. Some of the main highlights of the festival include motorcycling events and competitions (trials, slow race, arm wrestling and others), dirt track racing, custom motorcycles, motorcycle gear stalls, music and entertainment, art and garage cafe special workshops. Interested participants can register online: <https://onlinebooking.royalenfield.com/ridermania/re/gisler/>.



**Wine & Cocktail festival**  
Venue: BOA (Best of Asia) Village, 13, Exchange Store Building, 1st floor, Alipur Road, Civil Lines, New Delhi, Delhi 110054  
When: Ongoing  
Time: 11:30 am to 12:30 am  
BOA Village (Best of Asia Village) is offering special menu in its quirky Wine and Beer festival to take you on a high along with Winter Special Cocktails like Coffee, Hot Toddy and Sparkling Wines- Dom Perignon Brut French, Chandon Rose and many more. The drinks will surprise and tantalise your palate with extensive food menu. The décor takes its cues from traditional elements of Asian iconography with every small detail meticulously thought of in order to reflect the best facets of Asian art and culture in three levels known earth, sky and heaven.



**Mushaira & Sufi Qawwali**  
Venue: The Garden of Five Senses  
When: November 17, 2019  
Time: 3 pm onwards  
Cost: ₹35 for adults; ₹15 for children/senior citizen  
Celebrating the literary culture of the capital, Delhi Tourism is hosting a two day Mushaira and Qawwali at The Garden of Five Senses. Renowned artists like Nizam Bandhu alongside famous *shayars* of *urdu-adab* will grace the occasion with their unique talent and revisit the old culture that once thrived in the city. Delhi being the melting pot of cultures has seen many evolving trends, however evenings that honour the literary word through poetry and music has always been a favorite among the city dwellers. Revisiting this trend, the event is especially dedicated to those who enjoy the beauty of Urdu adab along with the curious ones looking for a new experience the city. Garden of Five Senses, one of Delhi Tourism's prime properties that is inspired from the Five Senses, is the venue for the event. There will be handicrafts and food stalls for the visitors as well. Come and experience a musical extravaganza of *urdu-adab!*

**World Movie Festival**  
Venue: Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi  
When: November 17, 2019  
Cost: ₹2000 for two  
Navrasa Duende World Movie Festival (Fourth Edition) is a rare and rich ensemble of movies by directors from around the world. The festival aims to bring back 100 years of world movies from Sweden, Iran, China, Poland, Germany Russia, Italy, France, USA, Japan, India and others. This year Navrasa Duende plans to screen classics from all over the world including *Apocalypse Now* directed by Francis Ford Coppola's (English); *Tokyo Story* directed by Yasujiro Ozu's (Japanese); *The Marriage of Maria Braun* directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder's (Germany); *Charulata* directed by Satyajit Ray (India); *The Passion of Joan of Arc* directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer (French); *Pulp Fiction* directed by Quentin Tarantino (America).



# 'Was never approached for Super 30'

## MUSBA HASHMI speaks with RITVIK SAHORE about the latest season of TVF Play's web series Flames and how did Ferrari Ki Sawaari happened among other things

**■What's your role in Flames 2?**  
I play Rajat. This is the second season of the web series and the story is of young romance unfolding. As it was shown in Season 1 that Rajat and Ishita are now in a relationship, this season will show what actually happens after two people come into a teenage relationship — attraction and romance, understanding, discovering the deep-rooted discomforts, trust and a gamut of emotions.  
**■What prompted you to play Rajat?**  
First, I found the storyline interesting and appealing. Second, I just completed shooting for *Laakhon Mein Ek* and it was an exhausting experience because I played a dark character in it. I wanted to take up something light-hearted that would be interesting to do and this series was the best option.  
**■You debuted with Ferrari Ki Sawaari, how did that happen?**  
It happened all of a sudden. I was in Class VI and was preparing for my Mathematics exam. That's when my father asked me to take a break from study and we both went to a mall. After doing our shopping, while we were returning home a person came to us and asked if I would like to be a part of a film. He was Rohan Mathur, now a casting director who was assisting in the film back then. At first, we thought it was a joke but then he took us into confidence and the next day I went for acting workshops. That's how I got the film.  
**■Were there any apprehensions in your family?**  
My parents have been very supportive throughout. I am here because of them. They always asked me of what I wanted to do before taking any decision themselves. Even when I was approached for the film, my father asked me *tujhe karna hai kya?* Knowing that I was so young still he asked for my decision whether I want to do it or not. They have always been understanding and



**I NEVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING AN ACTOR. I WAS A CONFUSED CHILD. SOMETIMES I WANTED TO BE A PILOT AND SOMETIMES A DOCTOR. I TOOK PART IN SCHOOL PLAYS AND ALWAYS GOT TO PLAY THE LEAD, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY**

comforting.  
**■After doing the film, did your friends treat you any differently?**  
I had a small group of close friends and all of them were extremely happy. Vidhu Vinod Chopra sir even held a special screening of the film for my friends. There was no big difference in their behaviour towards me because we knew each other much before the film, so it was not a big deal. They are still the same.  
**■Was acting always on your cards?**  
No. I never thought of becoming an actor. I was a confused child. Sometimes I wanted to be a pilot and sometimes a doctor. I took part in school plays and always got to play the lead, I still don't know why. May be because my teacher liked me very much. (laughs)  
**■There were reports that you were casted for a role in Super 30. Is it true?**  
No. I was never a part of the film. I don't know why such reports were doing rounds on the internet, but I was never approached for any role in the film.  
**■What things do you keep in mind before signing a project?**  
I try to choose strong scripts with good content. If the story is good your role will definitely stand out and people will love it. My focus never lies in playing only lead roles, the character and the story should be good and that's all I look out for.  
**■Any actor or director that you would like to work with?**  
I would like to work with Ranbir Kapoor as he is a fabulous actor and I love the vibe that one gets to see in his films. As for the director, I would love to work with Rajkumar Hirani sir and Sriram Raghavan, I love the kind of films they make.



# Always In Hurry?

## Trying To Save Minutes Can Cost Precious Lives



### Drive Right, Drive Sane, Drive Safe



**OBSERVE LANE DISCIPLINE**



**OBEY RED LIGHT**

**➡ Avoid wrong side driving.**

**➡ Red light jumping can cause serious accident.**

**➡ Zig Zag driving is Dangerous for you and others.**

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# Join hands, curb pollution: Delhi CM to Javadekar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to work together to find a solution to the problem of air pollution.

Responding to a tweet of Javadekar demanding apology from him for supporting the chowkidar chor hai slogan against the Prime Minister, Kejriwal said it was not time to indulge in politicking, but to tackle pollution.

Javadekar's tweet came after the Supreme Court rejected petitions seeking review of its judgement on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal and gave a clean hit to the Government. "@ArvindKejriwal who supported the slogan 'chowkidar chor hai' should also apologise," he tweeted.

Responding to Javadekar, the Delhi Chief Minister tweeted in Hindi, "Sir, this is not the time to do politics but to curb pollution together."

All Governments should work together to provide relief to people. The Delhi government and the people of Delhi are doing everything they can do to curb pollution. We need your support, sir."

The national Capital witnessed a dip in pollution levels on Saturday morning even as the air quality in the city remained in the "severe" category.

In an initiative to tackle pollution, the Delhi Government introduced the odd-even road rationing scheme between November 4 and November 15. A decision on extending it further will be taken on November 18.

# Gangster Ashok Rathi shot in his house

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Notorious gangster Ashok Rathi was gunned down by three assailants known to him at his house in Gurugram's Alipur village. The incident occurred on Saturday morning.

According to a senior police official, the attackers went around 8.00 am to Rathi's house and fled after shooting him.

"Rathi was admitted to a private hospital by his relatives where he died during the treatment in the evening. The attackers had fired a total of six rounds on Rathi and he was hit by five bullets. He received gunshot injuries in his chest, hand and near his ear," said the senior police official.

According to sources,



Rathi had a dispute with the accused over sharing of money through gambling, which led to the murder.

Rathi, who recently came out of jail on parole, was charged with as many as 46 cases of murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, loot and kidnapping under different police stations across Haryana, Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

He had been serving a life-term for the murder of his mother-in-law and brother-in-law.

The three assailants were identified as Narender alias Sonu, Rohit Dagar alias Bobby of Alipur village and Saleem of Hariahera village in Gurugram.

Apart from these three assailants, the victim's brother Mahesh has also pointed out the involvement of Lilu Dagar of Hariahera village. He alleged that the assailants eliminated Rathi at the behest of Dagar.

An FIR in connection with the incident has been registered by Mahesh at the Bhondsi police station. In his police complaint, he stated that "Narender, Rohit and Saleem came at their home and was talking with Ashok about 10 to 15 minutes. Thereafter, the trio opened fire six rounds on

Ashok."

"After hearing the gunshots, Naveen a relative of the victim rushed to the spot and found Rathi lying in a pool of blood by then the accused fled from the spot. Soon after the incident, Rathi was rushed to the hospital," Mahesh stated in his police complaint.

"The body has been kept in the mortuary. The actual reason behind the incident yet to be known. The probe team is also scanning the CCTV footage of the incident. A case of murder and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at Bhondsi police station and hunts are on to nab the absconding criminals," said Assistant Commissioner of police (crime) Preet Pal Singh said.

# New Zealand woman found dead at Paharganj hotel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 49-year-old woman from New Zealand, who had come to India to get married as per Indian traditions, was found dead in a hotel in Delhi's Paharganj area on Saturday morning.

The victim has been identified as Tuiali Polly Anne. According to senior police official, on Saturday morning, her boyfriend found her unconscious.

"He informed the hotel staff and took the woman to Lady Hardinge hospital where she was declared brought dead. Police were informed regarding the incident by the hospital fol-

lowing which, a police team was sent to hospital," said the senior police official.

"During investigation, it was revealed that Anne was a patient of hypertension and had come to India with her boyfriend, who is an Australian national," said the police official privy to investigation.

"As the woman was a patient of high blood pressure, it seems like she died due to cardiac arrest. The body has been sent for autopsy that will ascertain the exact cause of death. Police have informed the concerned Embassy regarding the incident," said the police official adding that further investigation is going on.

# Asian Palm Civet visits bank; staff, customers taken aback

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An Asian Palm Civet spotted in city's Syndicate Bank branch in Mandi house on Saturday.

According to bank employees and customers, the civet created a quite stir after making a brief appearance in Sarojini House branch of the bank. "The morning turned out to be quite unexpected for the employees and customers at the bank after civet was spotted in their midst. The four-legged visitor had sought out shelter under the table, in the Zonal Officer's cabin," said a witness.

As per the Wildlife SOS officials, the animal was found healthy and later released back into its natural habitat.

It took the team almost 30 minutes to carry out the rescue operation as it had to be careful not to cause the animal any further stress. The civet cat was subsequently released in the



Asola Wildlife Sanctuary."

"During the rescue operation, a number of customers were present at the bank, and if the civet would have escaped from the room, the situation would have escalated," member of rescue team said further.

Wasim Akram, Deputy Director-Special Projects, Wildlife SOS said, "The civet was initially stressed and agitated but eventually calmed

down once it was safe inside the transport carrier. Often the plight of urban wildlife is dismissed because city dwellers consider them to be a nuisance and they are often met with hostility. We are glad to see that people are becoming more sensitised to their presence."

The Asian Palm Civet (Paradoxurushermaphroditus) also called a toddy cat, is a small member of the family

Viverridae native to South and Southeast Asia. Civet cats play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the rodent population and are prime contributors to the dispersal of seeds as they often feed on fruits, berries, coffee beans, insects and small mammals.

Since 2008, Asian Palm Civet is in IUCN Red Listed as least Concern as it is tolerant of a broad range of habitats.

# Tip off Noida admin via WhatsApp about stubble burning, get rewarded

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

People in Noida and Greater Noida can now tip off the district administration about stubble burning, inappropriate disposal or burning of waste material via Whatsapp and email, and also get rewarded ₹1,000 for sharing such information, officials said on Saturday.

The information should be sent to the administration within 12 hours of the incident, they said. People can now send pictures, date, location and names of offenders on WhatsApp num-

ber 9871428532 or email the information at dmgnwarrm@gmail.com, the administration said, adding that the identity of informers would be kept confidential. "The initiative has been started with immediate effect and aims at checking air and other forms of pollution. There have been reports of burning of waste, stubble and bursting of firecrackers recently amid a high level of pollution in the region. All these activities contribute to pollution," District Magistrate Brajesh Narain Singh said, according to an official statement.

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# Celebrating MOSCOW DAYS IN DELHI!

## 18-19 November 2019

**18 November 2019**

- Lecture by a Russian Astronaut at IIIT Delhi, Okhla Industrial Estate
- Chess Competition with Chess Grand Master Ivan Popov at IIIT Delhi
- Master Class with Russian Folk-Group Berezka in Russian Centre for Science and Culture
- Gala Concert by Berezka and Kvatro at Siri Fort Auditorium

**19 November 2019**

- Moscow Govt. Conference on Cultural and Business Cooperation
- Screening of Russian Film 'T-34'

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# BJP releases another list, ignores AJSU

Denied ticket, Saryu Roy says no interest to contest as partyman

# First night trial of Agni II missile conducted successfully

PTI ■ BALASORE

India on Saturday conducted successfully the first night trial of 'Agni-II', its versatile surface-to-surface medium range nuclear capable missile from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast, defence sources said.

The missile has a strike range of 2000 km, the sources said soon after it blasted off from a mobile launcher at the Launch Complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR), the sources said.

'Agni-II', an intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) has already been inducted into the armed forces. A defence official said this was the first time that the sophisticated missile was test-fired at night. The entire trajectory of the trial was tracked by a battery of sophisticated radars, telemetry observation stations, electro-optic instruments and two naval ships located near the impact point in the down range area of Bay of Bengal, DRDO sources said.

The 20-metre long two stage ballistic missile has a launch weight of 17 tonnes and can carry a payload of 1000 kg over a distance of 2000 km, the sources said. The two stage missile equipped with advanced high accuracy navigation system, was guided by a novel state-of-the-art command and control system and propelled by solid rocket propellant system, the Defence official said.

The 2000 plus km range surface to surface missile has already been inducted and is part of countries arsenal for strategic deterrence. It was launched as a regular exercise undertaken by the armed forces, he said.

Saturdays test was carried out by the specially formed Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Army with logistic support from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

'Agni-II' was developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory along with other DRDO laboratories and integrated by the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, the sources said.

'Agni-11' is part of the Agni series of missiles which includes Agni-I with a 700 km range, Agni-III with a 3,000 km range, Agni-IV and Agni-V both having long range capabilities. The first testfiring of the proto type of Agni-II missile was carried out on April 11, 1999. On May 17 2010, the trial of nuclear-capable Agni-II ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km was conducted by the Special Strategic Command Force (SSCF) from the ITR before it was made operational by the Army.



State Food, Civic Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Saryu Roy in Jamshepur on Saturday

# Sharad Yadav to campaign for Opposition alliance

Ranchi: Former MP Sharad Yadav on Saturday said he will campaign for the opposition alliance in the coming Jharkhand Assembly elections.

Yadav who met jailed RJD supreme Lalu Prasad at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences here, said, "I will come on November 22 or 23 to campaign for the opposition alliance candidates."

The Opposition alliance consists of the JMM, Congress and the RJD.

Yadav, former Janata Dal

(United) leader, did not disclose what talks he had with Prasad saying they had talked on several issues.

To a query on Hindustani Awam Morcha chief Jitan Ram Manjhi's stand, Yadav expressed optimism that Manjhi would come along with the Opposition.

The first of the five-phase polling begins on November 30 and the exercise will conclude on December 20. The counting will take place on December 23.

PTI

chief Sudesh Mahto on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the delay in announcement of his name for Jamshepur (west) constituency has irked senior BJP leader and incumbent Minister Saryu Roy, who on Saturday announced that he is not interested to contest from the seat on party ticket.

Holding a Press conference in Jamshepur on Saturday, Roy said, "I decided to bring out the party senior leaders from the state of confusion. I have told them not to consider my name for the constituency as I have no interest left to contest election on party

ticket. I have asked them to find a suitable candidate for the seat and I will accept it happily. I am feeling relieved now," he said.

"Tomorrow I will have a discussion with the party workers, who have supported me for over 15 years and then take a decision on contesting the election. I need to thank them also for their support," said the

Minister, who has already bought nomination forms from both Jamshepur East and West seats.

Notably, the BJP has fielded Chief Minister Raghuraj Das from Jamshepur East seat, which is his traditional seat and it is likely that Roy will

challenge Das contesting as an independent candidate from the seat.

Roy has been frequently raising issues against the working style of the government and has written several letters to BJP Central leadership expressing his discontent.

# 189 candidates in fray in 1st phase

PTI ■ RANCHI

A total 189 candidates are in the fray for 13 of the 81 Assembly seats in Jharkhand that are going to the polls in the first phase on November 30, election office sources said.

The last date for withdrawing nomination papers for polls in the phase ended on Saturday. A total of 228 candidates had filed their nomination papers for polls in the first phase.

Twenty-two nomination papers were rejected after scrutiny on Friday, while 17 candidates withdrew their nomination on Saturday, an

Election Commission release said here.

Jharkhand will have polls in five phases from November 30 to December 20. The counting of votes is scheduled on December 23. Polling will be held in Chatra (SC), Gumla (ST), Bishunpur (ST), Lohardaga (ST), Manika (ST), Latehar (SC), Panki, Daltanganj, Bishrampur, Chhatrapur (SC), Hussainabad, Garhwa and Bhawanathpur seats in the first phase.

Chatra has the least number of candidates in the fray while Bhawanathpur has the most. Notable candidates in the fray are former BJP chief whip

Radhakrishna Kishore in Chhatrapur seat on AJSU Party ticket, former minister Bhanu Pratap Sahi in Bhawanathpur constituency on a BJP ticket and sitting JMM MLA Chandra Linda in Bishunpur seat.

Meanwhile, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) released its fourth list of candidates for the elections during the day. The names of 21 JMM nominees have been declared so far.

The JMM, Congress and RJD have allied to contest the Assembly elections. As per the seat-sharing formula, the JMM will contest in 43 seats, the Congress 31 and the RJD in seven seats.

# Just breather...

From Page 1

While overall AQI improved but a few places in Delhi - Dwarka Sector 8, Anand Vihar, Mundka - recorded values of primary pollutant Particulate Matter (PM) 10 very high - 438, 336, 338 respectively.

However, areas like Mandir Marg, Karni Stadium, Punjabi Bagh recorded AQI better with PM 10 values between 100-200 µg/m3.

"The AQI is likely to enter the poor category on Monday. However, pollution is likely to increase November 20 onwards as another western disturbance will result in a dip in wind

# Amnesty India...

From Page 1

Out of the ₹36 crore, Amnesty International UK invested Rs 10 crore as FDI in Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru, by subscribing to the latter's debentures, sources said, adding the amount was utilized by Indians for Amnesty International Trust as security for obtaining overdraft from banks. This in turn was used by the trusts of Amnesty India for NGO activities, which is a contravention of the FCRA provisions, they said.

Scrutiny of the account books of Amnesty has revealed that it indulged in activities that were both prohibited and regulated under the FCRA. Entries in Amnesty's account books were not commensurate with the activities postulated for not-for-profit organizations under the Indian laws, the sources further said.

The CBI had registered a case on November 5 following a complaint from the Union Home Ministry against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and unknown others

# Sabarimala Day 1: 10 women...

From Page 1  
"We checked their identity cards and found that they were in the barred age group and informed them about the current situation in Sabarimala. They did not proceed further," a police official said.

Early this year, two women in the barred age group -- Bindhu and

Kanakadurga — had trekked the holy hills and offered prayers at the shrine, scripting history on January 2.

However, Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran has said those who want to visit the temple can procure a court order to enter the temple. At 5 pm on Saturday,

Kandararu Mahesh Mohanararu opened the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, located in a reserve forest of the Western Ghats in Pathanamthitta district of the state, and performed the pooja.

The devotees from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and other neighbouring States, who were allowed to trek

the hill from 2 pm, climbed the sacred 18 steps to the temple with the "irumudikettu" (sacred bag containing the offerings to the Lord) after the priests performed the "padipooja".

While AK Sudheer Namboodiri took charge as Sabarimala melshanti (chief priest), MS Parameswaran Namboodiri who was to take charge as priest of the Malikappuram Devi Temple could not do so following a death in his family.

# DELHIITES IN DEEP WATER

Categorisation	Capital	No of Samples Failing	No of Parameters in which samples failing	Parameter in which failing
1	Mumbai	0/10	0	—
2	Hyderabad	1/10	1	Phenolic Compounds
	Bhubaneswar	1/10	1	Chloramines
3	Ranchi	1/10	4	TDS, Manganese, Total hardness, Nickel
4	Raipur	5/10	3	Aluminium, Total Alkalinity, Total Hardness
5	Amravati	6/10	7	TDS, Total Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Calcium, Magnesium, Manganese, Chlorides
6	Shimla	9/10	1	Aluminium
7	Chandigarh	10/10	2	Aluminium, Coliform
8	Thiruvananthapuram	10/10	3	Turbidity, Aluminium, Coliform
9	Patna	10/10	4	Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Coliform and E. Coli
	Bhopal	10/10	4	Turbidity, Coliform, E. Coli, Colour
10	Guwahati	10/10	5	Colour, Taste, Total Alkalinity, E. Coli, Coliform
	Bengaluru	10/10	5	Turbidity, Aluminium, Calcium, Bromo-trichloromethane, Coliform
	Gandhinagar	10/10	5	Colour, Turbidity, TDS, Coliform, E. Coli
11	Lucknow	10/10	6	TDS, Total Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Magnesium, Coliform, E. Coli
	Jammu	10/10	6	TDS, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Magnesium, Calcium, Coliform
12	Jaipur	10/10	7	Turbidity, TDS, Calcium, Magnesium, Aluminium, Total Alkalinity, Coliform
	Dehradun	10/10	7	TDS, Calcium, Magnesium, Total Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Coliform, E. Coli
13	Chennai	10/10	9	Turbidity, Odour, Total Hardness, TDS, Chloride, Fluoride, Ammonia, Boron, Coliform
14	Kolkata	9/9	10	Colour, Turbidity, TDS, Magnesium, Barium, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Aluminium, Coliform, E. Coli
15	Delhi	11/11	19	Odour, TDS, PH, Turbidity, Colour, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Aluminium, Manganese, Iron, Calcium, Nitrate, Phenolic Compounds, Anionic Detergent, Ammonia, Chloride, Sulphide, Coliform, E. Coli



# RCom...

From Page 1

During July-September 2019, the company set aside ₹28,314 crore on account of provisioning following the Supreme Court order on calculation of annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of telecom companies.

The apex court last month upheld the Government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual AGR, a share of which has to be paid as licence and spectrum fee to the lichequer.

RCom's total liability includes ₹23,327 crore licence fee and ₹4,987 crore spectrum usage charges.

"The resignation of Shri Manikantan V and appointment of Shri D Vishwanath as Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer has been put up to the COC for their approval. Upon approval by the Committee of Creditors, further disclosures will be made to stock exchanges," the filing said.

Ambani got the charge of RCom after property division between him and his elder brother Mukesh Ambani in 2005. The company is undergoing through insolvency proceedings following an application filed by Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson. The National Company Law Tribunal has handed over control of the company to an insolvency resolution professional.

Sources estimate that RCom Group's total secured debt is around ₹33,000 crore. Lenders have submitted claim of around ₹49,000 crore in August. RCom has put its all assets for sale which include spectrum holding of 122 MHz that the company before insolvency proceedings estimated to be around ₹14,000 crore, towers business for ₹7,000 crore, optical fibre network ₹3,000 crore and data centres worth ₹4,000 crore.

The Committee of Creditors looking after asset sale of RCom will open bids received for the assets on November 24.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
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**Bid Identification No. 07/EE/RWSS/ANGUL/2019-20 Dt. 08.11.2019 (DMF)**

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul: Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/ Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.

Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.  
 No. of Tenders : 11 No.  
 Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 6,000.00 to Rs. 10,000.00  
 Value of work : Rs. 10.56 Lakhs to Rs. 125.58 Lakhs  
 Class of Contractor : "A", "B", "C" & "D" Class  
 Date & time of availability of bid document in portal : 18.11.2019 at 17.00 hours to 27.11.2019 upto 17.00 hours  
 Date & time of seeking tender clarification : 23.11.2019 upto 17.00 hours  
 Date & time of opening of tender & verification of original document : 28.11.2019 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul: Talcher  
 Time of completion : 2 (Two) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months  
 The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.  
 Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.

Sd/  
 Executive Engineer,  
 RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher

**कार्यालय उप निदेशक (वि०/याँ०)**  
**राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उमप्र०,**  
**किसान मण्डी भवन, गोमती नगर लखनऊ।**

पत्रांक : वि०/याँ०(325)/2019-20-1365 दिनांक 16.11.2019

**अल्पकालीन ई-कोटेशन सूचना**  
**अभिलेखि की अभिव्यक्ति के लिए सूचना**

मैंगो पैक हाउस, रहमान खेड़ा, लखनऊ से विदेशों में फल एवं सब्जियों के निर्यात हेतु मैंगो पैक हाउस, रहमान खेड़ा, लखनऊ में पूर्व से स्थापित आटोमेटिक ग्रेडिंग लाइन, सॉर्टिंग, हाट वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लान्ट, कोल्ड रूम, राइपनिंग चैम्बर आदि का अपग्रेडेशन/मरम्मत, कंट्रोल पैनेल, पफ पैनेलिंग, वातानुकूलन सिस्टम की आपूर्ति/स्थापना तथा वर्किंग टेबिल, हाइड्रॉलिक पैलेट, क्रेट्स आदि की आपूर्ति एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य की दरों के निर्धारण हेतु वित्तीय रूप से सुदृढ़/अनुभवी प्रतिष्ठित फर्मों से ई-कोटेशन दि० 27.11.2019 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक आन लाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 3.30 बजे खोली जाएगी। ई-कोटेशन दिनांक : 27.11.2019 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक वेबसाईट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर ऑन लाइन भरकर अपलोड की जा सकती है। इसके उपरान्त वेबसाईट स्वतः बन्द हो जायेगी। संबंधित आवश्यक प्रपत्र ई-कोटेशन के साथ ही अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

उप निदेशक (वि०/याँ०)

**From Page 1**

The Centre also plans to include Capitals of the north-eastern States and smart cities under the testing regime by January 15, 2020, while all district headquarters are expected to be tested by August 15, 2020.

Samples from Jaipur, Dehradun and Amravati too failed on seven parameters which include total alkalinity, coliform, calcium, turbidity, magnesium and aluminium. The sample in Ranchi failed on TDS, nickel, manganese and total hardness while Raipur on aluminium, total alkalinity and hardness.

The sample from Patna and Bhopal failed to four parameters like coliform, colour, total hardness and total alkalinity. The samples of Guwahati,

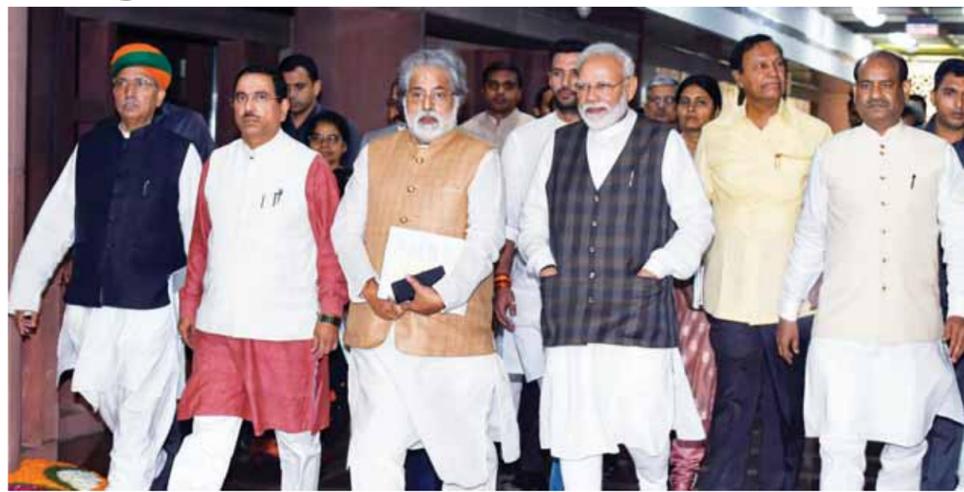
# Speaker urges MPs for smooth House

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Parliament's Winter Session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday appealed to all political parties for cooperation for ensuring smooth functioning of the House and add to the legislative productivity of the session.

After an all-party meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Speaker said floor leaders of different parties mentioned various issues that they wished to be discussed during the Winter Session, beginning November 18. "I told them that after discussing these issues in the business advisory committee, we will try to take up as many as possible," he said.

"I appealed to floor leaders of all parties for their cooperation in smooth functioning of the House. As the House is answerable to the people and I hope parties will raise issues of public interest. There should be debate in the House, and for that it should function," he added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi, MoS Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay and others leave after an all-party meeting at Parliament in New Delhi on Saturday

There will be 20 sittings in this session.

Birla said, "All parties have assured me that the ses-

sion will be smooth and will be as fruitful as the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha." After the all-party meeting, TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay told

reporters that he raised the matter of the West Bengal Governor running a "parallel administration", which shouldn't be allowed to function.

"Issues of unemployment and economic conditions should be discussed. Opposition should be given space," he said.

BSP leader Kunwar Danish Ali said the House should discuss the issue of air pollution in north India, including Uttar Pradesh.

The session, beginning Monday, is taking place in the backdrop of a spate of Supreme Court decisions on key issues,

including Ram temple and Rafale deal as also major decision of the government to do away with the autonomy provision of article 370 relating to Jammu and Kashmir and hence expected to figure prominently in the month-long proceedings of the two houses.

Besides, Constitutional amendment bill for Citizenship, the other key bills which may be tabled during the session include regularisation of 1728 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. Government will also bring bills to replace two ordinances on corporate tax rate cuts and ban on e-cigarettes.

# Cong's 'Bharat Bachao' against BJP Govt at Ramlila Maidan on Nov 30

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday announced that its district-level and State-level agitations against the Centre's "anti-people policies" would culminate in a "massive rally" at Ramlila Maidan on November 30. It also hit out at the Government over a BJP Minister's remark that economy is doing fine with people getting married and trains full, saying that such statements were being made in a planned manner to divert attention from reality.

The Congress held a meeting of its general secretaries, chiefs of its frontal organisations, department heads, State unit chiefs and Congress Legislative Party leaders on Saturday. "The meeting was called to discuss the agitation programme... Against the Central Government's anti-people policies, especially economic slowdown, farmers distress, huge unemployment and other issues," Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said.

He said that the party has decided to hold a mega rally against the anti-people policies of the Central government on November 30 in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan. The meeting has decided to name it as 'Bharat Bachao Rally' because people are suffering very much.

Venugopal said that the party has planned to hold agi-



tations in various parts of the country from November 5 to 15, during which it would take out protests to highlight the failures of the BJP-led Government. "We decided that the agitations at district and state levels will be completed before November 25," he said.

The Congress also lashed out at the Government Union Minister Suresh Angadi's statement on Friday dismissing the Opposition's criticism over the state of economy, asserting that "airports and trains are full and people are getting married" and this indicates that the country's economy is "doing fine".

Noting that the economy slows down every three years but it will pick up soon, the minister of state for railways said "some people" were trying

to malign the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hitting out at the minister's remarks, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala in a tweet said that it seems such bizarre statements are made or are prompted to be made in a planned manner to divert attention from the reality and prevailing circumstances.

"Airports are full, trains are full, people are getting married. Some people are doing this for nothing else but to malign the image of Narendra Modi," Angadi had told reporters during an inspection of the soon to be commissioned Tunda Khurja eastern dedicated freight corridor.

"Every three years there is fall in demand in economy. It is a cycle. Then the economy picks up also," he had said.

# BJP holds nationwide protests, seeks Rahul's apology on Rafale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Armed with the Supreme Court's clean chit to the Modi Government on the Rafale deal, the BJP on Saturday held countrywide protests against the Congress, demanding an apology from its leader Rahul Gandhi for making "baseless" allegations.

The BJP said in a statement that its workers held protests in district headquarters across the country while its national general secretary Arun Singh led the stir in Bhubaneswar, Maharashtra party chief Chandrakant Patil in Mumbai and Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal in Patna, among other places.

It also organised demonstrations in Lucknow,



Delhi BJP workers stage a protest seeking an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after the SC ruling on the Rafale issue in New Delhi on Saturday

Chandigarh, Shimla, Jaipur, Varanasi and Thiruvananthapuram, the statement said.

The BJP has also referred to the Supreme Court's deci-

sion to let off Gandhi in a contempt case for attributing false remarks to it after he tendered an apology. The party demanded that he also offer an apology to the country.

# BY STARTING THEIR OWN NEWSPAPERS Parties, business groups promoting their vested interests: V-P Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said political parties and business groups are promoting their vested interests and compromising the values of journalism by starting their own newspapers.

Highlighting the perils of fake news, he said may be it is time for media bodies to come up with a code of conduct for journalists.

Naidu was speaking at an event organised by the Press Council of India to observe the National Press Day and confer National Awards for Excellence in Journalism. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar also attended the event.

With business groups and even political parties setting up newspapers and TV channels to further their interests, the core values of journalism are getting eroded, the vice president said.

He stressed that if a newspaper is run by a political party, it should clearly mention so.

"Political parties and politicians started their own newspapers. They are called newspapers but they should be (called) newsletters."

"That is an undesirable trend that has crept into our system. To protect and promote your business interest, to paint your rivals in a negative manner, you are using it (media)," he said.

Naidu also urged journalists to exercise caution in the time of sensationalism.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presents Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award to Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kohari during the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday

"Sensationalism has become order of the day, sensational news means senseless news," he said.

The cardinal principle of journalism is to present fair, objective, accurate and balanced information to the readers and viewers without journalists assuming the role of gatekeepers, he said.

Instead of giving expression to the popular feeling, some newspapers these days are giving expression to coloured and partisan views, he added.

Naidu said times have changed in such a way that one has to now read a minimum of four to five major newspapers to get a complete sense of the current developments.

"Same is the case with the news channels. Earlier, that was not the case," he remarked.

Stressing on the need to maintain objectivity, fairness and accuracy, the vice president said neutrality and sanctity of newsrooms should be upheld at all times.

"This has become all the

more critical in the present times after the advent of the 'fake news' phenomenon and the huge impact social media is creating.

"With the electronic and social media providing news by the minute with alerts and flashes on smartphones, journalists will have to exercise greater caution and guard against 'fake news', disinformation and misinformation," he said.

Sensationalism, biased coverage and paid news have become the modern-day afflictions of the media, he said.

Javadekar said fake news is a bigger crisis than paid news. "This is the day for the press to understand its freedom as well as its responsibility. Today there is a crisis of fake news more than paid news," he said.

"A fake news was circulated about child-lifters and it claimed 20 lives. When there is discussion about lynching, only one lynching is talked about but these 20 people also died due to lynching. That is not talked about," he said.

# Govt leading country to starvation-like situation: Congress on NSO data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after an official survey reportedly pointed to a fall in consumer spending for the first time in four decades in 2017-18, the Congress on Saturday said there is a perception that the Government is leading the country towards a "starvation-like situation".

On Friday morning, a media report cited the latest consumption expenditure survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to claim that consumer spending fell for the first time in more than four decades in 2017-18, primarily driven by slacking rural demand.

On Friday evening, the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry said it

has decided to not release the Consumer Expenditure Survey results of 2017-18 due to "data quality" issues.

"Can you cover up onset of poverty and penalty by hiding data, Mr Modi? You should have come forward, released the data and told the nation, these are the steps we propose to take, but this government only seeks to hide employment data, farmer's suicide data, poverty data, slow-down data, consumption data, export and import slow-down data," Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said.

"Hiding data is not a solution, finding a solution is the way forward, but, the government refuses to do so," he added.

# NAVY MIG TRAINER CRASHES IN GOA VILLAGE, BOTH PILOTS SAFE

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

A major tragedy was averted on Saturday as the pilot of an Indian Navy MIG trainer aircraft that crashed pointed the plane away from populated areas.

Both the pilots ejected safely, said Indian Navy Flag Officer, Goa, Rear Admiral Philipose George Pynumootil. The officer said the aircraft was on a regular training sortie when the incident occurred.

A villager said the aircraft crashed on a rocky plateau on the outskirts of Verna, 15 kms from the state capital, around noon. The wreckage of the aircraft lay strewn in one-km

area, he said. The aircraft is attached to INS Hansa located near Dabolim in Goa.

Taking to Twitter, the Indian Navy spokesperson said, "During a training mission, after take-off from INS Hansa at Dabolim a MIG29K trainer aircraft suffered an engine fire. The pilots Capt M Sheekhand and Lt Cdr Deepak Yadav ejected safely."

The pilots were provided first-aid and shifted to hospital in Vasco.

The Indian Navy and the Goa Police have cordoned off the site of the mishap and are in the process of clearing the wreckage.

# Dean of Diplomatic Corps expresses concern over air quality in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air pollution has made the foreign diplomats also worried.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador Hans Dannenberg Castellanos has expressed concern over the poor air quality in Delhi and said the odd-even road rationing scheme is a good start, but working closely with farmers in Punjab on the issue of crop residue burning should also be strongly considered.

Delhi was blanketed by a thick smog for four consecutive days till Friday as unfavourable weather hampered dispersion of pollutants.

The national Capital witnessed a dip in pollution levels on Saturday morning even as

the air quality in the city remained in the "severe" category.

Amid the pollution crisis, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in India, Ambassador Castellanos of Dominican Republic, expressed concern over the air quality in Delhi.

"It (pollution) affects all of us. And it does not have a diplomatic solution nor is the MEA the responsible one to solve it. This is a problem of major proportions to be solved by city and federal government, not the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs). The odd-even scheme is a good start, but working closely with the farmers in Punjab on the issue of burning crops should also be strongly considered," he said.

# Nafed apple procurement in Kashmir failed miserably: Farmers body

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's initiative to procure apples in Kashmir through cooperative Nafed has "failed miserably" as only 0.01 per cent (1.36 lakh boxes) of 11 crore boxes has been purchased directly from growers so far.

Returning from a field visit to the valley, the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) demanded that the Centre should provide compensation to apple and other horticulture crops growers in Kashmir who have incurred losses due to unseasonal heavy snowfall as well as from lack of transport and cold storage assistance due to the political turmoil in the newly formed union territory.

The Centre decided to procure apples in the region in the wake of terrorists threatening some apple growers not to sell their produce in the market following abrogation of the special



status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories.

"The Government authorised Nafed to carry-out procurement but this operation failed miserably. Lack of experience and infrastructure meant that Nafed has procured 0.01 per cent of the estimated produce (1.36 lakh boxes out of more

than 11 crore boxes)," the AIKSCC said in a statement.

Farmers have complained that the Nafed procurement had disruptive effect since it has sold apple in the sale market at lower prices that brought down the wholesale apple prices in the procurement market, it noted.

Kashmir produces 75 per cent of the country's total apple production and the horticulture

industry of Kashmir has a turnover of Rs 10,000 crore annually.

"If 70 per cent loss (as is being claimed by the growers and representatives of commerce and industry) is true, then this will devastate the livelihood of the people of Kashmir for years to come," the farmers' body said.

Highlighting the plight of

farmers, the AIKSCC said its delegation which visited the valley witnessed extensive damage to the apple crop in the valley due to untimely and heavy snowfall, it said and added growers were unable to move out and harvest the crop and store it because of heavy snow fall. The impact on saffron crop was much worse and yields are expected to remain lower this year.

Besides heavy snowfall, the farmers body said crops like pear, cherry and grapes which were harvested in August were stranded due to complete shutdown in the valley and could not be marketed, leading to near total loss for the farmers.

Apple harvesting was to begin in September but was delayed as farmers could not go out for picking. Once harvesting began, non-availability of telephones for first 60 days and non-access to internet even now meant that the communication

between apple growers, transporters and traders was snapped, causing a disruption in the demand-supply chain, it said.

Further, farmers could not bring apples to the procurement markets since trucks were not allowed to go to the villages and farmers were forced to bring their produce to the Highways. This caused delays, inconvenience and additional costs, it added.

As a result, transport cost almost doubled due to prevailing security threat and unavailability of trucks. Frequent transport blockades and closure of highways resulted in further delays and loss of quantity and quality of apples during transportation, the AIKSCC noted.

AIKSCC, a nationwide platform of 250 farmers' organisations, urged the government to assess the actual loss and provide relief to apple growers as well as growers of saffron, pear, grape, cherry and sheep breeders.

# Sena not to attend NDA meet

Sena accuses BJP of horse-trading

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a direct fallout of recent political developments which have seen the Shiv Sena team up with the Congress and NCP to form a post-poll alliance in Maharashtra, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has not invited the Sena MPs to the meeting called on Sunday, ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament beginning on Monday, thus signalling the Uddhav Thackeray-led party's exit from the NDA.

On a day when the Shiv Sena through its official mouth-piece 'Saamana' hit out at the BJP for attempting to indulge in "horse-trading" under the guise of the President's rule, Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that irrespective of whether or not his party had received the invite from the BJP, Sena MPs would not attend the NDA's Parliament session-evening meeting on Sunday.

While Shiv Sena MP

Vinayak Raut confirmed that his party had not been invited to the NDA's session-evening meeting, Sanjay Raut said: "I do not know if the Shiv Sena has not been invited or not for the session-evening NDA meeting. But, we had decided earlier that our MPs would not attend NDA's meeting scheduled for Sunday."



State.

Not the one to mince words, Raut once again slammed the BJP, by saying: "NDA is not a fiefdom of any one. We have been with the NDA since its formation. Shiv Sena's Balasaheb Thackeray and Akali Dal played a big role in the formation of the NDA. The party that is heading the NDA now was not a constituent of the front at the time of its formation," he said.

Asked if the Sena quitting the NDA had become a mere formality, Raut said: "You can say so."

Interestingly, both the BJP and Shiv Sena have so far not announced that the alliance between them had broken down, after the Sena refused to extend its support to the Devendra Fadnavis-led Government and joined ranks with the Congress and NCP to form a Government in the

does not arise."

It may be recalled that Shiv Sena's lone Minister Arvind Sawant had resigned from the Union Cabinet soon after the Sena initiated the process to form a three-party Government in the State.

In a related development, the Shiv Sena — through its official mouth-piece "Saamana" — alleged that the BJP for attempting to indulge in "horse-trading" under the guise of the President's rule.

"Here's a party (BJP) that admitted its inability to form a Government is now saying that only we can form the Government in the State. With what face that these people can say this? Their intent to indulge in horse-trading under the guise of the President's rule has been exposed," the "Saamana" editorial stated.

The "Saamana" editorial was commenting former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' statement that no Government was possible without the BJP and if any Government was to be formed in Maharashtra it would be a BJP-led Government.

# BJP-Sena break-up could impact Nov 22 Mumbai mayoral polls

Mumbai: The break up of the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in Maharashtra may have an impact on Mumbai's mayoral polls scheduled for November 22.

In the 2017 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation polls, the Sena had won 84 corporator seats while the its then ally BJP was a close second with 82 seats in the 227-member civic house. The BJP had then extended support to the Sena and its leader Vishwanath

Mahadeshwar was elected mayor. Mahadeshwar's two-and-half year term ended in September this year but he was given an extension till November in view of the state Assembly polls held on October 21.

The two parties drifted apart after the Assembly results were announced on October 24, with the Sena demanding equal sharing of the chief ministerial tenure, which the BJP rejected.

# Maharashtra Governor announces financial relief for rain-hit farmers

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After taking cognisance of the huge crop losses suffered by the farmers due to heavy unseasonal rain across the State, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Saturday announced a financial relief of ₹ 8,000 per hectare up to two hectares for damaged Kharif crops and ₹ 18,000 per hectares up to two hectares of horticulture and affected perennial crops.

However, the Congress dubbed the relief announced by the Governor as "very less" but asked Koshyari to direct the state administration to deposit the relief amounts into the bank accounts of the affected farmers.

"The relief announced by the Governor is very less. All the same, we request the Governor to direct the administration to deposit the relief amounts into the bank accounts of the farmers. Once the new three-party



Government, of which the Congress will be a part, comes to power in the state, we will announce additional relief to the farmers," former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan said.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Governor took stock of the damage to crops caused by unseasonal rains during October and November this year.

"A relief of ₹ 8,000 per hectare up to 2 hectare for agricultural Kharif crops and a relief of ₹ 18,000 per hectare up to 2 hectares for horticulture/perennial crops will be given to the affected farmers," the Governor said.

# BJP leader's son held in PMC bank scam

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police on Saturday arrested Sardar Ranjeet Singh, son of a city BJP leader, in connection with the ₹ 4,355 crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Ltd scam.

Ranjeet Singh was a director of the PMC Bank and is the son of a senior city BJP leader and former MLA from Mulund Sardar Tara Singh.

Confirming the arrest, Deputy Commissioner of Police and city police spokesperson Pranaya Ashok said that Ranjeet Singh had been brought for questioning in the morning in connection with the PMC bank scam.

Ranjeet was a director for around 13 years besides being a Member of the bank's Recovery Committee. He was interrogated on the loans extended to the HDIL Group companies, their long-pending dues and efforts made to recover the dues.

Sources in the EOW said that Ranjeet Singh was extremely "evasive and unsat-



isfactory" in his explanations. The investigations have revealed his alleged involvement in the scam.

"Ranjeet was formally placed under arrest in the evening and will be produced before a holiday magistrate on Sunday for securing a police remand and further investigation," DCP Ashok said.

Ranjeet Singh is the eight arrested in the PMC Bank scam. Earlier on Tuesday, "concurrent auditor" of the bank Anita Kirdat (35) had been arrested.

Kirdat, whose responsibility was to ensure a "systematic and timely" examination of the bank's financial transactions, had audited the bank's transactions on a monthly basis. She, however, had not pointed out the alleged irregularities in its processes. Kirdat will be in EOW's custody till November 18.

On Monday, the EOW had arrested two statutory auditors, Jayesh Sanghani and Ketan Lakdawala, in connection with the scam. They are suspected to have played a key role in covering up the irregularities in the bank.

Among the other arrested persons are two promoters of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) Sarang Kumar Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan.

The PMC Bank's exposure to the HDIL group was nearly 73 per cent of its total loan book size of ₹ 8,880 crore as of September 19, 2019.

The EOW suspects a nexus between some of the accused and realty group HDIL, whose mammoth loan defaults are said to have caused a liquidity crisis at the bank, leading to appointment of administrator and restrictions on withdrawal of funds. HDIL is a listed real estate company, has played a key role in the PMC Bank scam. The Mumbai police have registered a case against the former bank management and promoters of the HDIL in the PMC Bank scam case.

# Rebel Kaviraj set to take on BJP candidate Anand Singh in Vijayanagar

PTI ■ BENGALURU

More trouble is brewing for the BJP in Karnataka with another rebel Kaviraj Urs adamant to file nominations as an independent to take on the party candidate Anand Singh in Vijayanagar Assembly constituency in Ballari.

The development comes days after the Supreme Court gave partial relief to the 17 disqualified MLAs by allowing them to contest the December 5 by-elections.

Anand Singh is seeking re-entry to the assembly on BJP's ticket in the December 5 bypolls in 15 constituencies.

However, he is confronted with rebellion from within BJP.

"Anand Singh and I are friends. We grew together, but when it comes to elections, some differences are bound to surface. I shall file the nominations."

There's no question of going back," Urs told reporters in Ballari in the presence of Anand Singh and BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar.

# DMK's son-rise in mayoral election

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Demand from some of the powerful party cadre to field Udhayanidhi Stalin, the film actor-turned-politician son of MK Stalin, the party president, as the candidate for the post of Chennai Mayor in the upcoming local body polls has put the DMK leadership in a dilemma.

Mayors of municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu are elected directly by the voters. The post of Chennai Mayor commands respect and is rated as a powerful post. Stalin himself was the Mayor of Chennai from 1996 to 2001.

If Udhayanidhi is nominated by the party as its mayoral candidate, it would be his



first electoral battle and graduation into big-time politics. Stalin has charted out the political road map of his son with the assistance of M Subramaniam, a confidante and former mayor of Chennai. It is Subramaniam who has been entrusted with the task of promoting Udhayanidhi among party cadre in a big way.

The grooming of Udhayanidhi is being seen as an attempt by Stalin to bring

the party apparatus under the control of his family which includes wife Durga, daughter Senthamarai and son-in-law Sabareesan. The last named is a businessman and wields big power in the DMK. It was Sabareesan who masterminded Stalin's 2016 Assembly election campaign and 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign which yielded impressive results.

Since the DMK and its allies swept the Lok Sabha election of April 2019 by winning all the seats from the Chennai metropolis, Stalin is confident that he could make Udhayanidhi win in the mayoral election. Once Udhayanidhi crosses the hurdle of the mayoral election, it goes without asking that he

alone would be the contender for the Chief Minister's post after Stalin leaves the scene.

But if rumors are to be believed, discontent is brewing up in the DMK. Senior leader Dorai Murugan, the Vellore strongman, is already upset over the delay in elevating him as the party general secretary in place of K Anbazhagan, the 97-year-old veteran who is in a state of comatose for the last one year.

All hoardings installed in the State by the DMK leadership feature only the larger-than-life size pictures of Stalin and Udhayanidhi while those of Kanimozhi, Karunanidhi's daughter by his third wife Rajathi Ammal and grand nephew Dayanidhi Maran are absent.

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058  
Phone : 011-2561041, 2561042, 2561043, 2561044  
E-mail: legal@kangrabank.com, legal@kangrabank.com Website : www.kangrabank.com

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In terms of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(4) thereof, the Bank has taken over the possession of the under mentioned property.

The Bank intends to sell the property DETAILED HEREUNDER on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" THROUGH "SALE BY INVITING TENDERS", as per brief particulars given hereunder:  
Name of Borrower, Mortgagee & Branch: Sh. Anar Singh S/o. Sh. Hari Lal, R/o. D-7547, Kharsa No. 3/19, Nathupura, Delhi-110084. Also at: Sh. Anar Singh S/o. Sh. Hari Lal, R/o. D-664, Nathupura, Delhi-110084. (Borrower) Smt. Asha W/o. Sh. Anar Singh, R/o. D-7547, Kharsa No. 3/19, Nathu Pura, Delhi-110084. (Mortgagee) (Sant Nagar Burari Branch) Amount Recoverable: ₹ 3.54,151/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the loan account from time to time, from 31.01.2019 till the date of payment. Description of Property: Entire Built-up property with roof rights upto sky rights, area measuring 41 sq. yds. i.e. 34,2801 Sq. Mtrs. Constructed Ground floor, situated in the abadi of Eklandelal Dora of Village Nathupur, Burari, Delhi-110084, which is bounded as EAST: Other's Property, WEST: Other's Property, NORTH: Road 15ft. wide, SOUTH: Other's Plot. Reserve Price: Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Only (₹21,00,000/-) Earnest Money Deposit: 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees Two Lakhs Ten Thousand Only ₹ 2,10,000/-

• The above mentioned property(s) shall be sold on "as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis" and "as is wherever is basis", except, all the costs and expenses relating to pending electricity, water and house tax bills regarding the above mentioned properties from the date of its possession by the Bank till the same are being sold by the Bank, shall be borne by the Bank, the aforesaid mentioned cost and expenses before the date of possession shall be borne by the concerned borrower(s)/ mortgagee(s).

• The aforesaid property(s) shall not be sold below the Reserve Price as mentioned above.  
• The successful bidder/purchaser shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the Earnest Money Deposit paid already, immediately after the acceptance of Bid/Tender to the Authorised Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposit given/paid already shall be forfeited, and in default of such deposit, the aforesaid property(s) shall forthwith be sold again.

• The balance 75% of the sale price shall be payable on or before 15<sup>th</sup> day of confirmation of the sale by the Bank or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing between the parties. In case of failure to deposit this balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited, and the aforesaid property(s) shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims towards the aforesaid property(s) or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.

• The provisions of Private Treaty as provided in Law may be resorted to in case of need or if warranted so.

• The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/bids/offers without assigning any reasons therefor.

• The successful purchaser would bear the Professional charges/fee payable, such as drafting, documentations, stamp duty, registration fee and any other incidental expenses thereto, as applicable as per Law.

• The above named borrowers/mortgagees attention is also invited to provision of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the above mentioned property.

• This publication is also 30 days notice to the above named borrower/mortgagee/surety. Bid/Tenders alongwith Bank Draft/Pay order of the Earnest Money Deposit amount as mentioned in this Sale Notice, are invited in sealed covers by the undersigned from the intending buyer(s) for purchase of the above mentioned property(s), at the Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058. The last date for submission of the bid/tenders is 30.12.2019 which shall be opened on 31.12.2019 at 4.00 P.M. at the Office of the AGM/Authorised Officer of the Bank i.e. at Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058.

The intending buyers/purchasers may inspect the property(s) on 05.12.2019 between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., Bank Draft/Pay Order for EMD should be in favour of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd., account Sh. Anar Singh S/o Sh. Hari Lal, SB/3/394, Membership No. 56244. The other terms and conditions of the sale can be obtained from the AGM/Authorised Officer or the Manager (Legal) of the Bank, from Head Office at C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

**RAMESH CHAND KASANA**  
AGM/AUTHORISED OFFICER  
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.  
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# RTC employees stage 'bus roko'; leader begins indefinite fast

Hyderabad: Stepping up their stir, the striking employees of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) organised a bus roko at various places in the State on Saturday and a leader of the workmen began an indefinite fast in support of their demands.

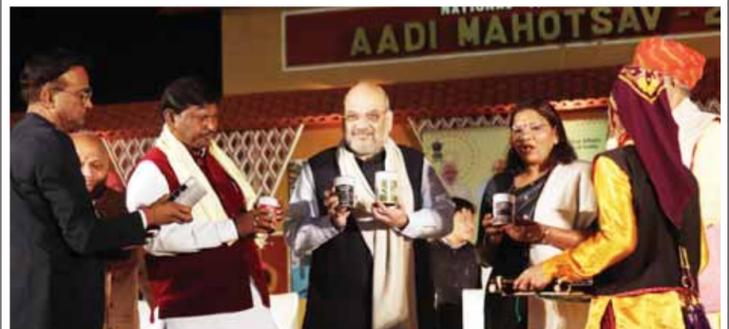
The employees, who began their strike on October 5, stopped buses from plying as part of the bus roko protest.

The RTC workmen and also opposition activists continued rallies, sit-ins and other forms of protest. The leader of the striking employees unions

Aswathama Reddy claimed he was not allowed to undertake his fast at the unions office in the city and that he was confined to home by the police.

Reddy said he began an indefinite fast at his home. Appealing to the workmen not to lose heart and not resort to extreme steps like committing suicides in view of the prolonged nature of the strike, he said the Government should invite the unions for talks to resolve the issue.

The bus roko was peaceful and no major issue cropped anywhere, a senior police official said.



Home Minister Amit Shah during inauguration of national tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav 2019, at Dilli Haat in New Delhi on Saturday

# Arunachal CM welcomes Centre's initiative to solve Naga Problem

PTI ■ NAMSAI (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Saturday welcomed the Centre's initiative to solve the decades-old Naga problem and categorically stated that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the state.

The Arunachal Pradesh government will make clear its stand on the Naga peace process to the Centre when called for discussion, he said. Welcoming the Centres initiative, Khandu said New Delhi is serious to solve the issue once for all.

We will soon call an all-party meeting to discuss the issue besides taking the view of other stakeholders. We will submit our decision to the Centre before a framework



All the three north-eastern States have vehemently opposed it. The union home ministry had said in a statement that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including the States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will be duly consulted and their concerns will be taken into consideration. The NSCN-IM had demanded 'Nagalim' or Greater Nagaland in which all Naga-inhabited areas in the Northeast would be under one administrative umbrella. The map of 'Nagalim', released by the NSCN-IM a few years ago, spreads over 1,03,473 sq km beyond the 16,527 sq km area of Nagaland.

# Women should uphold tradition of Sabarimala shrine: BJP leader

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Women should allow to follow the tradition and heritage of the Sabarimala shrine, BJP Tamil Nadu general secretary Vanathi Srinivasan said Saturday.

They should realise this and allow to maintain the sanctity of the temple, Vanathi told reporters here to a question on the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayyappa temple issue.

Endorsing Tamil Nadu Chief minister K Palaniswami's view on actor Rajnikanth that he was not a political leader, she said that it was for him to decide whether to join BJP or not.

# Women should uphold tradition of Sabarimala shrine: BJP leader

However, there is a political vacuum in Tamil Nadu after the death of M Karunanidhi and J Jayalithaa, she said.

Vanathi, who received the applications from party workers for the local body elections, said the BJP has gained new strength in the State.

Expressing deep sorrow over the suicide of IITM student Fathima Latheef, the BJP leader said the educational institutions should prepare the students mentally also, not only physically. Vanathi also sought adequate compensation for Rajeswari who was run over by a lorry, while trying to avoid a leaning flag-pole in the city.

# Nobody should cross the 'Lakhsman rekha': WB Guv

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar fired yet another salvo at the West Bengal Government on Saturday saying that nobody should cross the 'Lakhsman rekha'.

The governor and the Mamata Banerjee Government have been involved in a war of words. "As the governor of the state it is required that I adhere to the mechanism that is spelt out in the Indian Constitution — what I am supposed to do and not do," he said at an event here. "None is expected to cross the Lakhsman rekha," he said.

The verbal spat between the Trinamool Congress Government and the governor started soon after he assumed office in July end on a number of issues.

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI.**  
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.  
OA NO 1331/18  
DATE: 01.11.2019  
AXIS BANK LTD.  
...APPLICANT  
VERSUS  
MR. ARUP KUMAR SARKAR & ORS.  
...RESPONDENT  
TO, DEFENDANT  
1. Mr. Arup Kumar Sarkar S/o Mr. Sushanta Kumar Sarkar R/o K- 2085 Ground Floor Chitranjan Park New Delhi -19 Also At: A-304, River Dale Building 3rd Floor Casa Riu Kalyan Shil Road Palava City Dombivli Mumbai Maharashtra -421201  
Also AT: Caggemini India Pvt. Ltd. Plant-2 Block-A, Godrej It Park Godrej & Boyce Compound LBS Marg Vikhroli West Mumbai Maharashtra -400079  
2. Mrs. Joyiti Sarkar W/o Mr. Arup Kumar Sarkar R/o K-2085 Ground Floor Chitranjan Park New Delhi -110019.  
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 40,81,216/- (RUPEES FORTY LAKH SIXTY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN 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 19.12.2019 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

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

POTUS: Double standard never seen in US history

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Friday dubbed the impeachment proceedings against him as a "double standard never seen" in US history as former US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch deposed before a Democrats-controlled Congressional panel on the second day of public hearings against him.

"A double standard like never seen before in the history of our Country?" Trump tweeted as Democrat lawmaker members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence grilled Yovanovitch on president's interaction with Ukrainians.

Ahead of the hearing, Trump also released transcripts of his first phone to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after his electoral victory, which, the US president said, is reflective of his stand that he has done no wrong.

Yovanovitch deposed before the committee about the big "threat" she felt on suddenly having been sacked from the ambassadorial position and after coming to know how the president had denounced her in his July phone call with Zelenskyy



"I would say when you go into a meeting with somebody and they ask, are you going to be leaving, that is concerning. So that probably — I don't know exactly when that started happening — but (it was) in that timeframe," the former US envoy to Ukraine said.

During the hearing, she said Trump's tweet about her diplomatic performance is very intimidating. "I can't speak to what the president is trying to do, but I think the effect is to be intimidating," she said when she was shown the presidential tweet.

"Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad. She started off in Somalia, how did that go? Then fast forward to Ukraine, where the new Ukrainian president spoke unfavorably about her in my second phone call with him. It is a US President's absolute right to appoint ambassadors," Trump asserted.

'I have right to speak, freedom of speech'

Washington: Amid the ongoing impeachment hearings against him by a Democrats-dominated Congressional panel, US President Donald Trump has asserted that he has the right to speak and the freedom of speech.

Trump made the assertion while accusing the opposition Democratic party of denying the Republicans the due process in the House-initiated impeachment proceedings against him.

In the history of our country, there has never been a disgrace like what's going on right now. So, you know what, I have the right to speak. I have the freedom of speech just as other people do have. But they (Democrats) have taken away the Republicans rights (to ask questions)," Trump told reporters in a media interaction at the White House.

Zero evidence of any wrongdoing by President : White House

Washington: The White House on Friday said "zero evidence" of any wrongdoing by President Donald Trump was presented at the impeachment hearing by a Congressional panel, asserting that the former US envoy to Ukraine deposed she was unaware of any criminal activity involving the President.

"The second public hearing of Speaker Pelosi and Congressman Schiff's impeachment charade was as useless and inconsequential as the first. Zero evidence of any wrongdoing by the President was presented," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said after the conclusion of the second public hearing on impeachment against Trump.

Former US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch testified before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence as part of the House-initiated impeachment hearing against Trump.

Referring to her testimony, Grisham said Yovanovitch deposed under oath that she was unaware of any criminal activity involving President Trump.

"She was not on the July 25 phone call and had no knowledge about the pause on aid to

Ukraine. It is difficult to imagine a greater waste of time than today's hearing, and yet unfortunately, we expect more of the same partisan political theater next week from House Democrats," Grisham said.

On Friday, Yovanovitch was the third witness to appear before the House Committee headed by Congressman Adam Schiff in the Democrat's impeachment against Trump.

The public hearing of the probe kicked off on Wednesday as William Taylor, the acting ambassador to Ukraine and George Kent, the deputy assistant secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs, testified for more than five hours before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Yovanovitch told lawmakers that she advocated the US position that the rule of law should prevail, and Ukrainian law enforcement prosecutors and judges should stop wielding their power selectively as a political weapon against their adversaries and start dealing with all consistently and according to law.

"Untrue are unourced allegations that I told unidentified embassy employees or Ukrainian officials that

President's Trump's orders should be ignored because he was going to be impeached or for any other reason. I did not and I would not say such a thing. Such statements would be inconsistent with my training as a foreign service officer and my role as an ambassador," she said.

The previous Obama administration, she said, did not ask her to help the Clinton campaign or harm the Trump campaign, she said.

"Nor had I taken any such steps if they had. Partisanship of this type is not compatible with the role of a career foreign service officer," she said.

The former diplomat said she never met Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, nor she had any direct or indirect conversations with him.

Responding to questions, Yovanovitch said fighting corruption in Ukraine was a key element of US policy.

Diplomat says he overheard Trump call about investigations

Washington: A State Department official told impeachment investigators Friday that he overheard President Donald Trump talking with a US ambassador about "investigations" in Ukraine, according to people familiar with the testimony.

David Holmes, the political counsel at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, said Trump was talking so loudly that Ambassador Gordon Sondland had to hold the phone from his ear.

Holmes said that allowed others at a restaurant in Kyiv to overhear the call that's now part of the impeachment inquiry, according to one of the people, who were unauthorized to publicly discuss the testimony and were granted anonymity.

The conversation at the Kyiv restaurant came the day after Trump's July 25 phone call with newly elected Ukraine President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy, in which the US President pressed his counterpart to investigate Democrats and 2020 rival Joe Biden. A whistleblower's complaint about that call sparked the impeachment inquiry.

Sondland opened the July 26 conversation by telling Trump that the Zelenskyy "loves your ass." Trump responded, "So, he's gonna do the investigation?" "He's gonna do it," Sondland replied.

The Associated Press has viewed key excerpts of Holmes' 10-page statement and a person familiar with the document confirmed its authenticity. The remarks were first obtained by CNN.

Holmes, a career foreign service officer, told investigators he did not seek the opportunity to testify. Like others in the inquiry, he was issued a subpoena to appear. He spent nearly seven hours with lawmakers.

Rep Ted Lieu, D-Calif, said Holmes is a key witness to the impeachment investigation because he heard directly from Trump. That counters Republican complaints that the inquiry is based on hearsay from other officials testifying.

"He has firsthand knowledge of the conversation between Ambassador Sondland and the president of the United States," Lieu said. "He overheard the conversation." AP

HONG KONG PROTEST

Protesters defy Xi with pro-democracy rallies

Hong Kong: Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters defied a warning by China's President Xi Jinping and took to the streets again Friday, as the political turmoil seeped out to London, where a territorial minister was confronted by masked demonstrators.

Protests have swept Hong Kong since June as many in the city of 7.5 million people have vented fury at eroding freedoms under Chinese rule.

Violence has escalated, and tensions have spread overseas, sparking friction between China and Britain, which governed Hong Kong until 1997.

Hong Kong Justice Secretary Teresa Cheng fell in London Thursday after being surrounded by pro-democracy protesters, in the most physical confrontation involving a minister since the unrest began. Cheng walked away without signs of injury, but Beijing slammed the incident



A woman tries to hold back riot police from approaching the Hong Kong University in Hong Kong on Saturday

as an "appalling attack" and accused Britain of fuelling the protest movement. Police in London said they were investigating.

Former colonial power Britain has urged Beijing and Hong Kong to seek a political solution to the crisis and has condemned escalating violence on both sides.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said if Britain "continues to add fuel to the fire..."

Then it will bring calamity on itself."

Thousands of mainly office workers took to the streets of the Chinese territory, many chanting "Stand with Hong Kong" and raising an open hand with five fingers splayed — a reference to the five protester demands which include the right to freely elect Hong Kong's leaders and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality.

Govt supporters march after week of chaos

Hong Kong: Government supporters took to the streets of downtown Hong Kong on Saturday after a chaotic working week saw hardcore pro-democracy activists cause widespread disruption in the city and stretch police resources.

A "Blossom Everywhere" campaign of roadblocks and protest across the semi-autonomous financial hub shut down large chunks of the train network, forced schools and shopping malls to close and stretched police resources.

The tactic blocked major intersections and highways with barricades made from bricks, furniture, bins and steel barriers, while university campuses became bases for stockpiling petrol bombs and supplies.

Clean-up begins after week of chaos, destruction

Hong Kong: A clean-up began across Hong Kong Saturday with pro-government groups removing bricks and debris from roads after a week of widespread disruption and violence as pro-democracy protesters changed tactics to sink the city deeper into chaos.

Their "Blossom Everywhere" campaign of roadblocks, vandalism and protest across the semi-autonomous financial hub shut down large chunks of the train network, forced schools and shopping malls to close and stretched police resources.

The tactic blocked major intersections and highways with barricades made from bricks, furniture, bins and steel barriers, while university campuses became bases for stockpiling petrol bombs and supplies.

On Saturday, hundreds of Government supporters began knocking down improvised walls concreted into the road by

pro-democracy protesters, whose demonstrations have rocked Hong Kong for more than five months.

China deploys PLA troops

Beijing: China on Saturday deployed its troops in Hong Kong for the first time since the unprecedented pro-democracy protests began in the former British colony more than five months ago over a proposed extradition law, with soldiers in plain clothes clearing the roadblocks.

Soldiers from the Hong Kong Garrison of People's Liberation Army (PLA) — the world's largest military — have been deployed for the first time in more than five months of civil unrest in Hong Kong.

Israel strikes Hamas targets in Gaza after rocket fire

Gaza City: Israel targeted Hamas in strikes on Gaza early Saturday after rockets were fired towards it from the Palestinian enclave, the army said, two days after a fragile ceasefire began.

Hamas, the Islamist movement that has de facto control over the Gaza Strip, had been spared the brunt of Israeli bombardment during this week's flare-up which focused on its hardline ally Islamic Jihad.

A ceasefire has been in place since Thursday morning following the wave of tit-of-tat air strikes and rocket fire between Israel and Islamic Jihad — the territory's second most powerful militant group. The Israeli military said Saturday it hit the ruling Hamas in the Gaza Strip, where AFP journalists saw the Israeli strikes.

The army said it launched the strikes after "two rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israeli territory" and were intercepted by air defences. Palestinian security sources said the Israeli strikes were aimed at two Hamas sites in the north of the territory.

"Among the sites targeted was a military camp of the Hamas terror organisation and a military compound used by the Hamas naval forces," an army statement said.

French protesters, police clash on yellow vest anniversary

Paris: French Police detained dozens in Paris on Saturday as fierce clashes broke out in demonstrations marking the first anniversary of the yellow vest protest movement challenging President Emmanuel Macron's policies.

Yellow vest protesters are staging nationwide demonstrations this weekend in a bid to prove their movement is still a force to be reckoned with, a year after the first giant demonstration on November 17, 2018.

Numbers attending the protests and levels of violence have sharply diminished in recent months from the height of the movement, which began on the back of frustration Macron was failing to address the needs of ordinary French.

Bolivia's growing crisis turns deadly as 5 killed in clash

AP ■ SACABA (BOLIVIA)

Bolivia's political crisis turned deadly after security forces opened fire on supporters of Evo Morales in a Central town, killing at least five people, injuring dozens and threatening the interim Government's efforts to restore stability following the resignation of the former President in an election dispute.

Most of the dead and injured Friday in Sacaba near the city of Cochabamba suffered bullet wounds, Guadaberto Lara, director of the town's Mexico Hospital, told The Associated Press.

He called it the worst violence he's seen in his 30-year career.

Lanka votes for new Prez

Colombo: Sri Lankans voted Saturday to choose a new president amid multiple poll-related incidents, including an attack on the minority Muslim voters, in an election that will decide the future of the country that struggles with security challenges after the Easter Sunday bombings and increasing political polarisation.

A record 35 candidates are vying for the top post at the election with the main contenders being former wartime defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 70, and the ruling party candidate Sajith Premadasa, 52. Anura Kumara Dissanayake from the National People's Power (NPP) coalition is also a strong candidate.

Polls opened at 7 am local time and would close at 5 pm with some 12,845 polling stations being set up throughout

the country for 15.9 million voters, who will choose a successor to President Maithripala Sirisina.

This election will make record as the election with the largest number of polling stations and the longest 26-inch ballot paper.

The counting will start soon after the end of voting. The first results are expected after mid night, officials said. The final results will come on Monday.

The election is taking place nearly seven months after homegrown radicals pledging loyalty to the Islamic State terror group detonated suicide bombs at three churches and three post offices, killing 269 people, seriously hitting the tourism industry, one of the main forex earning sectors of the country.

Gunmen fire on buses carrying Muslim voters

Colombo: Gunmen opened fire on a convoy of buses carrying minority Muslim voters in northwest Sri Lanka on Saturday, hours before polling in presidential elections got under way, police said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, but a police official said the attackers had burnt tyres on the road and set up makeshift road blocks to ambush the convoy of more than 100 vehicles. "The gunmen opened fire and also pelted stones," a police official of Colombo said.

**THE PANIPAT CO-OP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., PANIPAT**  
Email ID : panipatsugarmills@gmail.com Contact No. : 0180-2651269, 2651184

**"TENDER NOTICE"**

Sr. No.	Name of the Department	Name of Work/ Notice/ Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount (Approx. in lac)	E.Money (in lac)	Website of the department
		The Panipat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat	16-11-2019 At 12:00 AM	21-11-2019 At 02:00 PM			https://tenders.hry.nic.in
		Item for Sugar Mill					
1		Consultant required for obtaining permission/NOC required for New Sugar Project other than environment			5.00	—	
2		Export of Sugar			1300	11.00	
3		Purchase of Bagasse			35.00	—	
		Job Works for Sugar Mill					
4		Rewinding of Motors			5.00	—	
		Item for Distillery Unit					
5		Purchase of P.P. Seal			52.75	—	

The detailed tender have already been uploaded on the website <https://tenders.hry.nic.in> The tender should be filled on the above website on or before 21-11-2019 up to 02:00 PM. The "TECHNICAL BID" will be opened on 21-11-2019 at 02:30 PM. If a tenderer qualifies in "TECHNICAL BID" then only "FINANCIAL BID" will be opened. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who be present at that time 22-11-2019 at 11:00 AM.

Managing Director

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is notified for the information of general public that my client M/s Kanth Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd. has lost the original documents i.e. Original Lease of Land dated 10.08.1982, Original Possession Letter dated 22.07.1982, registered will dated 22.04.1991, Freehold Deed dated 23.03.1996 & Mutation Letter dated 20.01.2007 in respect of Property No. 5/119, Sector-2, Block-5, Rajender Nagar, Ghaziabad. Our client has also lodged a NCR on 16.11.2019 for the same. Any person having any right, interest or claim in respect of the said property are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned on below mentioned address within 15 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents on the basis of which claims are made, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Clients.

C.K. Jha (Advocate)  
Office No. UB-36A, Antriksh Building,  
22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi.  
Mob. No. 9811295674

**GIRNAR SPINTEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Amit Spinning Industries Limited)  
Regd. Off. : E-43/1, Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi-110 020  
Works : Gat No 47 & 48, Sangawade Village, Kolhapur-Huapuri Road, Tal. Karveer, Dist. Kolhapur-416202

**STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019** (Rs. In Lacs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended	Half Year ended	Quarter ended
		30.09.2019	30.09.2019	30.09.2018
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1.	Revenue from operations	974.72	1,336.24	—
2.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period before tax (before and after extraordinary items)	(222.57)	(556.52)	(102.54)
3.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(222.57)	(556.52)	(102.54)
4.	Total comprehensive Income for the period (Net of Tax)	(222.57)	(556.52)	(102.54)
5.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 5/- each)	2,058.48	2,058.48	2,058.48
6.	Basic and diluted EPS before & after Extraordinary items	(0.54)	(1.35)	(0.25)

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the said results are available on the website of BSE ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and NSE ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) as well as on the company's website ([www.amitspinningindustries.com](http://www.amitspinningindustries.com))

For GIRNAR SPINTEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED  
Sd/- Sd/-  
Jitendra Kumar Chopra Deepak Choudhari  
Managing Director Chairman

Place : Kolhapur  
Date : 16.11.2019

# Work on to push MSME exports: Gadkari

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The Government is working on two policies to increase MSME exports and bring down imports by encouraging local production, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday.

While addressing the gathering at Small Micro Enterprise (SME) conference at Nagpur, Gadkari mentioned that the

MSME sector has 29 per cent contribution in country's growth and 48 per cent of export is done through MSMEs. Similarly, about 10-11 crore jobs have been created in MSMEs.

"The Government is working on two policies. Firstly on the industries which are into export business — how to support and increase their export," the minister said.

The leather industry has a total turnover of ₹1,40,000 crore of which ₹80,000 crore to ₹90,000 crore is domestic and around ₹45,000-50,000 crore is from export.

"I have suggested them on working on modernisation, upgradation, product designing and how to reduce the cost of production and improve quality, so that our share increases in the international market. We

are working on a policy on how to strengthen export business," Gadkari said.

He added secondly, the government is working on policy to increase indigenous production of products that are being imported. "The products that being particularly imported should get manufactured in the country itself. We are in talks with the commerce ministry on these two policies and

it is in the final stages," said Gadkari. Gadkari emphasized on three important factors — reducing capital cost, power cost and logistic cost — to become competitive in international market and these factors have also been discussed while making the new policy.

Gadkari also spoke about contribution of MSMEs in the defence sector.

# Overcome outstanding issues to get India into RCEP: Singapore Min

Singapore: A senior Singapore Minister has expressed hope that outstanding issues with India can be overcome by other countries to get the large South Asian market into the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership (RCEP). "We hope that India and the other 15 countries can overcome the outstanding issues so that India can come on board eventually. We look forward to the region, includ-

ing India, moving ahead together as one," Singapore's Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Teo Chee Hean, said on Saturday.

PTI

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058  
Phone : 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044  
E-mail: leaga@kangrabank.com, legal@kangrabank.com Website: www.kangrabank.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

In terms of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(4) thereof, the Bank has taken over the possession of the under mentioned property.

The Bank intends to sell the property DETAILED HEREUNDER on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" THROUGH "SALE BY INVITING TENDERS", as per brief particulars given hereunder: Sh. Jagbir Singh S/o. Sh. Jeet Ram, R/o. H.No.11/1125, Top Floor, Right Side, Govind Puri, New Delhi-110019. Also at: M/s. Samrat Car Rental, Shop No.38, Mini Market, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. (Borrower & Mortgagor)

(Govindpuri Branch) Amount Recoverable: ₹1,30,120/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-06-2018 till the date of payment. Description of Property: Right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor), consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dining, one kitchen, two toilet/bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, gali no.11, out of khasra no. 93, measuring 75 sq. yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.), out of total measuring 150 sq yds., situated at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. Reserve Price: Rupees Twenty Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only (₹ 20,25,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit: 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees Two Lakhs Two Thousand Five Hundred Only (₹ 2,02,500/-).

"The above mentioned property(s) shall be sold on "as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis" and "as is whatever is basis", except, all the costs and expenses relating to pending electricity, water and house tax bills regarding the above mentioned properties from the date of its possession by the Bank till the same are being sold by the Bank, shall be borne by the Bank, the aforementioned cost and expenses before the date of possession shall be borne by the concerned borrower(s)/ mortgagor(s).

The aforesaid property(s) shall not be sold below the Reserve Price as mentioned above. The successful bidder/tenderer shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the Earnest Money Deposit paid already, immediately after the acceptance of Bid/Tender to the Authorised Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposit given/paid already shall be forfeited, and in default of such deposit, the aforesaid property(s) shall forthwith be sold again.

The balance 75% of the sale price shall be payable on or before 15<sup>th</sup> day of confirmation of the sale by the Bank or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing between the parties. In case of failure to deposit this balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited, and the aforesaid property(s) shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims towards the aforesaid property(s) or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.

The provisions of Private Treaty as provided in Law may be referred to in case of need or if warranted so.

The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/bids/offers without assigning any reasons therefor.

The successful purchaser would bear the Professional charges/fee payable, such as drafting, documentations, stamp duty, registration fee and any other incidental expenses thereto, as applicable as per Law.

The above named borrowers/mortgagors attention is also invited to provision of Sub-Section (b) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the above mentioned property.

This publication is also 30 day's notice to the above named borrower/mortgagor/surety. Bid/Tenders alongwith Bank Draft/Pay order of the Earnest Money Deposit amount as mentioned in this Sale Notice, are invited in sealed covers by the undersigned from the intending buyer(s) for purchase of the above mentioned property(s), at the Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058. The last date for submission of the bid/tenders is 30-12-2019 which shall be opened on 31-12-2019 at 4.00 P.M. at the Office of the AGM/Authorised Officer of the Bank i.e. at Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, JanakPuri, New Delhi-110058.

The intending buyers/purchasers may inspect the property(s) on 02.12.2019 between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., Bank Draft/Pay Order for EMD should be in favour of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd., account Sh. Jagbir Singh S/o Sh. Jeet Ram GP/15/67, Membership No. 39171.

The other terms and conditions of the sale can be obtained from the AGM/Authorised Officer or the Manager (Legal) of the Bank, from Head Office at C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

**RAMESH CHAND KASANA**  
AGM/AUTHORISED OFFICER  
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.  
HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058.  
PHONE NO. 8920040076, 9013568402

DELHI:  
DATED: 14.11.2019

## FM holds meet on GST simplification

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday held meeting with chartered accountants, traders and other stakeholders as part of efforts to further simplify Goods and Services Tax (GST) forms and make the filing process more user friendly.

To highlight the problems faced by GST filers, the stakeholders attempted to file specific returns on a real-time basis in the meeting and tried to show where they are facing difficulties. The Finance Minister assured stakeholders that their suggestions on simplification of GST filing will be implemented soon, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said after the meeting. New GST return is available on the portal for trial and consultations will be held all across the country on December 7 to get feedback on the new system, he said.

## NCAER cuts Q2 GDP growth forecast to 4.9%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's GDP growth is likely to decline to 4.9 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal due to sustained slowdown in virtually all the sectors, economic think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said on Saturday. India's economy grew at 5 per cent in the first quarter of 2019-20 — the slowest pace in over six years.

For the full fiscal 2019-20, the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has pegged GDP growth at 4.9 per cent against 6.8 per cent in 2018-19. Going forward, NCAER said the monetary policy measures are unlikely to revive growth at this juncture and suggested providing fiscal stimulus, which too can be challenging unless it can be financed through better revenue generation.

"Whether the growth decl-

eration may be bottoming out or not, we will know in next two weeks based on the Q2 growth figures of the Government. However, the current poor growth is mainly due to a demand problem. It can be addressed through fiscal measures," NCAER Distinguished Fellow Sudipto Mundle told PTI on the sidelines of its event on 'Mid-year review of the economy'. Emphasising that the focus should be on fiscal measures, Mundle said there is a need to pump up expenditure without pushing up the fiscal deficit.

There are ways of doing it, he said, adding, "We have a bold leader. There is a huge fiscal space which has not been used. It is myth that some say there is no fiscal space." Mundle said revenue foregone is 5 per cent of the country's GDP and about 1.5 per cent of GDP is locked up as excess appropriation of the budget which has not been spent, he said.

**UJVN LIMITED**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H.O.: "UJWAL" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun - 248006  
Telephones: 0135-276515, 2133209, Fax No.: 0135-2783508  
CIN No.: U40101UP20150223888, Website: www.ujvn.com

**TENDER NOTICE**

Office of the Manager (A&S), UJWAL, Maharani Bagh, Dehradun invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
Tender No. 06/Manager (A&S)/2019-20

<b>Name of work</b>	Miscellaneous civil maintenance work at corporate office, UJWAL, Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun
<b>Estimated cost</b>	Rs. 12,81,540.00 (exclusive of GST)
<b>Earnest money deposit</b>	Rs. 32,100.00 only
<b>Tender Fee</b>	Rs. 1180.00 (Incl. of GST)
<b>Date of availability of bid document on website</b>	14:00 hrs on 15.11.2019
<b>Last date for submission of tender</b>	16:00 hrs on 11.12.2019
<b>Date of opening of Part-I</b>	16:00 hrs. on 12.12.2019
<b>Date of opening of Part-II</b>	16:00 hrs. on 13.12.2019

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"  
653 यू.जी.वी.नं. १६/११/२०१९/१५६६६  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

## Ficci: SC order on Essar Steel to bring certainty to resolution process in line with global practices

New Delhi: The Supreme Court's judgement in the Essar Steel case would bring certainty to the resolution process in India at par with the global practices, industry body Ficci said on Saturday.

The Supreme Court on Friday set aside an NCLAT order which gave equal rights to the secured and unsecured creditors during the insolvency proceedings of debt-ridden Essar Steel, clearing the decks for its takeover by Lakshmi Mittal-led ArcelorMittal.

"At a time when there is high level of interest among foreign investors, the judgment would bring certainty to resolution process, in line with global practices and help India retain its status of preferred investment destination," Ficci President Sandip Somany said in a statement. Upholding of the doctrine that financial creditors will rank ahead of operational creditors bodes well for the Indian banking industry as well as potential foreign investors, he added. The industry body also welcomed the court order that the commercial decisions of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) will not be open to judicial review. PTI

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**10MM THICK CGRSP TO RDSO**  
Tender Notice No.WTR/17/2019/03 dated 13.11.2019 for tender on e-procurement mode only are invited by Chief Engineer (Track Supply), Head Quarter Office, Old Building, 2nd floor, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020 for supply of the following items:-  
**Tender NO.: 196036. Short Description:** 10mm thick CGRSP to RDSO drg. No. T-8528. **Tender Quantity:** 2400000 Nos. **Date of closing tender:** 18.12.2019. **Time of closing of e-tender Box:** 11.30 hrs on the date of closing of tender. For detailed tender conditions / Corrigendum please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
All the concerned are hereby informed that my client Rahul Gautam S/o Sh. Devinder Kumar Gautam R/o 63 Vasant Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Extension, Delhi-110091 is presently doing his job at Hangzhou in China and that he intends to marry Ms. Yamei Gan (PRC Passport No. EA7484418) daughter of Weijun Gan, R/o No. 8 Zhitangou Caoyun Xiaocaoer Town, Yuyao Ningbo, Zhejiang, China 315475 and hence this publication has been given to declare that my client is an unmarried Bachelor and has not married anybody so far either in India or in any other country. Any objection against the declaration of the above status of my above client may be sent to the address of Rahul Gautam S/o Sh. Devinder Kumar Gautam R/o 63 Vasant Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Extension, Delhi-110091 within next 15 days failing which it will be presumed that nobody has any objection against the declaration of the above status of my client. This newspaper publication has been given as per the statutory requirement in accordance with law.

Sd/-  
GAURAV KR. PANDEY  
ADVOCATE  
ABINASH K. MISHRA & ASSOCIATES  
54, Second Floor, Shiv Arcade A/2,  
Acharya Nityan Market Mayur Vihar  
Phase-1, New Delhi-110091  
(M) 9811235958, 011-65474402

## PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The executive engineer, Civil Division No.VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Dehi invites online Item rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No	NIT No.	Name of work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed	Tender IN No.	Last date & time for submission of Price bid.
1	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/83	Construction of Double Storey Building of Jatav Basti Chopal at village Alipur in Distt. North.	DVDB Works	26,56,929/-	53,139/-	04 Months	2019 IFC_183525_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
2	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/84	Demolishing & reconstruction of double storey building of Balmiki Chopal at village khera kalan in Distt. North.	DVDB Works	96,72,858/-	1,93,457/-	09 Months	2019 IFC_183604_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
3	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/85	Improvement of Cremation Ground and Construction of open RCC Shed in Cremation at Libaspur in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	34,80,532/-	69,611/-	06 Months	2019 IFC_183612_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
4	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/86	Improvement of Main Road in Jeevan Park Siraspur by laying Mastic in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	93,42,116/-	1,86,842/-	01 Months	2019 IFC_183644_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
5	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/87	Supply & installation/ fixing of floating trash barrier near RD. 13560m RD. 15570M RD.16635M RD. 17617 RD.19100M and RD. 19500V at Bawana Escape drain for collecting floating material hyacinth etc. from water surface of the drain and its disposal to nearby Dhalaoo by Rickshaw to maintain free flow of water for months.	A/R&M/O Drains	15,91,331/-	31,827/-	06 Months	2019 IFC_183615_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
6	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/88	Supply & Fixing of Steel Chair and RCC Chair Bench in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	24,98,100/-	49,962/-	02 Months	2019 IFC_183616_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
7	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/89	Civil and Electrification work at Godown of DSCSCL at Siraspur.	DSCSCL Works	51,98,093/-	1,03,962/-	45 Days	2019 IFC_183619_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of GST documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (CD-VII)  
Irr. & Flood Control Deptt.,  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Enforcement of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : 16-11-2019  
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

# CHAMPIONS OF EARTH

SHALINI SAKSENA met up with saviours of Nature at the recent Earth Hero Awards held in Delhi, to bring you stories of inspiration and good work that they are doing to leave a better world for future generations

**JALAL-UD-DIN BABA, J&K, Award Category: Inspire**

He was in Class VI and would watch as his parents exploited the Wular Lake in Bandipora district in J&K for whatever that the lake was able to give — fish and water chestnuts. It was then that Baba decided that when he was old enough, he would do everything that was possible to give back what his parents had taken from the lake that is the lifeline for the people living in the area.

Baba, who has been awarded the Inspire award by RBS Earth Heroes Awards for his commitment to filmmaking in environment, water, climate change, livelihood, forests and glaciers tells you that he is from a village Bandipora which standard on the banks of the Wular Lake, the largest fresh water lake in Asia with an area of 272 sq km.

"I was born on the banks of this river with bounties of this lake like water chestnuts, *nadru* (lotus root), fish and sometimes even sand extraction. The Wular water run in my blood. It was always in my mind to give it back to the mother which nurtured me. This pulled me towards Nature. I started small. I would go on my own to collect trash that would collect on the banks. Sometimes, I would pull my friends as well. My activism was a reaction to what I had seen my parents do to the lake," Baba explains.

He tells you that the lake feeds eight lakh people. "Yet, they don't understand the importance of what it means to have clean fresh water," Baba says who is also a guest faculty and trainer at media departments, schools, colleges and universities across the country.

He conducts science and green filmmaking workshops, lectures, hands-on training and screenings. He has won more than 19 national and international awards from India, the US, China, Australia, France, Spain and Bangladesh, besides official acknowledgements, nominations and citations across the country. His flair for storytelling has empaneled him as a science communicator and resource person with Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science and Technology.

"To begin with, I would tell stories, tell the fishermen how necessary the lake is for the people of the region. I would write articles and hold debates on how we were poisoning the waters. I told people what to and what not to do. There are 42



**The Wular lake attracts thousands of migratory birds. The area can become an eco-tourism spot and provide an alternative means for earning. But the exploitation over the years has had a devastating effect on the biodiversity**

other water bodies around this lake that feed the locals. I would tell people not throw waste and faecal matter into the lake because this water is then recycled, cleaned and finds its way into our taps for us to drink. Then there is the fish, *nadru* and even water chestnut. The fish eat what we throw in the waters and we in turn eat that fish. We eat *nadru* and water chestnuts too. We are not only damaging the environment, what we are eating is damaging our bodies as well. But I found

that the impact that I was hoping for never came. That is when I decided to turn towards digital medium and armed myself with a camera to tell my story," Baba recalls.

His film on what the Wular means to the locals is as dramatic as it can get. It is told from the eyes of a 13-year-old rag picker, Bilal Ahmad Dar who lives on its banks and what the lake means to him. The reason he has to eke out a livelihood is because he lost his father to cancer when he was six. And the reason for cancer? The toxic Wular lake. I made a hero of this boy. I targeted school children, I find that they are most open to ideas, yet our environment is at its worst today. This means that we are doing something wrong in our education system," the 47-year-old tells you.

He has been conferred with the Inspire Award for his work as an individual (journalist/filmmaker/artist) or institution who has influenced thought or inspired action on wildlife conservation, natural resource management, and environmental protection through their creative expression.

"We are not teaching the importance of what the ecology and environment means to us. I show my films. I sometimes scare them by telling them the story of Dar. They understand the importance of Wular today," Baba says.

The reason why Wular is dying? The lake is at the large part of the Valley — North. "Even the affluence from South Kashmir is emptied into the lake. The lake starts from Shehnag travels to Lidar which meets Jhelum. This water carrying silt as well. Through Jhelum, the affluence and silt empties into Wular which is like a river and a lake. The lake becomes a reservoir. All the more reason why there is need to protect it and not throw trash into it. The lake attracts thousands of migratory birds. The area can become an eco-tourism spot besides what is already being done. It can provide an alternative means to earning for the locals. But the exploitation over the years has had a devastating effect on the biodiversity. Some of it is still left. There is time. Kashmir is dependent on Nature. We don't have industries; we don't have railways. We only have waters and lakes. If we lose Wular, we will lose everything including the Dal Lake in Srinagar," Baba says.

**S SATHISH, Tamil Nadu, Award Category: Save The Species**

S Sathish is a forest range officer at Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu. This is the first Marine National Park in South-east Asia. After completing his BSc in Forestry and then doing Environmental Science, Sathish is now pursuing his doctorate in Marine Biology. His interest in Nature and preserving the species took root after he had completed his one-and-a-half years of training in Hyderabad, Telangana. He tells you that his posting in Gulf of Mannar was more like a punishment.

"Most forest rangers consider a posting here as a punishment because the working style in Marine National Park is very different from what one would do or find in a Tiger reserve. Nobody wants to work in a marine environment. People who come in this job have a different view of what the job entails. Working with marine animals is different as the nature and style of working here is different. One has to love the sea in order to love the work that comes with the territory. Once you fall in love with marine life, there is no walking away from this," Sathish says.

The lack of awareness when it comes to dealing with marine life is what deters young forest rangers to work in this area. "We don't have much information about marine animals. I studied Forestry for four years in BSc, two years of Environmental Science and one-and-a-half years of training and yet before I joined the National Park at Gulf of Mannar, I too didn't have much knowledge. This field is kind of nightmare since it is new for everyone. Then there is the fact that the park borders Sri Lanka. Working here was an eye-opener for me," Sathish tells you.

Even though the National Park has a rich wildlife, what is an unexplored world is marine life and there is so much that the sea has to offer. "There are sea cucumbers, sharks, whales, sea horses



and beautiful corals. Since the park is at the border, sea cucumber and sea horses are tradable items. People eat them but luckily not in India. The challenge was to stop trade in these marine animals. Over 100 people were apprehended. I even targeted kingpins," Sathish says.

Going after such people meant that Sathish and his wife's life is always under threat. He tells you that since he has been posted there, not a single day has gone by when the two of them roamed the area freely. His wife doesn't allow him to go alone anywhere. Recalling a recent incident, he tells you how his driver was beaten black and blue just because he drives Sathish around. They wanted Sathish to slow down in his work. Fake cases of Human Rights violation are filed against him regularly. But this has not slowed him down.

Once Sathish joined, his first priority was to think of things that could be taken up on a priority basis. "What we have under the sea is just as important for the ecosystem. Sea cow or dugong and sea turtles are endangered here. Dugong was being hunted for its meat. Its meat is a delicacy and sells for ₹1,000 per kg. When I took over, there were only 150 dugongs left in Gulf of Mannar," Sathish says.

**What we have under the sea is just as important for the eco-system. Dugong and sea turtles are endangered here. Dugong was being hunted for its meat. Its meat is a delicacy and sells for ₹1,000 per kg**

He tells you that there 56 marine animals in the Gulf his primary work in with sea cucumbers. For this, the Forest Department bought scuba equipment after he and his team members learnt how to scuba dive. In fact, he and his eight-team are the only team in the Department who know how to scuba dive.

"There was a reason why we learnt how to scuba dive. There are 10,000 boats that ply in this region. There is so much plastic that is thrown in the sea. These settle at the bottom and cover the coral reef they would suffocate and die. This in turn would affect other marine animals living in the coral reefs. One a week we dive and col-

lect all the plastic settled at the bottom," Sathish explains.

This is no the only work that Sathish is known for in the area when he took over the National Park back in 2016. He regularly gives talks to school children telling them about the importance of marine life in general and sea turtles, dugong and sea cucumber in particular. And it was his commitment to the conservation of sea cucumber, in the coastal stretch of Mandapam and Ramnad Wildlife Range, that Sathish was awarded the Save the Species award by RBS Earth Heroes Awards.

"I tell the fishermen that their livelihood is dependent on what the sea gives them. If they abuse the sea, soon there won't be anything left for them to sell and eat. I tell them that these endangered species are important for the other fish to survive. If sea cucumber disappears, their income will also disappear. Sea cucumber cleans the sea bed. This is something that the fishermen understand since the area has seen a drop in the amount of the fish coming in. The impact is that today, even if a dugong gets caught in the nets, it is set free. This has led to an increase in their number. As for sea turtles, if they would get caught in the net, their flippers would be cut off and turtle would be thrown back. But today, people protect them after they have understood the role each marine animal plays," Sathish says.

His work related to dugong is just as innovative. An app has been created — Save the Dugong. "The fisherman, with the help of this app needs to click the picture; it will give us the GPS sighting and help us track the movement. In return we pay ₹10,000. While the money is nowhere near the money they would earn if they killed the animal, the idea of seeing a dugong has caught on and the species number is on the rise. We are now in the process of trying to bring this area as dugong conservation area," Sathish says.

**BHOLU ABRAR KHAN, Bharatpur, Award Category: Green Warrior**

He was all of 12 when he would spend his days chasing birds at Keoladeo Ghana National Park at Bharatpur. His father was a chef at one of the resort's where ornithologists and birdwatcher would come and visit from time to time. One such person who piqued Bhola's interest was Dr Salim Ali who used to frequent the park to ring the birds. Bhola attributes much of his love and knowledge of birds to this man.

"Dr Ali used to come to the park often. Once I met him. He asked me if I would be interested in helping me. I was 12, had lot of energy and free time since I wasn't going to school. I would spend hours chasing birds and looking for them. He was the one who taught me the names and how to identify them. Those which I couldn't identify, I would look at it with care and come back and describe the bird in detail. Dr Ali would then tell me the name. I would go patrolling with the staff even as a kid. I

would go to count nests and help ring the birds," the 65-year-old who retired as forest ranger with the park, recalls.

However, Dr Ali had a strict rule. The only way that Bhola could help was that he had to compulsorily go to school. The young Bhola had no option but to comply. Unfortunately, he could not complete his graduation. In 1976, family pressure forced him to get married. "Those days one simply followed what the family said. I was in second year and sitting in the exam hall when I had to leave. The baarat was at the doorstep. I got caught up with married life and never had the opportunity to go back to complete it," Bhola recounts who had joined the park as a forester.

But it didn't deter him from working with the birds. He got a job with the park, learnt how to conduct bird census camps and to handle birds' safely. He monitored the park daily and reported issues around encroachment, poaching, animal diseases and unruly visitors who would disturb the

birds. His thorough knowledge meant that guides would come to him to take lessons on how to identify a particular bird — whether it was migratory, a resident bird or a resident migratory. He has taught MSc student who came to learn about the birds. He has taught young forest officers who would be posted at the park. He has taught school students who would visit the park by showing them a presentation, the peculiarities of a bird and how to spot them in the wild.

He regales you with stories. He tells you how he was the one who had spotted a hissing cat. Something that was unheard of in the park. "Once, as a kid I spotted a cat. But I didn't know its name. But I studied the way it looked. I ran back and informed the office. When they saw the animal, they were surprised to see a hissing cat. Nobody knew that it was in the park," Bhola tells you.

He tells you how back in the 80s and 90s people would through the park to see



the Siberian crane. Unfortunately, the fighting in Afghanistan in the 90s proved to be fatal to this majestic bird that would rest in Afghanistan. He tells you how rampant killing of this exotic looking bird meant that Keoladeo lost one of its prized possessions. But he tells you that back in

1985, a Russian had ringed a baby Siberian bird. The bird was spotted in the park in 1986 with its parents after flying for 8,000 km.

"The then park director called the person who had tagged the bird. It was then that there are three kinds of population each has a different destination. The central population that comes to Bharatpur, the western population that goes to Iran and eastern population that goes to China where their numbers are large.

There were other challenges as well. Water is a big issue. The Gambhir river that used to feed the Bharatpur wetland, no longer is an option since the construction of the dam. "There was a time when thousands of birds used to come to the park. There was plenty of food back then. But after the dam was built, the part lost its supply of water. The option was to feed the park from the Chambal river. The water from this river that feeds the city is collected some 17 km away in a flood con-

trol drain. But this water lacks natural food. There is bound to be a decline in the bird population. But during good monsoons, there is plenty of food and the bird population thrives," Bhola tells you.

He opines that there is need to ensure that Bharatpur remain a wetland to attract birds. "The town has no other industry. The entire population is depended on tourist who come here. If the water disappears, the birds disappear, the tourists will as well. At present, the park in a world heritage site. But the park can lose its status. What will we do then? The Government is doing its best and park officials are doing their best to deal with the situation since there is so much more awareness about wildlife today," Bhola says.

He tells you his life started with the bird and will end among the birds. His children too are wildlife photographers. "I too am a photographer. Many of my photos have found way into many magazines," Bhola tells you.

# Messi returns to sink Brazil

Lionel Messi misses penalty but still manages to fire Argentina to 1-0 win over Brazil

AFP ■ RIYADH

Lionel Messi struck on his return to international duty following a three-month ban as Argentina defeated fierce rivals Brazil 1-0 in a friendly in Riyadh. The Barcelona forward was suspended by CONMEBOL for accusing South American football's ruling body of "corruption" after he was sent off in July's third-place play-off with Chile at the Copa America. Messi netted the only goal of the game at

the King Saud University Stadium on 13 minutes on Friday, tapping home the rebound after his penalty was saved by Brazil goalkeeper Alisson.

His effort came shortly after Manchester City striker Gabriel Jesus rolled a spot-kick wide for Brazil, who were playing without the injured Neymar.

Messi, who scored with a pair of free-kicks in his last game with Barcelona, twice threatened from set pieces in the second half before Liverpool keeper Alisson beat away a powerful drive from Leandro Paredes.

Rodrygo, the 18-year-old who scored a sensational Champions League hat-trick with Real Madrid this month, made his Brazil debut as he replaced Willian for the final 20 minutes.

However, Brazil were unable to find an equaliser as their winless run since capturing the Copa America title extended to five matches.

"It's important to win and it is always nice to beat Brazil, for the rivalry, which feels a lot of late," said Messi.

"It's good for everything that is to come, to continue growing while looking towards the qualifiers and the next Copa America (in 2020)."

The meeting between the two South American giants was the second in Saudi Arabia in little over a year. Brazil beat Argentina 1-0 in Jeddah in October 2018.

Brazil also defeated Argentina 2-0 at home in the semi-finals of this year's Copa America, a controversial match that left Messi complaining the hosts had benefited from favouritism.

Brazil will play a friendly against South Korea in Abu Dhabi on November 19, in their final game before South American qualifying starts for the 2022 World Cup in March.



AP

# Hamilton keen to gain early advantage ahead of 2020



Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, smiles during a news conference AP

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Lewis Hamilton believes his Mercedes team have an advantage over their rivals ahead of the 2020 world championship after wrapping up their unprecedented sixth consecutive title double with two races to go this year.

The six-time drivers' champion, who retained his crown in Texas two weeks ago, said he was as keen as ever to win the final events in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, but added that Mercedes can take more risks.

"It's almost a different approach now for me, because we can be a little bit more aggressive," said Hamilton.

"We can try some different strategies and we can try some different ways how we go about our weekend and the process.

"We've basically got two freebies to try some new things that can take place next year.

opposed to eight... "So every tiny bit of an advantage you can gain in changing things and adapting and being dynamic, hopefully, could pay dividends next year. That's our goal."

Hamilton also dismissed suggestions that the absence of team chief Toto Wolff from Mercedes pit wall for the first time since 2013 could be a negative factor this weekend.

"It's such a breath of fresh air," he joked before adding: "He has such a presence within this team that even while he's not here, he's still here..."

"Everything that's been set up is because of him — and all the people that he's put in place — and everyone is here still knocking down, working as normal.

"It's just you don't see him on the pit wall. You don't see him in the meetings, but I know he's on the debrief on the other end and listening to all the things we say.

"I think everyone's behaving as well as they can!"



Jasse Tuominen of Finland, second left, vies for the ball with Max Goppel, left, Martin Rechsteiner, below, and Martin Buchel of Liechtenstein during the Euro 2020 AP

# Finland, Sweden seal Euro 2020 place

AFP ■ PARIS

Finland qualified for the first major tournament in their history with a 3-0 win over Liechtenstein while Sweden sealed their place at the Euro 2020 finals following a victory in Romania.

Norwich City forward Teemu Pukki scored twice in Helsinki and Jasse Tuominen also netted to bring the home crowd pouring onto the pitch at the final whistle as Finland wrapped up second place behind Group J winners Italy on Friday.

Roberto Mancini's Italy registered a record 10th straight win as they eased past Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0 in Zenica.

Francesco Acerbi, Lorenzo Insigne and Andrea Belotti scored for

Italy, who have bounced back impressively after failing to qualify for last year's World Cup year for the first time since 1958.

"Mancini has done a great job, he has given us clear ideas in a short period of time. We are proud of the record of ten consecutive wins but our objectives and our dreams are honestly others," said Belotti.

Bosnia are guaranteed a place in the play-offs after finishing top of their UEFA Nations League group last year.

Sweden qualified for a sixth straight European Championships after a 2-0 success in Bucharest that eliminated Romania from contention.

Marcus Berg and Robin Quaison scored first-half goals for Sweden

who secured second place behind Group F winners Spain, leaving Romania hoping for a play-off berth.

Berg headed in an inviting cross from Emil Forsberg as Sweden surged ahead on 18 minutes and then turned provider as he cushioned the ball off for Quaison to double the lead.

## RAMOS HONOURED BY SPAIN FANS

Seven different players were on target for already-qualified Spain in a 7-0 thrashing of lowly Malta in Cadiz.

Alvaro Morata opened the scoring on 23 minutes before former Arsenal midfielder Santi Cazorla bagged his first international goal in four years.

Pau Torres, substitutes Pablo Sarabia and Dani Olmo, Gerard Moreno and Jesus Navas completed the rout as Spain made sure of top spot.

Spanish fans honoured Sergio Ramos with a huge mosaic of the defender who last month broke the record previously held by Iker Casillas for most national team appearances.

"I'm very happy. What better way for me to toast this tribute than with a victory of such authority and playing such good football?" said Ramos, who earned his 169th cap Friday.

"The joy is two-fold on both a personal and group level."

Alexander Sorloth struck twice for Norway in a 4-0 win over the Faroe Islands. Tore Reginiussen and Iver Fossum got the other goals in

Oslo for the hosts who will head into the playoffs.

Denmark require a draw from their final game against the Republic of Ireland after a 6-0 demolition of Gibraltar.

Christian Eriksen and Robert Skov both hit a brace in Copenhagen with Martin Braithwaite and Christian Gytkjaer also on the score-sheet.

Switzerland occupy second place in Group D behind Denmark after a nervy 1-0 win over Georgia courtesy of late header from debutant Cedric Itten.

"I'm still in a bit of shock," said Itten.

"To score on my debut here in St Gallen is a dream come true. It's still going to take a while to sink in."

# Zverev win at ATP Finals, Nadal bows out



Alexander Zverev celebrates after defeating Daniil Medvedev in their ATP World Tours Finals AP

AFP ■ LONDON

Rafael Nadal headed home from the ATP Finals after defending champion Alexander Zverev's win against Daniil Medvedev confirmed the Spaniard's exit from the season-ending tournament.

The world number one recovered to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-5 in the early round-robin match at London's O2 Arena but knew he was dependent on the later result.

Zverev's 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win on Friday meant he qualified for the semi-finals from Group Andre Agassi alongside Tsitsipas.

Tsitsipas, who topped the group, will play six-time champion Roger Federer in Saturday's semi-finals while Zverev will meet Dominic Thiem, who finished ahead of Federer in Group Bjorn Borg.

German seventh seed Zverev broke the fourth-seeded Medvedev early, with the Russian knowing he was already heading out of the tournament after two defeats.

But Medvedev dug deep in the second set, fending off the single break point engineered by Zverev and took it to a tie-break.

The pair swapped mini-breaks but Medvedev double-faulted to give Zverev a 5-3 lead and the German held his nerve to seal his first match point with an ace.

"I'm in the semis again, this arena is where I play my best tennis," said Zverev.

"We don't play in this atmosphere anywhere else in the world. Today because Daniil had nothing to lose he could just enjoy it, but for me it was must-win. He's been the best player since the summer so all credit to him."

## NADAL ASSURED OF NO 1

Zverev, who beat Novak Djokovic in the final last year, has had a mixed season but now has the chance to end it on a high in London.

Nadal, who has already secured the year-end number one ranking, has never won the end-of-season tournament and had a miserable start at the O2 Arena, being outplayed by Zverev in his opening match.

But the 19-time Grand Slam champion produced an astonishing comeback to defeat Medvedev on Wednesday and give himself a chance of qualifying from the round-robin phase.

Tsitsipas, 21, had already qualified for the semi-finals before Friday's match after beating Medvedev and Zverev.

Serve dominated in the first set on Friday, with Tsitsipas taking it on a tie-break. But Nadal put increasing pressure on his opponent's serve and a single break in sets two and three were enough for him to seal the match.

Following his win Nadal was in the strange position of not knowing whether he would qualify for the knockout rounds or not.

He received the trophy for finishing the year as the top-ranked player on the court at the O2.

"I'm super happy," he said. "Honestly, after all the things I went through in my career in terms of injuries I never thought at the age of 33-and-a-half I would have this trophy in my hands again."

"It's something really, really emotional for me. A lot of work in the shadows to be where we are today." Federer secured a spot in the semi-finals for the 16th time in his career on Thursday by beating Djokovic in straight sets.

# Srikanth knocked out of Hong Kong Open

PTI ■ HONG KONG

Profligate Kidambi Srikanth was knocked out of the USD 400,000 Hong Kong Open following a straight-game semifinal defeat to local favourite Lee Cheuk Yiu here on Saturday.

The former world no 1 squandered six game points in the second game to suffer 9-21, 23-25 in contest that lasted 42-minutes.

It was his first semifinal appearance since making the last four at the India Open Super 500. He had finished runner-up at the event.

Srikanth fell back early in the opening game with Lee opening up a 6-1 lead. The Indian tried to catch up but failed to narrow the gap.

In the second game,



Srikanth stepped up the gas taking an early 5-1 lead. However, Lee soon restored parity. The shuttlers fought neck and neck with Srikanth surging ahead but

the Indian lost momentum, eventually conceding the match.

Srikanth had beaten the 23-year-old Lee in straight games at the India Open last

# Tsitsipas shocks Federer to reach final

AFP ■ LONDON

Stefanos Tsitsipas shocked six-time champion Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4 to reach the final of the ATP Finals in his tournament debut on Saturday.

The Greek sixth seed, 17 years younger than his 38-year-old opponent, beat the Swiss at the Australian Open but had fallen to him twice since then.

Federer was unrecognisable from the player who dominated Novak Djokovic in his final round-robin match, struggling on serve and hitting a total of 26 unforced errors compared with just five against the Serbian.

But Tsitsipas belied his years with a performance full of confidence and grit, saving 11 out of 12 break points during the match.

Coming into the match, the Greek 21-year-old led the tournament in service games won, with 35 out of 37.

Tsitsipas conceded a break point in his first game as cries of "Let's go Roger, let's go" rang around the O2 Arena but he survived the scare and broke Federer in the next game.



Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece celebrates winning a point against Roger Federer

dropped just six points on his serve in the first set and saw a whopping six break points come and go.

Tsitsipas was forced to dig deep to see out the set, needing seven set points before he finally closed it out 6-3.

Federer was in deep trouble when Tsitsipas broke him to love in the third game of the second set but he finally made a break point count -- his 10th, to level at 2-2.

straight away with a forehand cross-court winner for a 3-2 lead.

At 5-4 down Federer knew he had to break Tsitsipas for only the second time in the match.

The Greek slipped to 15-40 down but Federer again could not take advantage, spraying a forehand out to give his opponent a match point and he won with an ace.

Austrian fifth seed Dominic Thiem plays defending champion Alexander Zverev of Germany in the second semi-final later on Saturday.

# Pacers engineer another innings win

## India demolish Bangladesh for sixth successive Test win

PTI ■ INDORE

India annihilated Bangladesh inside three days for a resounding innings and 130 run-victory in the first Test, riding on one of the most hostile fast bowling performances in recent times.

The quick victory was on predicted lines.

Having bowled Bangladesh out for 150 in the first innings, India bundled them out for 213 in the second after declaring their first innings on their overnight score of 493 for six.

The victory also gave India 60 points, and they strengthened their position in the World Test Championship table with 300 points in their kitty.

The thrashing also completed a hat-trick of innings wins for them, having beaten South Africa in the second and third Test in the previous series.

The gulf was huge between the two teams and it could only get worse for Bangladesh from here onwards as the Indian pace attack, in the upcoming Day/Night Test with pink ball, is expected to cause more damage to their batsmen's psyche.

It was a game where Mohammed Shami (match haul of 7 wickets), Umesh Yadav (4 wickets overall) and Ishant Sharma (3 wickets) scared the hell out of an opposition that showed little stomach for a fight, save senior player Mushfiqur Rahim (64, 150 balls, 7x4), who delayed the inevitable.

Ravichandran Ashwin (match haul of 5 wickets) complemented the pacers, chipping in with wickets at regular intervals.

Bangladesh may have lost a lot of Test matches but the one in Indore has left them with scars that will remain for a long time. An international team looked frightened in the face of relentless hostility.

There were no angry gestures or over-the-top celebrations but scorch-



India's Ravichandran Ashwin, center, and teammates celebrate the dismissal of Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim during the third day of first cricket test match

## Arun lauds Indian pace unit

PTI ■ INDORE

An extremely skilful bunch with each speed merchant bringing in a different facet makes the current Indian pace unit best in the world, feels team's bowling coach Bharath Arun.

In another fabulous fast bowling performance without injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, the Indian trio of Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami collected 14 wickets in an innings and 130 runs victory over Bangladesh in the first Test.

But more than the wickets, it's the impact that the pacers have created over the last 20 months has left a lasting impression.

"I think at present we are the no. 1 team in the world. Getting there is difficult, staying there is even more difficult. I think to do that over a period of three years, you need to stay constantly hungry," Arun said after the match.

India's most successful bowling coach Arun then spoke about each of the three pacers.

On Ishant coming round the wicket to left-hander (Shadman Islam dismissal), Arun said: "Actually started working on that variation from yesterday. So if you look at the way he signalled after he

got the wicket, he was very happy that he could do that.

"Each time you try to explore new avenues in your bowling, you constantly look to improve. And this would give him the much needed fillip to experiment more and try out," he added.

It's Ishant's experience that has made him the bowler that he is.

"Ishant is probably the most experienced bowler we have. He has played over 90 Test matches. He felt that he needs the batsmen to play a lot more.

It was about him trying to experiment with different angles. What he's doing now, suits his bowling best," the bowling coach said.

When asked about Umesh, the bowling coach lavished praise on the "character" that he has shown despite being in and out of the side due to specific team combinations.

"Umesh showed a lot of character in coming back. But then that's also an embarrassment of riches (with Bumrah on his way to recovery)," the former India bowler said.

"You have five fast bowlers (Buvneshwar Kumar) who are ready to play for the country. And over a period of time if you can manage the workloads well, we can ensure that each one is nice and fresh for every game that we play."

just bowled one fuller on the off-stump channel. The ball held its line and all the veteran did was to offer a training session slip catch to Rohit Sharma.

Amid the ruins, Rahim, after get-

ting reprieve in the first session, showed his will to fight that was missing in younger colleague Liton Das (35 off 39 balls), who showed T20 skills when something else was required.

ing pace, mesmerising swing and the red cherry rearing at the throat from good length.

It created a spectacle and Bangladesh didn't have the wherewithal to handle it.

The best part about this Indian attack is that its intensity is same even in the third session as it is early in the morning. Mehidy Hasan Miraj (38 off 55 balls), despite sharing a 59-run stand with Rahim, being bounced out by Umesh, was a case in point.

It was a 'heavy ball' in cricketing parlance that grew big on Miraj, hit-

ting him on his chest and then tickling the stumps. It was pure intimidation as the batsman looked in physical pain as he left.

Ditto for Imrul Kayes, who got a perfect outswinger (inswinger for a left hander) from Umesh in the first session. The ball tailed in and uprooted the leg-stump. Kayes had given up on the fight from the start as he looked nervous while facing each and every delivery.

Shadman Islam may have been a heavy scorer in domestic cricket but he has never faced a bowler of Ishant's

calibre in his short Test career.

So when young Shadman got one from Ishant to nip back from length, he couldn't react in time to bring his bat down, as the ball clipped the top of middle stump.

Bangladesh's best bet, Mominul Haque (7) was jittery from the start and survived a DRS call while trying to leave a delivery pitched on the off-stump.

However, when Shami angled one into the opposition skipper, he was adjudged plumb in-front even though Virat Kohli had to take a review, which

turned out to be successful.

Shami's guile again came to the fore when he hurried Mohammed Mithun with a bouncer and his mistimed pull was easily taken at mid-wicket by Mayank Agarwal.

For the team's oldest player (in terms of age) Mahmudullah Riyad, the issue was technical as well as temperamental.

A fluent player in white ball format, not for once during the two innings did he look comfortable be it against the pacers or spinners.

In the post-lunch session, Shami



India's Ishant Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Umesh Yadav leave the field

## We feed on each other's success: Ishant

PTI ■ INDORE

Feeding off each other's success over attaching importance to hierarchy within the fast bowling department has helped in Indian pacers recent success, the experienced Ishant Sharma said here on Saturday.

The trio of Ishant, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav shared 14 wickets between them to annihilate Bangladesh by an innings and 130 runs in the first Test here, helping India go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

"I am not treated as a senior, we don't have anything like that (junior/senior mindset). We always enjoy each other's success, speak with each other and try and share our plans. It's healthy competition," Ishant said after the match.

To this Shami added: "The more we get tired, the better fun we have. We push each other. We try to enjoy each other's success. There are certain things I cannot even say."

"I bowl alongside Ishant and Umesh, that makes it easier for me. I focus on my length and have been able to execute it well."

Ishant said it's difficult for him to explain his recent purple patch.

"I have played quite a lot. I am only 31 but having played almost 100 games, the body does feel old. The bowling is taking a toll on my body, but I'm enjoying it, trying out different variations."

Umesh said the incentive for the fast bowlers at home is that they get more overs when they take more wickets.

"Earlier, the new ball was doing a lot for pacers. We know our strengths. We try to take wickets with the new ball and make it easier for spinners."

Shami said he's looking forward to playing the pink-ball Test in Kolkata.

"What I try to do is to pitch it on a good spot, nothing special. I just try to execute good line and length. That will be the same with the pink ball also," he said.

He said given Umesh's power with the bat, all the boundaries in India looked small.

"We don't have restrictions as batters. The team management has given us freedom."

We try to bat sensibly, though, when there is a batter at the other end. I have been empowered by the skipper and the coach."

## 'We now have dream combination of fast bowlers'

PTI ■ INDORE

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Saturday termed his fast bowling arsenal as a "dream combination" that can torment any opposition on any kind of surface.

Riding on one of the most hostile fast bowling performances in recent times, India thrashed Bangladesh by an innings and 130 runs inside three days in the first Test.

Asked about India's current fast bowling resources, Kohli reminded that the team is without Jasprit Bumrah, who is undergoing treatment for an injury.

"These guys (fast bowlers) are on top of their game, when they bowl, it looks like any pitch is a good pitch. Jasprit is not a part of

the attack and when he comes back, it will be a one heck of an attack to counter (by opposition teams)," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

"They can take wickets in every spell. The slip fielders are ready as they know the ball can come any over. This is a dream combination for any captain. Having strong bowlers is the most important thing in any team," he added.

Talking about the match, he said, "Don't know what to say, it's another clinical performance. It was very professional with the bat, playing five batters with one guy taking responsibility is what we want with overseas tours coming up. Hats off to the boys."

India's performance at



Captain Virat Kohli applaud teammates

home is now comparable with the Australians of the early 2000s but Kohli said the team was not playing for records.

"The numbers and records are there for every-

one to see, that'll remain in the books, we haven't focused on it. We're looking at keeping the standards up, motivating the next lot of players. In that process, we're pushing up the standard of

Indian cricket. We don't care about numbers at all as a team," the skipper said.

Asked about Mayank Agarwal's superlative performance, Kohli said, "The mindset is simple, when you see a young guy coming in to bat in Tests I know how much time it took me to get those big hundreds, so I know the importance of getting big runs."

"It's important as a senior batter to let them know to keep going. I want them to not make the mistakes I made as youngsters to make them world class cricketers."

The Indian team will play its first ever Day/Night Test in the second and final match against Bangladesh in Kolkata, and Kohli said the players are excited about it.

"The pink-ball Test is going to be exciting, will be a challenge for the batters. With the older ball, it doesn't swing that much so the bowlers will have a challenge. We're just happy to be among the first to play pink-ball cricket for India."

Man of the Match Agarwal said it was a dream come true for him to play for India and produce this kind of performance.

"It's dream come true to play for India, grateful for the start I've got. Hope I can continue. I do practice my six-hitting but not during the Tests, but I do try and hit a few in domestic cricket," said Agarwal who made 243 in India's only innings.

"It's great to have somebody who motivates you. When I got my first 150,

Kohli was at the non-striker's end and he said 'nothing short of 200 for you next.'

About the Day/Night Test in Kolkata, he said, "We've had three pink-ball sessions under lights, Rahul Dravid arranged those in Bangalore. Looking forward to the game now. It's going to be a landmark game for us."

Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque said the toss impacted the outcome of the match.

"It has been difficult. We won (the toss) and decided to bat, it was a difficult decision. But I have a lot of positives, especially Abu Jayed who picked four wickets. Mushfiqur was superb with the bat in both innings, Liton did well too," he said.

PTI ■ INDORE

India have extended their stay here by two days and will have a full-fledged training under lights from Sunday, aiming to get used to the "twilight" ahead of the country's first pink-ball Test.

Even the Bangladesh team has also decided to stay back and utilise the time, which they have got because of an early finish to the opening Test, training under lights.

It has been learnt that

## Twilight Training

### Indian team to stay in Indore for nets under lights

for the next two days, the Indian team's focus will be on what is being called as "twilight zone", something that cricketers who have played with the pink ball, have acknowledged to be very challenging.

"We will specifically train during the twilight because we still don't know what the ball will

do during that particular phase," a source close to the team management told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Many players who have played the Duleep Trophy, including Cheteshwar Pujara, has said that sighting the pink ball at twilight is a challenge as the crimson

colour of the sky and the pink colour of the ball makes it look more like orange.

"In the twilight period, I feel that maybe sighting the ball could be a little challenging. (But) the more you play, you get used to it. It's always about experience and knowing how the ball is

behaving," Pujara recent told PTI in an interview. Ravichandran Ashwin had recently said that, at times, he is getting a feel of an orange ball.

"Obviously, it's a challenge to play with the pink ball. The ball has a lot more lacquer. I haven't even bowled a single ball with the pink ball. Obviously I just saw it. Sometimes I don't understand if its orange or pink, still coming to terms with that," Ashwin had said.

## Warner will bounce back after Ashes horror: Lyon

IANS ■ BRISBANE

David Warner had a horrible outing during the Ashes campaign this year as he managed just 95 runs at an average of 9.5 from five games. But his teammate and leg-spinner Nathan Lyon feels the Australia opener will come out all gun blazing in the two-Test series against Pakistan, starting here on Thursday.

Warner became a victim of England pacer Stuart Broad seven times in Ashes this year. "Dave is a world-class player. I'm expecting him to come out here and play exceptionally well," Lyon told reporters on Saturday.

"No doubt, he would have been down and disappointed about the Ashes that he had.

But he was still part of the side to go over there and retain the Ashes, which is pretty bloody special, if you ask me," he added. Lyon also reckoned the Aussie opener has learnt from the experience in Ashes.

"I know when I'm bowling to someone who I've got the wood over, it can play on their mind. So no doubt, Davey would have felt the pressure. But it's one of those things where you need to accept the challenge and move on and try to get better," he expressed.

The series between Australia and Pakistan is likely to be a battle between the pace attack of both the sides as the hosts boasts of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood in their arse-

nal while the Green Brigade have Naseem Shah, 19-year-old Shaheen Afridi and Muhammad Musa and the impressive Muhammad Abbas.

However, Lyon felt as a spinner, he could play a crucial role after picking 33 wickets at an average of 27.7 at the ground.

"For the last eight or nine years I've been playing Test cricket here, everyone's been talking about playing four quicks every time I come here," Lyon said.

"I love playing cricket here. I think it's a good contest between bat and ball. Personally, I find I get a fair amount of bounce and a bit of spin over the last couple of years as well," he added.



## Rajat Sharma resigns as DDCA president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior journalist Rajat Sharma on Saturday resigned from the post of president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA), citing his inability to continue amidst "various pulls and pressures" within the organisation.

Sharma's nearly 20-month tenure was a tumultuous one with his public differences with general secretary Vinod Tihara, who enjoys a fair amount of support base in the organisation.

"The cricket administration here is full of pulls and pressures all the time. I feel that vested interests are always actively working against the interest of cricket," Sharma said in a statement.

"It seems that it may not be possible to carry on in DDCA with my principles of integrity, honesty and transparency, which I am not willing to compromise at any cost," he added.

Within hours of Sharma's resignation, CEO Ravi Chopra also put in his papers. The two member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sunil Valson and Yashpal Sharma also tendered res-

ignation. It will be interesting to see whether the Atul Wasan-led selection committee and coach KP Bhaskar will continue for the Ranji Trophy team or not.

Sharma had joined cricket administration after receiving active backing from former finance minister late Arun Jaitley.

Many DDCA insiders believe that Sharma lost ground once Jaitley was no more as the late former finance minister was the binding force for all the different factions.

"In my endeavour though I faced many road blocks, opposition and oppression, just to keep me from discharging my duties in fair and transparent," Sharma said.

"That's why I have decided to call it a day and hereby tender my resignation to the Apex Council from the post of President, DDCA with immediate effect," he added.

With Sharma's resignation, Tihara's suspension is expected to be revoked. That will pave the way for him to become DDCA's representative at the December 1 BCCI AGM in Mumbai.

"It is a good decision by Rajat ji to tender his resignation. Yesterday, eight of the directors had signed in favour of withdrawing all powers from the president," Tihara told PTI.





**Having born to a naval officer, how did you end up doing acting?**

I had a regular childhood. My parents are from Delhi and I was born and brought up in the city. And like every other child of the generation, I too was obsessed with *Chitrahaar* (aired on DD National) and *Superhit Muqabla* (aired on DD Metro). I wanted to be a part of those shows. After I grew up and was studying in

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## Talktime

SWARA BHASKER

Known for her roles in *Tanu Weds Manu* and *Veere Di Wedding*, Bhasker never fears in voicing her opinions. She speaks with Musba Hashmi about how she never had the fear of getting typecast and upcoming projects

University, my interest in acting grew even more. I wanted to be seen on the screen. Then after completing my MA, I shifted to Mumbai to pursue my dreams.

**You debuted with *Madholal Keep Walking* but the film didn't do well. Did it dishearten you?**

My first film is a different project that has not been released till date. By the time *Madholal...* released, I realised that it's not just enough to shoot a film but there's a whole process to get them released. So you have to land in projects that will actually get released and not just shot. I didn't expect *Madholal...* to do well because there's a whole system for distribution and economic breakdown also. It didn't dishearten me at all. Also, the film got good reviews. Then I got *Tanu Weds Manu* and I got so many accolades for the film and that actually became my break.

**In the initial days of your career, did you have the fear of being typecasted?**

No. You're right that a lot of people try to tell what one should do and what not and direct them by saying not to do a particular type of role or else you'll get typecasted. But, I never had this fear in me. I was clear in my mind that I wouldn't be spending my life waiting for the ideal role to come to me. I can't sit idle. I start angsty if I am not working. I knew that I couldn't get a star-child launch. Not that Karan Johar or Sanjay Leela Bhansali would be launching me opposite a superstar, that was

never going to happen. I figured it out that I have to showcase my work.

If you'll look at my career, I have broken all the rules and have done everything that people tell aspiring actors not to do. My biggest break, as I mentioned earlier turned out to be a heroine's best friend's role. And it is in the industry's dont dos list. Then Bindiya, the rejected lover in *Raanjhanaa*, next came Salman Khan's sister in *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo*, it was a role that no actor was ready to play it,

I WAS CLEAR IN MY MIND THAT I WOULDN'T BE SPENDING MY LIFE WAITING FOR THE IDEAL ROLE TO COME TO ME. I KNEW THAT I COULDN'T GET A STAR-CHILD LAUNCH

followed by *Nil Battey Sannata* which people told me that it was like a career suicide because I played a mother of a 15-year-old at such a young age and then ofcourse Sakshi Soni's masturbation scene in *Veere Di Wedding*. I had done TV at a time when people considered it uncool. So, I believe in breaking all the boxes and that's what I tell others to do too. I don't pay attention to what people say not out of disrespect but because how can someone else decide for me what is my trajectory in life.

**A worst and best moment in the industry.**

My worst experience was when a star abused me on sets just because they were having a tantrum. I don't want to get into name calling, but it happened in front of a lot of people and everyone just stood still. After a moment, they all ignored it and behaved as if nothing has happened at all.

There are a lot of good experiences that I have had in the industry. But the best moment has always been the messages that Sooraj Barjatya sir keep on sending me every now and then praising my work and checking up on me if I am good or not.

**You often have been at the receiving end for raising your voice on different issues. Does these trolls affect you in anyway?**

It's not nice to be at the receiving end of trolling but I don't pay attention to it now because I have become familiar to it. But, the thing that I do feel bad about is people mis-

understand what I say. And this is not a nice place to be in. It is like a collateral damage of speaking out but I wouldn't stop speaking up fearing that somebody would misunderstand me. I cannot help that. I remember when I wrote that open letter (to Sanjay Leela Bhansali for *Padmavat*) so many people got angry on it for no reason.

Most of them didn't even read the letter, they just read the headline. I don't even choose the headlines, the publishing platform does. So, I was a little sad at that time, but it's fine. I think people are not used to seeing women speaking up on issues, they just don't like it. It is a bigger problem and I don't understand what's a big deal in that.

**Can you talk about your upcoming film *Sheer Qorma*?**

It's a beautiful film about a Muslim same sex couple directed and written by Faraz Arif Ansari. It's a subject that we have not seen on screens before. It's a long-short film, which means it's not a full length film. It's a dream come true moment for me because Faraz have given me the opportunity to work with Shabana Azmi ji and Divya Dutta ma'am.

**Do you think the film can land in some controversies because of the sensitivity of the topic?**

I can't predict a controversy. But the soul of the film is so pure, I don't think there can be any controversy around it. I am convinced that it will go well with people.

# DIFFERENT experience

The 8th edition of Dharamsala International Film Festival had a lot to offer to viewers this time round. SHAINI SAKSENA caught up with SUSHIL CHAUDHARY, the brain behind Picture Time Digiplex to talk about the pulsating content

The Dharamsala International Film Festival, is in its eighth year and has wowed the audience with some of the best works from directors and filmmakers from across the globe. A brainchild of Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam, filmmakers themselves and the festival that began its journey in 2012 has grown manifold. Back then, the two travelled to other film festivals to showcase their work and assess the organisation and the kind of work being shown.

For example, at the Locarno International Film Festival, the organisers had used a mountain as a backdrop to show a film. A film festival in the Amazonian basin was so lush and grand that the couple wanted to do something similar and Dharamsala International Film Festival was born.

The festival this year saw a diverse mix of independent features, documentaries, shorts and animation films from India as well as around the world. Some of the feature documentaries that made it to the festival were Archana Atul Phadke's *About Love*, Thomas Heise's *Heimat Is a Space in Time*, Kavich Neang's *Last Night I Saw You Smiling*. Besides showcasing some brilliant cinema, the festival also featured an acting workshop by noted actor Adil Hussain. Swiss filmmaker Samuel Weniger and Japanese documentary filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda enlighten audiences on their enriching sessions on filmmaking.

The lineup also included Vinod Kambale's feature film *Kastoori* which was shown in mobile theatres which were put up by Picture Time Digiplex, a mobile theatre company that uses these theatres to take films to rural areas where there are no theatre screens. It is equipped with air-condition and 5.1 Dolby system that gives you the experience of watching a film in a high tech theatre.

"Dharamsala doesn't have proper infrastructure when it comes to the-

atres or fixed auditoriums. There was a need to create the right cinematic experience in a constrained environment. Mobile theatres resolved the issue. All that they need is open space — 80X80 feet. They can be set up in less than three hours and taken down when the event is over. This was a unique feature of this festival," Sushil Chaudhary, the brain behind the Picture Time Digiplex, tells you.

There are several benefits when one uses a technology like this. "Earlier, the films were being shown with a normal projector and normal sound system. Today, however, audio and visual defines good content. One can have great content but if the audio and the visuals are not good, the film will not have the necessary impact. Take *Sholay*. If the film was to be made with the present technology, one can only imagine the grandeur. The technology element plays an important role in filmmaking. Our technology makes it possible for the viewers to have a more immersive experience," Chaudhary explains.

In order to get the content for the festival, which is in its eighth edition, there is a need to get the rights with secure technology.

"The Picture Time has been designed with global standards which relates to the security of content. Also when it comes to audio and visual experience, it is 2K digital cinema system. This meant that the filmmakers and content owners didn't have any problems with sharing their work for this year's festival. We also used an innovative method to download content of getting the DCPs. This meant even if there was no Internet connectivity at Dharamsala, we could use our V-set system to ensure that the content ran seamlessly. This gave the content owners a lot of comfort when it came to sharing their work. The content curation team was strong and we got a lot of European, African, Canadian and American films. What



Actor Adil Hussain with Sushil Chaudhary of Picture Time Digiplex at Dharamsala

TODAY, AUDIO AND VISUAL DEFINES GOOD CONTENT. ONE CAN HAVE GREAT CONTENT BUT IF THE AUDIO AND THE VISUALS ARE NOT GOOD, THE FILM WILL NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY IMPACT

I loved about this festival was that besides being a boutique, it was content-heavy. It had a strange spirit which was so different from the other festivals," Chaudhary says.

This meant that the atmosphere was informal and much of the proto-

col was given a miss. This allowed people to interact with the filmmakers and technicians who gave master classes for filmmaking. "There was a clean vibe. People asked questions freely," Chaudhary says.

He tells you that Dharamsala is

only a venue albeit a unique one. "Most global film festivals are associated with venues. Just like Cannes, it has no market for the film industry, but it makes for a great venue. Similarly, Dharamsala, set in the shadow of the majestic Dhauladhar mountains, offers a beautiful setting. It has made its mark when it comes to those who are in the market of making independent cinema. This is among one of the most sought after film festival for independent producers world over. This was the first film festival where a Tibetan film was made and showcased. But the eco-system in the city is such that people look forward to this festival. Last year, all the tickets were sold out. Locals look forward to it. They go out of their way to make things as easy as possible for those who come here. McLeod Ganj that has narrow roads removes traffic restrictions during festival days. It is not just locals who throng to this festival," Chaudhary says.

He tells you that this festival attracts people not just from within India but also abroad. "This year, we had volunteers who had come all the way from the US," he says. Chaudhary tells you that there are always security concerns for content owners because a festival is a place where one's work can be stolen if not properly secured. "Imagine that your whole work has been copied and multiple CDs made and the work released online and offline. While one can track online, it is impossible to do so offline," Chaudhary tells you.

When Sarin and Sonam had started the festival it was very boutique for a selected group, but the idea, this time, did not only make this edition big but to grow bigger from here on. "When they approached me last year, I told them I could bring in tech elements to the festival and three mobile theatres were set up. The festival was a huge success and we intend to go bigger from here," Chaudhary says.

## 'Artist should push himself to be successful'



Singer SHREYA SHARMA speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how she got her first break with Prada and a remix of wedding song for the brides to enjoy on their special day

**How did your musical journey begin?**

It began when I was four years old and my mother noticed my interest. I started learning at a very young age. I learnt music. I went to New York to study and interned there. It has been an ongoing process. But I came back to India, Mumbai. That is how it all started.

**You interned in New York. Was working there never on the cards?**

As a performer, I felt that my personal musical influences were more Indian like India pop and Bollywood. I always felt that I would adjust to this kind of music better.

**Was it tough to come back and difficult to adjust to Mumbai?**

I am not from Mumbai. My family is from Meerut. When I was in a boarding school, I was very sheltered. Then I went to New York, but when I moved to Mumbai, I was all by myself. It was tough going to begin with. But life goes on and things settled down soon.

**How did you get your first break — for Prada?**

I was doing shows with Katalyst Entertainment and had gone to meet Naveen Soni at his office and it was by chance that they were discussing about *Lamborghini*, it had only been a week since the song had released. We got talking and saw a cover that I had done and they asked me to record a track. They came up with *Prada* and we recorded the song. We had a lot of fun. I was at the right place at the right time.

**People are usually looking for a Bollywood break. Was it the same for you?**

Whether it is indie pop or Bollywood, it is always about connecting with the song and the music. I love Bollywood and the songs. When *Prada* happened, I enjoyed it very much, I loved the vibe.

**You have been associated with music for such a long time. Is there any hit formula?**

There is no formula. One can never predict what the public will like or dislike. India is such a vast country, it is difficult to make a generalised statement that this sells or that doesn't sell. All I would say that a song that connects with the public will do well. There are people who say that fast numbers work, but slow songs do well too. Some people like old songs as well. Content is king and all demographics fail.

**How would you define success?**

My parameters are feelings and to be professionally satisfied with the work that I have done. If the audience connects with the song means that one is successful. But having said this, it is important for an artist to push himself or herself all the time. One can't be complacent. If you keep pushing yourself, you are successful then.

**Are you working on a project?**

Yes, I am working on a couple of projects. Then there is wedding cover of an old song that I am working on, it is an ode to the brides getting married this season. I want them to feel special and enjoy their day. The cover is slated to be released this year on my YouTube channel.

## WEEKLY NATTER

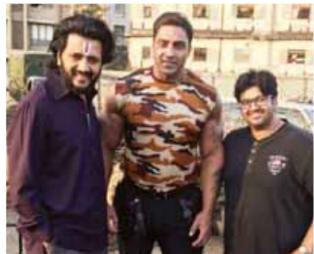
### VARINDER SINGH'S ACTING CONNECTION

Varinder Singh Ghuman, who was last seen in the film, *Roar: Tigers Of The Sundarbans* (2014), is all set for his second outing in Hindi cinema — he is a part of director Milap Milan Zaveri's *Marjaavaan*. Ask him about his role in the film, and he replies: "All I can reveal is that the character has a lot to do with my physicality. Saying more would spoil the fun."

A professional bodybuilder and wrestler, Varinder had won the title of Mr India in 2009 and also secured second position at the Mr Asia contest. He is touted to be the world's first vegetarian professional bodybuilder, and also the first Indian to secure the pro card from the International Federation Of BodyBuilding. Apart from acting and bodybuilding, he is also the brand ambassador of health products by a popular Hollywood action hero in Asia.

Interestingly, Varinder says that acting happened to him by accident. "I never thought of acting as a profession, but with *Roar* coming my way and now *Marjaavaan*, I am loving this new journey."

So, does he have more offers in hand? "Yes, there are a couple of interesting projects, but let's talk about them at the right time," he says.



### BHUMIKA TO BE SCREENED AT IFFI

The 50th edition of IFFI will have a section called The Indian New Wave Films among which Indian films like filmmaker Shyam Benegal's *Bhumika* that released in 1976 and starred Amol Palekar, Smita Patil and Amrish Puri along with his 1973 release *Ankur* that had Anant Nag and Shabana Azmi in the lead roles will be screened.

Along with these two, other films which will be screened under the same section are *Ajantrik* (1957), *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1960), *Bhuvan Shome* (1969), *Swayamvaram* (1972), *Uttarayanam* (1974), *Thampu* (1978), *Uski Roti* (1969), *Duvidha* (1973), *Tarang* (1972), and *Agraharathil Kazhuthai* (1977).

The 50th International Film Festival of India, 2019 will witness over 200 films from 76 countries. With the screening of 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian panorama section, around 10,000 people and film lovers are expected to attend and participate in the golden jubilee edition. The 2019 Golden Jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India will take place from the November 20 to November 28 at Panjim, Goa.



### 21 BRIDGES TO RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 22

STX films, MWM Studios and Huari Brothers Pictures present *21 Bridges*, Starring Chadwick Boseman, Sienna Miller, Stephan James, Keith David, with Taylor Kitsch and J.K. Simmons. Brian Kirk directs from a script written by Adam Mervis and Matthew Michael Carnahan. The PVR Pictures's film will be released on November 22, 2019 worldwide.

The film follows NYPD detective Andre Davis (Chadwick Boseman) who leads a citywide manhunt for a pair of cop killers. Davis' relentless pursuit also uncovers a massive conspiracy, and lines become blurred on whom he is pursuing — and who is after him. When the search intensifies, extreme measures are taken to prevent the killers from escaping Manhattan, as Davis directs the authorities to close all 21 bridges to prevent any entry or exit from the iconic island.

"The idea of locking down Manhattan for a manhunt was incredibly compelling and cinematic," says Chadwick Boseman, who portrays Davis and also serves as a producer on the film. "We haven't seen that before."



# the pioneer agenda

Don't take yourself too seriously. Know when to laugh at yourself, and find a way to laugh at obstacles that inevitably present themselves  
— Halle Berry



FROM THE INSIDE

## Mystic pillars of a great king

The two pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border tell the tale of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism

2



4

## Leading a virtuous life

Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were transformational and cut across the lines of religion



# FROM THE KEHWA KHANAS TO THE SOCIALS

What do millennials want from restaurants in India? Do they appreciate quality, instead of chatpata, “buzzing” flavours? The answers lie in the history of restaurant retail in India and cultural habits of how people eat different foods at home and in restaurants, writes ANOOTHY VISHAL in her book, *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*. But first, a taste of history... An edited excerpt:

If professional chefs run restaurants today, history has come a full circle. In medieval India, the moneyed nobility employed the highest-paid chefs and not the *bazaar* chefs who cooked the common man's *chaat*, kebabs and breads. Several accounts of Lucknow, including the early 20th-century *Guzishta Lucknow* by Abdul Halim Sharar, talk of highly paid *rikabdars*, or professional cooks, who specialised in unique dishes that left their diners amazed.

Shaikh Fida Ali was a *rikabdar* during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh. He once placed a transparent lampshade on a table before a British dignitary. He placed a lit candle inside the lampshade, then blew it out, broke what appeared to be the glass of the shade and started eating it. 'It was later learnt that the entire lampshade was made out of sugar candy,' wrote Aslam Mahmud, an old *Lucknauwallah* and bureaucrat, in his superbly researched *Awadh Symphony*, which talks about life under the nawabs. Centuries before molecular gastronomy began to beguile us with its presentations, the *rikabdars* were already practising food as an art form.

Restaurant cooks, on the other hand, traditionally didn't know how to cook these nuanced dishes, and restaurant cooking has therefore always been distinct from home cooking in India. This fact is crucial to any understanding of the country's food- and restaurant-scape. For the first time, really, in the history of food retail in India, we are at a point where at least some restaurant food cooked by chefs is being considered more evolved and more desirable than home food. Experience-led dining that was confined to moneyed homes (as opposed to restaurants that were more functional and catered to mass needs) has only relatively recently shifted out of that private zone and into a public, social one.

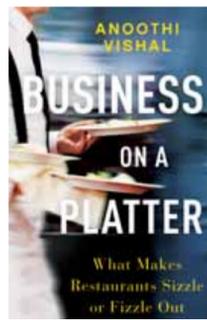
After the British assumed power in India and Mughal might was lost, cooks who had till then laboured in the kitchens of aristocrats found themselves out of work. Some of them found work with new employers but discovered that these new sahibs and brown sahibs of the Raj did not understand the elite art. Chef Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, a well-known chef from Lucknow popular for his high-end wedding catering, tells me this delicious story behind the popular Lucknow idiom, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal', used to be dismissive about someone.

According to him, a chef who found employment after having served a nawab for a long time asked his new employer what he would like to eat that day. The employer told him to make something simple like *masoor dal*. The chef in turn handed the employer a long list of ingredients to be bought for the preparation, looking at which the employer's face fell and he complained of the expense. The cook walked out, scoffing, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal' (loosely translated as 'How can you, with this face, appreciate my *masoor dal*').

Used to a lavish, no-expense-spared way of cooking, the talented cooks must have been at a loose end. Some of them and their descendants set up small restaurants where they refashioned the elaborate and exquisite foods of their former masters as bites for common men. *Qormas* (hitherto cooked only within homes, *nihari* being the street dish), *dal* and *pulaos* were thus tweaked to become part of Mughlai menus at a few restaurants in cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

We find an example of this kind of shift in the story of Karim's, the iconic Mughlai restaurant in Delhi. According to his descendants' retelling of their restaurant's history, in 1913, Haji Karimuddin set up Karim Hotel in Gali Kababian near Jama Masjid, contending he was serving the 'food of royals to the common man'. Haji Karimuddin traced his ancestry to a family of Mughal cooks in Shahjahanabad that had to flee the capital after the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was exiled. The family relocated to Meerut. However, when India came under the British crown and the Delhi Durbar was being held in 1911, Karimuddin moved back to the city with the idea of opening a small restaurant to take advantage of the crowd that would be descending on the city for the *darbar*. Karim Hotel in the beginning served just *aloo gosht*, a home-style gravy of meat and potatoes, and *dal* to its patrons. The food was meant to be a substitute for home food.

In Calcutta, another cosmopolitan melting pot, dishes of Mughal origin were reinvented by small restaurants to cater to the needs of workers and daily-wage earners. Anadi Cabin on Esplanade is reputed to be almost a hundred years old. It has been around most certainly since before Partition, and remains unchanged till today, including in its use of the same iron *tawa* on which the cook shallow-fries Mughlai *porotas* (the Bengali term for *paranathas*), a beloved Calcutta street snack and Anadi's signature dish.



MANY OF THESE EARLY RESTAURANTS THUS CAME UP AS BUSINESSES THAT WERE SEEKING NOT TO PROVIDE RECREATION BUT INSTEAD TO CATER TO A NEED FOR CHEAP, FILLING MEALS AS PEOPLE MOVED FROM VILLAGES AND SMALLER TOWNS TO THE CITIES TO WORK FOR THEIR COLONIAL MASTERS



The tiny restaurant turns out 400 *porotas* from 20 kg of four daily in a kitchen visible to all. The *porotas* could be covered in duck egg (which were considered vegetarian by traditional meat-eating Hindu Bengalis who did not prefer chicken) or chicken egg, filled with *keema*, folded and shallow-fried. These *keema porotas* are an innovation often credited to this restaurant. Mughlai *paranathas* almost certainly existed in Lucknow and Awadhi homes before Wajid Ali's exile to Calcutta along with cooks who brought Nawabi dishes to the City of Joy. The simple egg-coated Mughlai *parantha* of Awadh, made with many layers or *parat*, underwent a metamorphosis to become the *keema*-filled substantial snack of Calcutta, which could be picked up easily and eaten on the go by daily-wage earners in the new city.

Many of these early restaurants thus came up as businesses that were seeking not to provide recreation but instead to cater to a need for cheap, filling meals as people moved from villages and smaller towns to the cities to work for their colonial masters. However, colonialism in India brought with it more upscale restaurant and leisured experiences, catering to the elite.

The first passenger train in India started running between Bombay and Thane in April 1853, pulled by three steam engines Sahib, Sindh and Sultan on a 34 km broad-gauge line. As British India's rail network grew and the railways began to cover longer distances (Bombay to the capital in Calcutta was a much publicised route for first-class tourists), there was need for refreshments and restaurants en route.

Several British or Anglo-Indian travellers' accounts speak of impeccable crockery, turbaned waiters and formal service, and food that was fairly similar all across the railways — thick soups, cutlets and bread and butter. It was, however, only Europeans or Anglo-Indian travellers who were entitled to travel in first-class carriages, and who could enjoy the catering in the dining cars. Conditions in the third class, in which the bulk of Indians travelled, were terrible. A 1929 *Times of India* report said that the Great Indian Peninsular Railways was trying out a separate dining car for Indians: 'It would probably not have allowed the third class passengers who made up the bulk of travellers, and who had to either eat food they had brought or buy at station halts on the way.'

Since the catering was primarily for Europeans, European-inspired dishes started

appearing on the menus in these restaurants along the rail network — things like chops, cutlets, omelettes, tea and custard. These dishes would eventually get absorbed as restaurant and club food in India, and we continue to eat some of this 'continental' food even today. The crockery and cutlery used were of the highest quality and the service by liveried waiters was impeccable, in keeping with the expectations of the sahibs of the Raj. Even after India became independent, upscale dining would imitate this pattern of deferential service.

While the dining cars were available only to first-class European travellers, from 1901, separate refreshment rooms for Indians started appearing at a few stations. This resulted in the emergence of other dishes that are now part of old-fashioned or nostalgic restaurant food centred around the Raj — for instance, the railway mutton curry (which clearly was never a single recipe) or the egg curry.

Till much after Independence, railway refreshment rooms were thought to be fairly high-standard restaurants, and railway catering would be relied upon for banqueting needs when dignitaries visited. My grandfather, who was in the catering division of the Northern Railways for some time in the 1970s, had amusing stories of catering to the Nehru-Gandhis — delicious anecdotes that we savoured as all restaurateuring tales must be.

But not all history is appetizing. The history of restaurants in India is fraught with caste and religious segregation — one reason that may have prevented a food retail boom earlier in the country's history. Once they started catering to Indians, railway refreshment rooms were segregated not just as those meant only for Europeans but also as those meant for Hindus versus Muslims. Even water from taps in the railway stations was marked Hindu or Muslim in British India. There were 'pure' Hindu meals cooked by brahmins, and those offering Muslim food like *qorma*, *kebab* and *pulao*.

In the south, similarly, vegetarian brahmin hotels and 'military hotels' serving meat (with the suffix 'Hindu' added to signify that no beef or pork was served, though mutton was) came up as well as Udipi restaurants serving 'pure veg' food run by brahmins from the region, to cater to students and officers who worked in the Madras Presidency.



Lauriya Nandangarh and Araraj Ashoka:

# THE MYSTIC PILLARS THAT UNVEILED A GREAT KING

The decoding of the two Ashokan pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border in the 18th century tells the tale of how India first came to know of the existence of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

A major unpardonable pitfall of India's pre-Islamic era was its apathy of recording political chronology in a systematic way. On top of that, non-stop destruction of its monuments, architecture, literature and centre of cultures thereafter in the hands of Islamic invaders from 12th century, a major part of Indian history was once deleted, fragmented, obscured and finally fictionalised with legend and folklore.

From 18th century onward, when European traders started exploring the country, they were astonished to see several archaeological ruins prevailing under massive dilapidation in isolated places, attracting no attention from common people. India of that time was a country with little sense of heritage of its pre-Islamic era, though the country's civilization dates back 5000 years. This was a matter of great perplexity to Europeans who were clearly excited to find amazing archaeological relics, one after another, with mind boggling engineering marvel and excellent craftsmanship. However, none of those seemed to connect with any ready reference of written history.

For instance, in 1616, an Englishman named Thomas Coryat found an eccentric monolithic stone pillar at Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla. The pillar had some mystic inscription written in an unknown language. The thrill of this discovery was extended when on July 30, 1670, inside a pestilential jungle frequented by wild animals in Bihar near the Nepal border, John Marshal (not to be confused by famous John Marshal of ASI) found a similar circular sand stone pillar with mysterious edicts on its body. The pillar had a beautiful stone lion seated on an abacus crowned on its top as capital.

From the local people, John came to understand that this amazing engineering marvel was called "Bhim ka lathi" or the walking stick of Bhima, a character of Hindu epic Mahabharata. The place, where this pillar was found, was 23 km from Bettiah town.

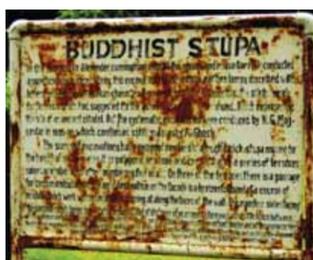
The place was then known as Mathia and today is known as Lauriya Nandangarh. Lauriya in local language means stick.

The two major victories against two Indian rulers — one in 1757 in Bengal and another in 1799 in Mysore — cemented the position on East India Company in political theatre of India. They become the ruler in almost every sense over a vast geography. This attracted many Europeans to India in the next 200 years. Many of them were ordinary office bearers and yet they proved to be extra ordinary researchers with an acute interest in India's history. In next 100 years or so, some of them gave Indian history a new insight with their exceptional hard work and outstanding academic brilliance.

By the end of 18th century, many such mysterious stone pillars and rock stones with edict written on them in an unknown language were found from Peshawar to Mysore. European officials working in India, and having keen interest in oriental history, were excited to discover a new light of wisdom in these mystic pillars. Groping in the dark, many of them speculated these as conquests of some victorious king, or boundary pillars of dominions, or edicts of religious nature. The widest speculation was that these were secret codes of Greek treasures once owned by Alexander. However, these were soon discarded with the logic that the pillars were found in places like Delhi, Allahabad and Bihar, where Greek never could invade.

In November of 1780, Charles Wilkins sent a report to the Asiatic Society of Bengal about a finding of another mysterious decapitated pillar with similar alphabets carved on its surface at Buddal in north Bihar. This place was 28 km from Bettiah town, now known as Lauriya Araraj. This pillar, though not found with a capital, created more excitement as its edicts were more prominent and bold.

In 1783, Thomas Law, collector of Gaya district drew sketches of both the pillars and sent a report to William Jones in Calcutta.



The report heading read: "A short Account of Two Pillars to the North of Patna". In March 1814, while marching with 34th Regiment of East India Company to take part in Anglo-Nepal war, Lieutenant J Horris saw Lauriya Araraj pillar and drew some important sketches.

Now two stone pillars — one with a lion capital on top and another broken at top, found in north Bihar near Nepal border with mysterious inscriptions on them — started to rouse curiosity of the antiquarians. Such inscriptions on similar kind of pillars found in Delhi and Allahabad were already being discussed. More people started exploring the places with an objective to decode the language. It was clear that the mystery would only be unfolded once the edicts were decoded.

At the beginning of 19th century, James Prinsep, a young man came to Calcutta to join Calcutta mint. Out of sheer passion, he started serving Asiatic Society of Bengal as journal editor. The journal was a class by itself and very popular across the world. Soon Prinsep built a fantastic network with people across India who started sharing information and documents with him on every single archaeological findings. Prinsep was confident enough to think that a new chapter of history would be uncovered if the edicts written on the pillar could be decoded.

After years of hard work, in 1837,

Prinsep managed to decode the script of the edict and opened the doors of knowledge to India's glorious past that remained hidden for so long.

In 1820, Brian Hodgson, a British resident in the royal court of Kathmandu, sent a copy of the inscription on Lauriya Nandangarh pillar edict to Calcutta. This document was reported lost. Prinsep and Hodgson started frequent correspondence and soon became good friends, though it is assumed that they never met. Hodgson again sent him the copy of the inscription that he once found in Lauriya Nandangarh and in October 1834, he sent him an eye copy of Lauriya Araraj pillar edict.

Now armed with the information pertaining to all the four edicts, Prinsep managed to decode a name — "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" — that seemed to appear in all edicts. Meanwhile, a discovery of an ancient book by someone in Sri Lanka at almost the same time revealed that "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" meant — "The beloved to the God and his name was Ashoka". Overnight, India got a colossal king whose transformation to a humanist after accepting Buddhism was known and the name Ashoka became a cult chapter of history.

Once the language was decoded, it was easy to understand that these pillars were not victory monuments, but a new and effective way of communication. Much to their astonishment, it was found that these were a public declaration of a king to come forward in acceptance of Buddhism and his transformation.

Discovery of the existence of Ashoka, the emperor, and his gargantuan contribution to spread Buddhism across the world delivered a master stroke. The language decoded by Prinsep was Prakrit, written in Bramhi script. This newly found script was named as Ashoka Bramhi. This was the first and biggest tangible evidence of Ashoka, India's greatest king ever.

Out of these two pillars, the crown-less pillar of Lauriya Araraj, erected in 349 BC

is a marvelous piece of art. Known as "Stambha Dharmā", the pillar is well polished and 37.9 feet in height. The diameter of the base is 41.8 inches and weighs nearly 34 to 40 tonnes.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is majestic and perhaps the second best specimen of Mauryan architecture with animal capital after Rampurva's grounded pillars.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is a single block polished sandstone with an excellent lion capital built in black stone. The lion built in a seated position on a circular abacus of arched bell is covered with lotus petals.

The circular abacus of Lauriya Nandangarh lion is again decorated with image of geese. The face of the lion is broken due to vandalism. In design, it is very similar to that of the lion capital which was later found in Rampurva in 1876 by Archie Carlyle, inside the deep forest of Tarai. Rampurva lion capital is now preserved in Indian Museum of Calcutta.

The six edicts in a single block found on the pillar of Lauriya Araraj, revealed Ashoka the beloved of the God's declaration of Buddhist teachings of morality through kindness shown to all subjects and animals. It also talks about the restriction of animal slaughter. However, in both the pillars found in Bihar, nowhere do the edicts talk about Ashoka's conquest of Kalinga and his repent. This is very interesting to note.

The lion capital found on Ashoka pillar of Lauriya Nandangarh is one of the oldest samples of Indian stone sculptures, influenced by Persian archaeology, whereas the discovery of Ashoka Bramhi is the first tangible evidence of Buddhism that finally cemented the existence of Shakyamani Buddha as a human being and discarded the theory of him being a mythological figure as per many Hindu legends.

Two kilometres from Nandangarh Ashoka pillar, another archaeological wonder was discovered in 1862 by Alexander Cunningham — a huge mound of 15 stu-

pas made of mud, yellow clay and brick in three levels in the shape of polygonal with three flights of stairs. The 26 metre high structure has a circumference of 460 metres and the dome is missing. It is imagined that when intact, this would be one of the biggest stupa of India built in 300 BC.

Cunningham did very little excavation and later, Henry Garrick did a great job of excavating more mounds. In 1905, T Block did further excavation and found a gold leaf, a female statue and a small deposit of burnt human bones with charcoal. These findings are common with Buddhist stupa where bone remains of Buddha are said to be found. However, till now, no solid evidence has been found that tells us who these remains belonged to. Many think that this was a pre-Mauryan structure and may be a vedic burial ground. Nani Gopal Majumdar and Amalendu Ghosh, who excavated the site from 1935 to 1939, are of an opinion that this stupa is very similar to the Buddhist stupa found at Piprahkot on UP-Nepal border.

Cut to present, it is sad to note that two hundred years ago, when this site lay undiscovered inside a dense forest with no human habitation around, a group of Europeans risked their lives to uncover the hidden treasures of India, uncovering a glorious part of our history, our present generation attaches no value to these findings.

Today, Bettiah is a dusty, over populated and unplanned town, situated very close to the Nepal border. The locals hold no pride in India's rich history. Marks of vandalism are clear on the pillars and unrestricted entry is palpable. Bettiah now has Americanised pizza restaurants, which get over crowded every evening, whereas it's a struggle to get the auto drivers to take you, or for that matter even seek directions, to Lauriya Nandangarh or Araraj.

It is sad indeed that we never knew our heritage back then two centuries ago, and today, it seems we still haven't learnt the lesson to protect it.

FROM PAGE 1

Restaurants like The New Woodland Hotel came up in the Madras Presidency, and can be credited as popularising the Udupi-style food that continues to thrive today. Woodland, as it was popularly called, was set up in 1938 by K. Krishna Rao, a man from a poor family of priests from near Mangalore. Its customers then were primarily brahmins who worked for the government, or upper-caste religious travellers who were vegetarians. As we can see, for so much of their history, restaurants in India were not the inclusive businesses we see them as today.

Partition changed much of that. It rent India's social fabric in more ways than we can imagine. It unleashed bloody, religious violence, but with the old order being torn apart, space for the new was created. For the first time, as I argued in a 2017 article, we got eateries that catered newly invented restaurant food to all manners of people — rich and poor, Hindu and Muslim. Butter chicken, dal makhani and naan became the first restaurant foods to escape the

## From the Kehwa Khanas to the Socials

tag of religious identity.

Refugees from Punjab had arrived with less than nothing in Delhi. They brought with them a hardy spirit of survival and enterprise, but also one very important tool — the tandoor. A clay oven used to bake bread in villages, the tandoor made its way into Delhi with refugees carrying memories of the sanjha chulha (the common village oven used to bake breads for all households) into this new harsh city where they had to fashion life afresh.

In 1947, an enterprising refugee from Peshawar, Kundan Lal Gujral, opened a restaurant called Moti Mahal in Delhi's Daryaganj area, in a building that had suffered badly during the rioting. Here, he set up a tandoor, in which the restaurant baked naan, a bread popular in old Peshawar eateries, and eventually chicken. The fowl was not a meat



that Delhi was familiar with or fond of. 'Neither Hindus nor Muslims ate it, and initially there was some resistance to tandoori chicken,' says Anil Chandra, one of Moti Mahal's early patrons.

As food historian K.T. Acharya notes in his authoritative *Indian Food: A Historical Companion*, the chicken, as a scavenger, was thought to be 'unclean', and since the oldest of times, there has been resistance among brahmins and other upper-caste Hindus to eating its meat. Delhi and Uttar Pradesh's composite culture meant that these biases were ingrained in upper-class Muslim culinary cultures too.

Goat meat was prized and Mughlai dishes like shabdegh, silken qormas, gola and dil (heart) ke kebab, that required much dexterity, were made of goat meat with-in homes by specialist cooks for weddings and special functions.

Specialist cooks like Hakim in old Delhi, whom old-timers told me about for my article for the Wire, and restaurants like Flora cooked these and catered to shaukeen, gastronomically indulgent Dilliwallahs, both Muslims and meat-eating Hindus like the Kayasths. This courtly culture, however, waned after Partition as the Muslim elite moved away and refugees poured in.

The new tandoori chicken was India's original fast food. Simply done and fresh. Moti Mahal also takes the credit for inventing butter chicken: tandoori chicken pieces dunked in a tomato, yoghurt and butter laden sauce, and perhaps India's most famous restaurant creation.

The advent of this new kind of food served by Punjabi restaurateurs was to have a big impact on restaurant food everywhere in the

country. In Delhi, restaurants such as Kwality, which had come up around the time of World War II and served ice cream and simple continental eats to American soldiers posted in Delhi, gradually incorporated this new Punjabi food into their menus. Other similar restaurants came up, also run by migrants, serving bold Punjabi flavours with tomato and cream, dishes that had been concocted within restaurants, and dishes such as pindi chana (a style of dry chickpeas popular in Rawalpindi) that came to Delhi and have been part of the city's most famous street dish since then — chole bhature.

Excerpted with permission from *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*, Anoothi Vishal, Hachette India, ₹550

# It's time to wrap up Naga peace process



In this October 30, 2019 photo, a poster with a Naga flag is seen on the entrance of a shop in Kohima

AP

A fortnight has already gone by since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. Even as the peace talks are inconclusive, the good news is that the both sides — Union Government's interlocutor and Nagaland Governor RN Ravi and Naga groups, including the NSCN factions — have not stopped negotiations for a peace pact.

The ongoing Naga peace process, which was started in 1997, turned 22 this year. It could happen only after a ceasefire agreement was signed between the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the Government of India.

Interestingly, the Naga insurgency has its roots in 1918. Against the backdrop of the First World War, the Nagas had decided to form Naga Club to bring Naga tribes under a single umbrella. The seed for the unique identity was germinated outside India — when various members of the scattered Naga tribes, recruited in the British Labour Corps, thought of forming a group of their own. And this Club approached the Simon Commission and informed it in 1929 “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as we did in ancient times”.

It simply indicated that the Nagas did not want to surrender themselves either to then British imperial regime in India or any future Government of India. Also it showed its desire to live as they want. All these indicate that the Nagas never wanted themselves to be subservient to any non-native “foreign” domination. This precisely demonstrates the very idea of “Naga self-determination”, alive for a century now.

Later, when the struggle for India's independence moved towards its final stage, the Nagas under the leadership of charismatic AZ Phizo formed the Naga National Council (NNC). And eventually, the NNC declared independence for the Nagas on August 14, 1947, just one day before India achieved hers. The NNC conducted a referendum in May 1951 which it claimed to have the backing of almost 99.9 per

cent of the Nagas for full independence.

On record, the peace process with the Nagas started before independence in June 1947. Then Assam Governor Sir Akbar Hydari signed a Nine Point Agreement with the moderate leaders in the NNC, but the hard-core leaders like Phizo refused to accept the agreement. Almost a year later, Phizo, not seeing any further cooperation from the Government of India, formed an underground Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA). But then the Government responded with armed power and enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in 1958. In July 1960, the basis of a Sixteen Point Agreement led to the creation of a separate State in the Union of India for the Nagas. This actually came into existence on December 1, 1963. Here it must be noted that the peace agreement was signed between the Naga Peace Convention, a group of moderate Naga leaders, and the Government of India. The NNC refrained from signing and agreeing to form a separate State under the Indian Union.

After the formation of the State of Nagaland, a Peace Mission was constituted in 1964 to advance talks with the NNC, but this could not produce any result despite a series of six rounds of historic negotiations. Finally, the mission was cancelled in the year 1967.

In the midst of this turmoil, the NNC split in 1975 during the heyday of the Indira regime. And the breakaway group from the NNC formed the NSCN. Unfortunately, this happened during the period of a peace deal between the Government and the NNC in Shillong. As per the Shillong Accord, the NNC leadership agreed to give up arms. But then, many of its front-line leaders, including Isak Chishi Swu, Thuingaleng Muivah and SS Khaplang did not accept the terms and conditions of the peace deal and hence they together established the NSCN in 1980. But after more than a decade of the formation of the NSCN, differences cropped up among the leaders. As a result, the NSCN broke into two factions in the year 1988, one led

by Isak and Muivah, named as NSCN-IM and other led by Khaplang, known as NSCN-K.

Later on these two groups fought fiercely, even killing their own cadre and damaging the chances of coming together. In fact this schism between the NSCN factions helped different political establishments at the Centre to deal with them separately. Further, NSCN-K made its operational area mainly restricted to Arunachal Pradesh and the NSCN-IM based its activities in Nagaland and Manipur. In later years, the NSCN-IM took the centre stage and held the centre of the “Naga sovereignty” movement.

In the year 1997, the NSCN-IM leadership signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government, preceding rounds of talks since 1995. The key principle of the agreement was that there would be no counter-insurgency operations against the NSCN-IM and in turn it would not attack Indian security forces. And this truce has survived for long.

Finally, the historic Nagaland Framework Agreement, popularly known as Nagaland Peace Accord, was signed between the NSCN-IM and the Narendra Modi Government in August 2015. The accord was inked after over 80 rounds of talks between the Government and various stakeholders of the Nagaland movement. The Nagaland Peace Accord brought lots of hope to the Naga people across the region and they thought a lasting solution would soon emerge. Interestingly, in 2017, after two years of signing the Nagaland Peace Accord, other Naga armed groups joined this peace process under the banner of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). All of them now form one single group and take part in the ongoing discussions with the Government.

The 2015 Framework Agreement says: “The Government of India recognises the unique history, culture and position of the Nagas and their sentiments and aspirations. The NSCN understood and appreciated the Indian political system and governance.”

Though details of the Nagaland Peace Accord are

not available in the public domain, it has been understood that the Naga leadership has accepted the broad terms and conditions to live under the Indian Union. With this, their demand for an independent Nagaland diminishes for now.

Interesting turn in this entire saga of struggle is that the senior-most leaders of the NSCN — Isak and Khaplang — died in 2016 and 2018 respectively. This left only Muivah to deal with the Indian Government for any future negotiations.

After the demise of Isak, who was the only Naga leader from Nagaland, the support for a Greater Nagalim has gradually waned within the region. (Khaplang was a Naga hailing from Myanmar).

However, among a few side effects of this disenchantment is the wavering commitment of the Nagas from Nagaland towards the peace process. And finally, Muivah, a Naga belonging to Manipur, might face hurdles in negotiating the last remaining details of the truce.

Today, Centre's interlocutor and Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi, who has been handling the Naga peace process for long, says that the procrastinating attitude of the NSCN-IM is simply delaying the inking of the deal. It is because the organisation is now insisting on a separate flag and a constitution for Nagaland.

Surely, the Union Government will not accept it and the NSCN-IM may handle such controversial issues too carefully. If NSCN-IM is sidelined at this moment and other groups take the centre stage, its efforts of nearly half a century will result in fiasco.

Since the Naga issue has been regarded as the oldest insurgency in the country, it is worth noting the thorny problems that may unfold violence in the North East.

First of all, the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) are advocating a solution for the Nagas within the State of Nagaland, whereas the NSCN-IM wanted to include all the Naga-inhabited areas across the region in the Nagalim or Greater Nagaland wherein it thought their problems could be addressed.

Second critical aspect of the truce between the Nagas and the Government is the territorial integrity of the Greater Nagaland. As the Naga groups desire and demand to include all Naga-inhabited areas into the Greater Nagaland, it has been increasingly making some of the States such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur restive.

Already Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has welcomed the Centre's initiative to solve the decades-old Naga problem, but categorically stated that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the State. “We are clear in our stand and we want that Naga peace process should not affect the State at any cost,” Khandu said on November 16.

Also the Union Home Ministry has assured that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including the States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will be duly consulted and their concerns will be taken into consideration. Earlier during a “lengthy discussion” with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had urged the Centre to take into consideration the interests of the people of Assam while going for any accord.

The core issue is that a future Nagalim could redraw the boundaries of these three Naga-inhabited States. It is reported that the proposed Nagalim includes 1,20,000 sq kilometre area which expands beyond the territorial limits of the North East into Myanmar. Even before the signing of the Framework Agreement in 2015, the Nagaland State Assembly itself endorsed the demand of the “integration of all Naga-inhabited areas on five occasions: December 1964, August 1970, September 1994, December 2003 and July 2015”. This shows how the popularly elected Nagaland Assembly is in full support of the demand for a Nagalim.

Third, though the Union Government had simply fixed October 31 this year just to conclude the Naga peace process, it completely failed to do the same. To be precise,

finalising such imaginary deadlines would not help bringing various Naga groups to agree to some watertight solutions.

Already differences are emerging between the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs.

Today, the Nagas are on a roller-coaster ride. Whatever may be the outcome of the current peace process, it would certainly not satisfy all the stakeholders involved in the process, particularly, the NSCN-IM.

The Government must take maximum caution as any attempt at sidelining or ignoring the NSCN-IM may force its cadre to take up arms or may help regrouping majority of the Naga tribes in the long run. Also playing any trick to divide the leadership of the NSCN-IM may fuel anti-India sentiments once again in the Naga dominated areas across the North-Eastern region.

The moot point is whether the Government can accept the Naga demand for a separate flag and a Constitution? Is it possible to say “yes” to a shared notion of “sovereignty” as the NSCN-IM has been demanding for a long time?

Precisely, looking at the current political strength of the Union Government, Prime Minister Modi will definitely say no to both these demands. The Government has already made it clear that these demands are not acceptable.

Considering the Modi Government's resolute decision to abrogate Article 370 — which had long guaranteed a special status, flag and a separate Constitution to the State of Jammu & Kashmir — the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs should not be too hopeful about their demand for a shared sovereignty.

However, the Union Government should take utmost caution to ensure the patience the Nagas have shown towards a amicable solution should not go in vain.

Today, most of the ultras of the region have either laid down their arms or some of them are in talks with the Government for the peaceful solution. That's why a region which was encountering fierce violence accompanied by anti-India sentiment has witnessed relatively calm and quiet

atmosphere recently. But, with globalisation and proliferation of global terrorism widening the net wide, the Government must not take any chance with the NSCN-IM and other Naga terror groups.

Much beyond external financial support and arms supply from our neighbouring countries, the global jihadi elements such as the ISIS and the al-Qaeda may pitch into such troubled spots to recreate disturbances for the country. Considering the favourable geopolitical scenario for Delhi at the moment, a global consensus to fight the menace of terrorism, and friendly neighbouring regimes on India's eastern front, the Modi Government has an absolute advantage to deal with the NNPGs and the NSCN-IM. It's time to wrap up the Naga peace process.

While talking about shared sovereignty for the Nagas, the NSCN-IM must remember: “Starting a revolution is like lighting a match; it risks becoming extinguished as quickly as it was lit. Sustaining a revolution, however, is like starting a fire, and ensuring that it has the fuel to burn as long as necessary. As an agent of change, I need that fire for as long as it takes for results to emerge. Otherwise, I risk burn out.” (Stephanie Van Hook).

However, the grit and determination that has been displayed by the Naga leadership is truly commendable. Succinctly, its survival for the last 100 years bears this testimony. But then a revolution to sustain for such a long duration must have to encounter its course of ups and downs. And, the Naga revolutionaries have faced a number of contradictions, both violent and non-violent in the long history of their movement.

The common people in Nagaland still hope for the best as the peace negotiation is going on. What makes sense for them today is the promise for an early solution even as the October 31 deadline has lapsed. Unnecessary intransigence would make the long road to freedom not only difficult but purely unattainable.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

It is over a fortnight since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. However amid hopes and apprehension, the good news is that the peace talks have not stopped



MAKHAN SAIKIA



THE REAL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS OF THE ASPIRANT IS MEASURED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE ACHIEVES INNER TRANQUILITY — SWAMI SIVANANDA



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

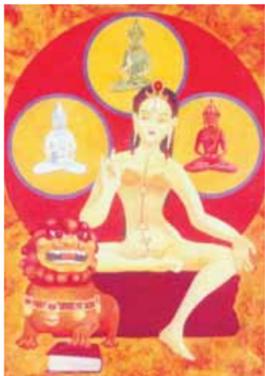
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. This is possible through regularising your routine and disciplining your senses. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be important for you. Your career shows a good indication this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain out of the blue. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated for you. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

**Lucky number** 39  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you may feel stagnated. This is the time to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors to new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get a message of love. Romance with a desired partner is on the cards. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** Black  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause your BP to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. For those in a job, favour of a senior will boost their confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love and emotions, you may feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature. You will be concerned about the feelings of others around you.

**Lucky number** 17  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Healthwise, this week is good. You will feel an abundant flow of energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet the needs of your health and be the motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down in your career as you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted. Your addiction to alcohol, oversteering or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles wait for some time before committing to a relationship.

**Lucky number** 18  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Friday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are full of energy, creativity and positive energy. Your health will be good. You need to utilise this balance in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain energy within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. Support from someone from opposite sex will help you achieve your desired goals. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams this week, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your seniors. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence. In terms of love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

**Lucky number** 14  
**Lucky colour** Pastel Green  
**Lucky day** Friday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements. You will feel highly ignited and need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills, and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. You will be lucky in love and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see the perfection all around you and experience the emotionally fulfilling situation. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

**Lucky number** 21  
**Lucky colour** Grey  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will enjoy good health, vigour and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you must maintain a practical approach and need to take some important decisions in regards to your work. There are high chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the workplace. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will experience one-sided love. Have a lot of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of important responsibilities. Married couples, you will have a mutual understanding.

**Lucky number** 13  
**Lucky colour** Navy Blue  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be surrounded by anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future. This will cause tension. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The good part is that you are positive and know how to control the situation. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

**Lucky number** 31  
**Lucky colour** Turquoise  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, it is important that you look after your health. A visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on the career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to a desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

**Lucky number** 28  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Your positive outlook will bring further improvement. Mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away and you will feel relaxed. Physical exercise and being with nature will be best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. A good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In love, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. Leave the old school thinking and form a modern outlook towards your partner.

**Lucky number** 19  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Friday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be moody and irritated. This may cause concern for your physical health. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards developing your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see results. Give your best efforts, the rewards are assured. The abundance of happiness is in store for you in terms of a relationship. Balance and stability in love are on the cards. Unmarried people may get marriage proposals. You will be soulful, passionate, and romantic and will leave no stone to make your partner happy.

**Lucky number** 29  
**Lucky colour** Sky Blue  
**Lucky day** Tuesday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

# Guru Nanak's guide to leading a virtuous life

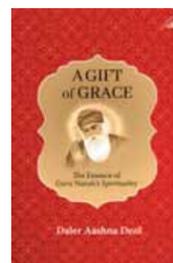
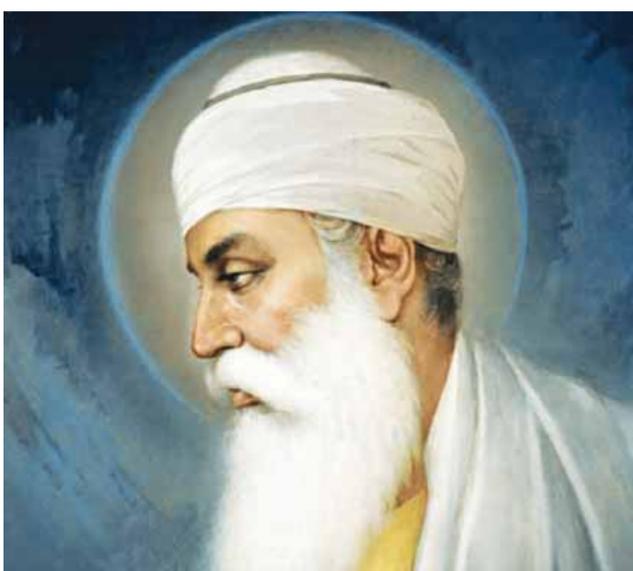
Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were profoundly transformational and cut across the lines of religion, writes DALER AASHNA DEOL in her book, *A Gift of Grace*. The world celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru on November 12. An excerpt:

Guru Nanak divides our spiritual path into five distinct stages: moral living and rightful actions, search for divine knowledge, spiritual unfoldment, divine grace, and the final entry into the realm of Eternal Truth. Each stage is unique and vital. These stages appear as part of a sequence, and it is not possible for us to bypass any of these steps. For example, moral living is a precondition for the search of divine knowledge. A person who leads a morally decadent life will inevitably see no need to search for experiences of any kind, let alone spiritual knowledge. Also, our spirit cannot unfold unless we have accumulated sufficient spiritual energy during the first two stages. Any movement from this point onward is possible only when we receive divine grace, which is not our right but a 'reward' for good deeds. Leading a virtuous life is the very foundation of our spiritual quest. To go any further on the spiritual path, we need to make truthful and moral living an essential part of our life. It is only through such living that we make ourselves worthy of God's compassion and grace.

Growing up in a world where money can buy more comforts than it was possible at any other time in human history, how can we agree on a set of values and behaviours that would provide a reliable guide to a virtuous life? We need to acknowledge that there are some things which are moral, ethical, doable, and right under any circumstances. We may have a difference of opinion on whether it is moral to charge interest. But there should be no controversy on things like violence, falsehood, and exploitation of the poor and helpless. We need to identify some core values based on themes that cut across societal and cultural boundaries. The seven core values, based on Guru Nanak's teachings, are:

**Non-violence** Avoiding violence that hurts the innocent, kills, or insults (in the form of rape or other degrading actions) the victim, mass killings of innocent people in a war or a political conflict.

**Truth** Letting reality appear in its purest form, separating facts from opinions, not using falsehood of any kind to deceive other people, treating honest living as a sacred obligation.



**Love** Showing sympathy and compassion for a victim of oppression, having a sense of justice, keeping a charitable spirit, sharing one's wealth and good fortune with the poor and the needy.

**Virtue** The pursuit of highest personal morality in one's daily life, respecting the honour and integrity of one's partner, taking responsibility for one's children, catering to their material, emotional, and intellectual needs, caring for the needs of elders in the family.

**Communitarianism** Being a good citizen, participating in electoral processes, raising voice against misdeeds of those in authority, using public office for public good, protecting the natural environment, giving one's employer a fair share of one's time, talent, and ability.

**Equality** Treating all people as equal

despite differences of colour, race, gender, or ethnic origins, respecting cultural and spiritual traditions of other people.

**Theism** Having faith in the unbounded love, mercy, and compassion of the Creator for all things and all beings. It is not an attempt to define a new morality. It has not been easy for moral philosophers, who have struggled with these issues over the ages.

We can look at various opinions, or what our belief system has to say about these matters, but, in the end, we need to have an objective look at how we are coping with difficult moral and ethical choices in our life. This freedom for self-evaluation is not a blank cheque, meaning whatever serves our needs or purposes is acceptable. We need to cultivate, in the words of Albert Einstein, a moral attitude in and towards life based on the totality of our being-body, mind, and soul. Not doing this selfevaluation in a seriously mindful way would indicate our reluctance to follow a spiritual path.

*A Gift of Grace: The Essence of Guru Nanak's Spirituality*, written by Daler Aashna Deol is published by Niyogi Books