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16-MONTH HIGH IN OCT

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA
City Vol. 8 Issue 310
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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THIEM ENTERS
ATP FINALS
LAST 4
11 SPORT

SC doubts efficacy as more odd-even mulled

Pollution in Delhi nears emergency, schools shut in NCR also

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As air pollution in Delhi plunged to near the emergency level on Wednesday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his Government is mulling extension of the odd-even scheme with the Supreme Court-mandated anti-pollution authority EPCA ordering closure of Delhi-NCR schools till November 15.

However, the SC issued a notice to the Delhi Government on a plea challenging the odd-even. The apex court had earlier questioned the Delhi Government as to what it was achieving from the odd-even scheme by stopping plying of cars that are less polluting compared to two and three-wheelers and taxis.

The SC directed the Government and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to place before it the data of pollution in Delhi from



Masked cyclists ride on Rajpath as smog enveloped Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

October till November 14 this year and from October 1 to December 31, 2018.

"Let the Government of NCT of Delhi... file data in this regard in the court on the basis of the previous experience and whether three-wheelers and taxis are plying more on roads during such restrictions and relevant data be placed,"

the bench had said.

The overall air quality index in Delhi on Wednesday was 454 at 3.30 pm. Rohini was the most-polluted area with an AQI of 486, followed by Nehru Nagar (484) and Jahangirpuri (483). Faridabad (442), Ghaziabad (464), Greater Noida (460), Gurugram (448) and Noida (468) also choked

on extremely polluted air.

While talking about extending the odd-even scheme beyond November 15, Kejriwal appealed to Opposition parties to shun their resistance to the scheme. "Pollution has increased drastically. All of Delhi is demanding the odd-even and at such a time the Opposition should support the people's wish," he said. The scheme, implemented from November 4, is to end on November 15. "If the need arises, we will extend it (odd-even scheme)," the CM said.

Kejriwal blamed stubble burning in neighbouring States for episodes of rising air pollution in Delhi.

"I remember German Chancellor Angela Merkel was in Delhi a few days ago... when a public health emergency was declared. What kind of image of Delhi she must have carried to her country?" he said.

Continued on Page 4

SC verdict blessing in disguise for BSY

Top court upholds disqualification but allows rebel MLAs to fight bypolls

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's ruling on Wednesday disqualifying 17 Congress and JD(S) MLAs in Karnataka but allowing them to contest the December 5 bypolls has come as a breather for State Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. If elected back to the Assembly, these MLAs would bolster his Government sitting on a razor thin majority.

The SC ruling may help consolidate Yediyurappa's shaky hold over the Government with 105 plus one Independent MLAs vis-à-vis the Opposition. The MLAs are to join the BJP on Thursday and are likely to be fielded on the 15 Assembly seats from which they had won and where the bypolls are to be held on December 5.

If the rebels do get BJP tickets and manage to win, it would give a numerical boost to Yediyurappa in the Assembly. The BJP needs to win at least seven seats to ensure it achieves the majority (112 seats) on its own. Candidates are required to file their nomination papers between November 11 and November 18.

A total of 17 "rebel" MLAs — 14 belonging to the Congress and three to the JD(S) — who resigned from the Karnataka Assembly and were "won over" by the BJP were disqualified in July this year by the Assembly Speaker. The long-drawn political drama with "rebel" MLAs ferried out of the State and kept in star hotels subsequently led to the fall of the JD(S)-Congress coalition Government headed by JD(S) leader HD Kumaravamy on July 23 during a trust vote.

Though upholding the Speaker's decision to disqualify the MLAs, the Supreme Court opened a window for them to enter the Assembly by permitting them to contest the bypolls for 15 seats. The elections to the remaining two seats are withheld due to peti-



Supreme Court building in Delhi.

tions related to them pending in the High Court. The SC cancelled the Speaker's decision to bar them from contesting polls.

In a strong indictment of the Speaker and political parties, the 3-member SC Bench said there is a growing trend of Speakers acting against the "constitutional duty of being neutral" in addition to political parties indulging in horse trading and corrupt practices due to which citizens are being denied Stable Governments.

"In these circumstances, the Parliament is required to reconsider strengthening certain aspects of the Tenth Schedule, so that such undemocratic practices are discouraged," the Bench said.

The court said the Speaker was not empowered to disqualify any member till the end of the term of the Assembly. Then Karnataka Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar had said the MLAs cannot contest elections until the term of the current Assembly, ending 2023.

The "disqualified" rebel MLAs had indirectly facilitated BJP launch itself in the seat of power by reducing the effective strength of Karnataka Assembly to 208 from 224 and winning the floor test on July 29. In a recent video gone viral, the Karnataka CM was purportedly heard saying that the Congress and JD(S) MLAs had "sacrificed" a lot to bring BJP in power and lamented the BJP president was not doing

act independently while conducting the proceedings of the House or adjudication petitions.

The constitutional responsibility endowed upon the Speaker has to be scrupulously followed and his political affiliations cannot come in the way of adjudication, the apex court said.

If the Speaker is not able to disassociate from his political party and behaves contrary to the spirit of the neutrality and independence then such person does not deserve to be reposed with public trust and confidence, it added.

The Bench also deprecated the manner in which the disqualified MLAs directly approached it without first moving High Court.

The court said its verdict is based on facts and circumstance of the case and does not interfere in the Speaker's power to disqualify members.

Some of these disqualified MLAs had argued in the apex court that they have an "indefeasible right" to resign as members of the Assembly and the decision by the then Speaker to disqualify them smacks of "vengeance" and "mala fide". During arguments in the matter, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Karnataka Congress, had contended that the then Speaker, who was the master of the Assembly, had exercised his jurisdiction to disqualify these MLAs and his decision cannot be questioned.

Sibal had also submitted that "the matter needs to be referred to a Constitution Bench as it raises matters of grave constitutional importance". Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the office of the Karnataka Assembly Speaker, had submitted that under the scheme of the Constitution, a lawmaker has a right to resign and the Speaker should accept it. The current Assembly Speaker is V Hegde Kageri.

50:50 Sena's post-poll artifice, asserts Shah



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Breaking his silence for the first time over the Maharashtra impasse, BJP president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday rejected the Shiv Sena's claim that it was promised rotational chief ministership. He said the Shiv Sena had simply come up with post-electoral conditions that could not be accepted.

Seeking to puncture Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's contentions, Shah wondered why Sena didn't object to the BJP projecting Devendra Fadnis as its Chief Minister candidate during the election campaigning. "Before the elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and I said many times in public that if our alliance wins then Devendra Fadnis will be the Chief Minister, no one objected back then," Shah told news agency ANI.

"Now they (Shiv Sena) have come up with new demands which are not acceptable to us," Shah asserted.

Uddhav had been claiming that Shah had committed to the 2.5-year-rotational chief ministership for the BJP and Shiv Sena.

Defending the Governor's move to recommend President's Rule in the Maharashtra on Tuesday, Shah said the State head had to take action since none of the par-

ties had been able to prove majority since the legislative Assembly term ended on November 9. President's Rule was imposed in the State on Tuesday.

"Before this, in no State was so much time given, 18 days were given. The Governor invited parties only after Assembly tenure ended. Neither the Shiv Sena nor the Congress-NCP staked claim and neither we," Shah said adding "It's not in our party's tradition to disclose what transpires behind closed doors."

"If the Sena thinks that it can revolt and get the people's sympathy, they don't really know the public," he said taking a jibe at the Sena.

The BJP and the Shiv Sena together have 161 seats, 15 seats more than the majority mark of 145 in the 288-MLAs strong Maharashtra Assembly. But the State plunged into political uncertainty after both the allies entered into a tussle for power. While the Shiv Sena claimed that it was assured a 50:50 power-sharing deal in the State after winning the elections, the BJP denied making any such promise.

The Shiv Sena pulled out its lone Minister Arvind Sawant from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet, signalling the end of partnership between the two parties in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena has since then opened negotiations with NDA's rival alliance partners NCP and Congress.

NCP, Cong talk CMP as bids on for non-BJP Govt

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Less than 24 hours after the imposition of President's Rule, efforts to form a non-BJP Government began in Maharashtra on Wednesday, as the Congress and the NCP initiated the process of drawing up a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) for a three-party Government and the leaders of the Sonia Gandhi-led party met Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and initiated preliminary talks.

Both the NCP and Congress leaders nominated five leaders each to formulate a CMP for the three-party Government. "We (Congress and NCP) will sit across and formulate a CMP for the proposed three-party front. Once we are ready with the CMP and through with other issues relating to power-sharing, we will talk to the Sena leadership. We will take the Sena inputs and consent on the CMP subsequently," a senior Congress leader said.

Simultaneously, NCP president Sharad Pawar held talks with his party leaders on the CMP and the power-sharing arrangement for the proposed Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress Government. The State Congress leaders held a similar meeting among themselves.

"We are looking at such a fool-proof CMP and power-sharing arrangement among the three parties that will help us provide a stable Government to the State for full five years. This is independent of our differing ideologies. We will work towards ensuring that our ideologies do not come in the way of running the three-party Government in the State," a senior Shiv Sena leader said.

After days of uncertainty that had delayed the process of three non-BJP parties coming together to form a Government in the State, the Congress formally shed its earlier hesitation of going with the Shiv Sena and its leaders held first-ever round

of talks with Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on the sharing of power at a five-star hotel at Bandra-Kurla complex in north-west Mumbai.

Ahead of Wednesday's meeting, senior Congress president Ahmed Patel - who was in the city for a meeting with NCP president Sharad Pawar on issues relating to the Congress-NCP alliance's proposed tie-up with Shiv Sena - had met Uddhav on Tuesday night and set the tone for the deliberations among the three parties in the coming days.

Uddhav, accompanied by his junior party colleagues Vinayak Raut and Milind Narvekar, met State Congress president Balasaheb Thorat, senior party leaders Ashok Chavan and Manikrao Thakre, at the Hotel Trident for little over 45 minutes.

Talking briefly to media-persons after the meeting, Uddhav said: "Talks have begun on a right note. I will let you know about the outcome of our talks at a proper time."

Thorat said he and his senior party colleagues held a "courtesy meeting" with Uddhav, in the context of the deliberations that senior Central leaders had with NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday. "Ours was as courtesy meeting with Uddhavji. First, we would like to arrive at mutual understanding with the NCP on issues relating to the Government. After that, we - both the parties - will meet the Shiv Sena leaders... At today's meeting, we discussed with Uddhavji as to how move forward," Thorat said.

Before holding talks with Uddhav, the State Congress leaders — Thorat, Ashok Chavan and Manikrao Thakre — met Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut at the Leelavati Hospital, where Raut was recuperating after an angioplasty carried out on him on Monday night. Raut was discharged from the hospital later in the afternoon.

Continued on Page 4

CJI office within RTI ambit

But independence of judiciary must be protected, adds SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a public authority under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Supreme Court held on Wednesday but said "judicial independence has to be kept in mind" while disclosing infor-

mation in "public interest".

In a path-breaking verdict, a 5-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi dismissed the appeal filed by the Central Public Information Officer and the Secretary General of the apex court against the Delhi High Court's 2010 judgment.

Writing the judgment on behalf of the CJI, Justice Deepak Gupta and himself, Justice Sanjiv Khanna referred to several decisions and viewpoints to highlight the contentious nature of the issue of

"transparency, accountability and judicial independence", and said it was necessary that "the question of judicial independence is accounted for in the balancing exercise".

Referring to Constitutional scheme on setting up of the apex court, the verdict said, "It is undebatable that the Supreme Court of India is a 'public authority', as defined vide clause (h) to Section 2 of the RTI Act as it has been established and constituted by or under the Constitution.

"The CJI is the competent

authority in the case of the Supreme Court.

Consequently, in terms of Section 28 of the RTI Act, the CJI is empowered to frame rules, which have to be notified... to carry out provisions of the RTI Act."

The top court would necessarily include the office of CJI, it said, adding, "the office of CJI or for that matter the judges is not separate from the SC, and is part and parcel of the SC as a body, authority and institution".

Continued on Page 4

JNU rolls back fee hike partially, students dub move eyewash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The JNU administration's move on Wednesday to pacify protesting students by rolling back the hostel fee hike partially for BPL students has not gone down well with some students who dubbed it as an "eyewash", and decided to continue with the strike.

The decision was taken at the varsity's 283rd Executive Council (EC) meeting, HRD Secretary R Subrahmanyam announced while asking the protesting students to resume classes. The EC meeting was shifted outside the campus at the last moment fearing trouble by agitators.

CAPSULE

PAK TO AMEND ARMY ACT TO ALLOW JADHAV APPEAL
Islamabad: Pakistan is preparing to amend the Army Act to allow death-row convict Kulbhushan Jadhav the right to file an appeal against his conviction in a civilian court, according to defence sources here.

RETAIL INFLATION JUMPS TO 4.62% IN OCTOBER
New Delhi: Retail inflation surged to 4.62 per cent in October, mainly on account of higher food prices, according to Government data released on Wednesday. P10

COURT EXTENDS PC'S CUSTODY TILL NOV 27
New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday extended the judicial custody of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram till November 27 in the INX Media money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate.

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ON TRIBUNALS

SC strikes down rules in Finance Act 2017

Congress hails apex court's decision



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said the Supreme Court decision on Government diluting appointments to different tribunals will have far-reaching consequences on any future attempts by the Modi dispensation to abuse the money bill route. It sought a debate on the issue in Parliament.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the decision of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India in my case. I am deeply grateful to the Supreme Court for this decision," party leader Jairam Ramesh said.

"It will have far reaching consequences on any future attempts by the Modi Government to abuse the money bill route and is also a



reminder to future Governments that any attempt at diluting our institutions will not be allowed," he said.

Ramesh, who is a petitioner in the case, said "it is important to have a discussion on the money bill in Parliament." He also claimed that there has been misuse of Article 110 by the Government in the last three years, where by it has been converting key bills as money bills for avoiding a vote and passage in Rajya Sabha.

He said the five-judge bench wants this issue to be sent to a larger bench and thus will have its consequence on the Aadhaar bill judgement, which was also given by a five-judge Constitution bench where the Supreme Court has said it is a money bill.

"It is a victory not for the Congress. This is a very big victory especially for the Rajya Sabha and democracy and it is a defeat of the BJP," he said. Ramesh in his petition had challenged the Finance Act of 2017 (as notified on March 31, 2017) and the rules framed thereunder (notified on June 1, 2017) through which the Government had sought to dilute appointments to nineteen different tribunals, including crucial institutions like National Green Tribunal and Central Administrative

Tribunal, among others.

Through the rules, the government extended executive control over these institutions by altering the composition of the selection committees and vastly downgrading the qualifications and experience required to staff these bodies, he alleged.

"This was done with the furtive intention of vesting greater control in the central government on the appointments of judges to these judicial and quasi-judicial bodies," Ramesh said. "Knowing fully well the Finance Act (and the Rules framed thereunder) would not pass Parliamentary muster, the Modi Government classified it as a money bill so as to prevent voting in the Rajya Sabha," he said, adding that the ruling dispensation lacks numbers there.

CRPF conducts security review at Sonia's residence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is conducting a security review of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's residence and related arrangements after taking over her protective cover from the Special Protection Group (SPG).

After the security audit of Gandhi's residence, commandos and other security paraphernalia will be tweaked as per the assessments and requirements, sources said without any further elaboration.

Earlier this month the Centre had decided to withdraw the SPG protection of Gandhi, her son Rahul and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra after a review of their threat perception by the security agencies. Following the removal of SPG cover to the Gandhis, the Centre had accorded Z+ protective cover and tasked the CRPF to take over their security.

Centre had accorded Z+ protective cover and tasked the CRPF to take over their security

The threat perception of each SPG protectee is reviewed every year as provided in the SPG Act. The current review indicates a reduced threat perception for Gandhis and their security can be handled by other forces, government officials had said after the decision.

The Special Protection Group was raised in 1985 after the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to secure the Prime Minister and their immediate family members. Former Prime

Minister and their family members were brought under the SPG cover after the assassination of former PM Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

In August, the SPG cover of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was also lifted and accorded Z+ category security protection by CRPF commandos.

The SPG security cover entails Advance Security Liaison by the commandos who sanitise the venue in advance to be visited by the protectee and a three-layer security ring is in place to secure the VIP from outer security cordon manned by the local police to elite force's commandos in the proximate security zone.

The CRPF has a VIP Security Wing with a strength of about six battalions (6,000 personnel). However, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is the designated Central paramilitary for VIP security.

Centre extends moratorium period for sugar mills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the moratorium period for repayments by six more months as the ₹15,000 crore soft loan scheme for sugar mills is moving at a snail's pace. Now, the moratorium period is one-and-a-half years. A moratorium period is a time during the loan term when the borrower is not required to make any repayment.

The Centre had announced the loan package in two tranches — first in June 2018 amounting to ₹4,440 crore and the other in March 2019 of ₹10,540 crore. The objective was to help millers in clearing cane arrears and divert surplus sugar for ethanol manufacturing. A soft

loan is a loan that is given at a subsidised interest rate.

"When the soft loan scheme was launched to augment ethanol production in the country, one year moratorium was provided. This has now been extended to 1.5 years in the interest of sugar mills and farmers," a highly placed source said. A notification in this regard will be issued soon, the source added.

Of 418 applications for the loan, the Food Ministry has found 282 eligible. Of this, 114 applications have been cleared for loans amounting to ₹6,139.08 crore, as per official data. However, banks have sanctioned the loan to 45 applicants and disbursed ₹900 crore to 33 applicants till September

end, the data showed.

At present, 3-4 lakh tonne of sugar gets diverted for ethanol making. With creation of additional capacity under the scheme, 9-10 lakh tonne of sugar is expected to be diverted for ethanol production. Sugar mills have supplied 175 crore litres of ethanol to oil marketing companies (OMCs) till October 22 of the 2018-19 season (October-September) and helped them achieve 5.2 per cent blending with petrol.

Cane arrears still remains high at ₹9,000 Cr so far this year based on sugarcane price fixed by both Centre and States, as per the Ministry data. There is a sugar glut in India, the world's second largest sugar producer after Brazil.

Onions continue to sell at ₹80-₹100 per kg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite various measures in place by the State and Central Governments, onions continue to be sold at ₹80-₹100 per kg in many States across India. In a bid to get rid of shortage of onion in domestic market, the Agriculture Ministry on Wednesday extended relaxed fumigation norms for imported onions up to December 31. Farmers and traders say the onion price is expected to be lowered by December end.

Retail prices of onion in the country have remained high for more than a month due to 30-40 per cent decline in kharif onion output because of heavy rains in growing States. The excessive rain in key onion pro-

ducing states across country such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, is one of the main reasons that have led to a shortfall in its supply as 50 per cent crops of onion has been damaged. Another reason for price hike is believed to be the delay in the arrival of monsoon, which in turn delayed sowing. This resulted in a cascading effect on arrival in the mandis.

On the other hand, the Income Tax Department has also surveyed and examining onion traders in Maharashtra, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh following reports of alleged hoarding of the commodity amid its skyrocketing prices.

On November 6, the

Income Tax Dept has also surveyed and examining onion traders in Maha, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh

Ministry had liberalised fumigation provisions under the Plant Quarantine (PQ) Order, 2003 till November 30 to facilitate import of the key kitchen staple from Afghanistan, Egypt, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran to boost availability and check price rise. In its latest order, the Ministry has extended these relaxed provisions till December 31 for onion imports with some con-

ditions. Traders who have imported onions without fumigation or having endorsement of such treatment on phytosanitary certificate (PSC) will be allowed to fumigate in India through an accredited treatment provider, it said.

The consignment will be inspected thoroughly by quarantine officials and released only if found free from pests and diseases of concern to India, it said. Also, such consignments of onions will not be subjected to the four times additional inspection fees on account of non-compliance of conditions under the 2003 PQ Order, it added. Presently, imported onions are allowed in the country after the commodity is fumigated with methyl bromide and certified

by the exporting nation. Importers are required to pay huge charges if found in non-compliance with this provision.

As onion prices fail to cool down, the Government has decided to increase the availability through import of about 1 lakh tonnes of onion through public trading company MMTC, which has already floated tender for about 4,000 tonnes of imports. The Government is facilitating private imports as well.

Private traders have informed the Government that they have placed order for import of 2,400 tonnes of onion which would reach India by month-end. Another 2,600 tonnes will be contracted for arrival in December, sources said.

IIT Guwahati develops technology that can assess quality of milk



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers from IIT Guwahati have developed a paper-based technology that can assess the quality and freshness of milk within 13 minutes by changing its colour. No special equipment or instrument will be required.

Pasteurisation is commonly used to kill the microbes in milk and various tests are used to ensure the effectiveness of the process, according to the researchers led by Pranjal Chandra, an assistant professor at IIT Guwahati.

Commonly used tests such as the methylene blue test, are time consuming, and could take many hours for colour changes to indicate the presence and absence of microbes.

Commercial phenol-based tests require sophisticated spectrophotometers and involve multi-step procedures, which necessitates dedicated testing centres and skilled personnel. However, to cut-short this time, the research team which included Kulddeep Mahato, research scholar developed a simple visual detection technique to detect the quality of milk, without the need for special equipment and instruments.

"It would be useful if the quality of milk can be tested at the point of collection of milk or even in the home kitchen," said Dr Chandra, adding that such testing requires easy-to-operate and portable detection kits.

He explained, "Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) is a metalloprotein found naturally in

raw milk samples and is considered an important biomarker in quality control of milk". It is found in raw milk and is destroyed during pasteurisation. "ALP is also found in higher amounts in the case of milk derived from animals with infection in the mammary glands. Detection of ALP in milk can thus point to inadequate pasteurisation and perhaps contamination."

"Despite ALP's recognisable detection potential in native milk, the multi-step nature, and requirement of sophisticated bulky analytical instruments and trained personnel, to detect ALP, limit their use as a sensor of milk quality in remote settings and in home kitchens," added Chandra.

The researchers used simple filter paper, chemically modified it, and loaded it with a recognition element — anti-ALP — which captures the ALP present in the milk. Upon treatment with the colour-forming compound 'BCIP', the captured complex of ALP forms a blue-green coloured precipitate, that otherwise does not give any colour in the absence of ALP.

The intensity of the colour indicates the amount of ALP present. The researchers used a smartphone to capture the image of the colour. They used the RGB (Red Green Blue) filter in the phone to profile the colour obtained, which could be co-related to the concentration. The researchers' work has been published in the journal, Biosensors, and Bioelectronics.

Pneumonia takes toll on kids under age of 5: UNICEF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pneumonia is taking toll on India's kids under the age of five years with one of them succumbing to every 4 minutes to the preventive disease last year, according to a study by Save the Children, UNICEF and Every Breath Counts.

It said that India was among the top five countries responsible for over half of the child deaths due to the disease globally that year. Overall, pneumonia claimed 1,27,000 under-five children in 2018. Pneumonia is an inflammatory disease affecting the lung. It is characterised by an accumulation of fluid in the alveoli, resulting in the obstruction of normal breathing. It is usually caused due to air pollution besides poor food intake.

Dr Rajesh Khanna, Deputy Director of Health and Nutrition, Save the Children said that "Acute malnutrition is associated with more than half of childhood pneumonia deaths. Indoor air pollution contributes to 22 per cent and outdoor air pollution contributes to 27 per cent of these deaths."

Just five countries were responsible for more than half of child pneumonia deaths - Nigeria (162,000), India (127,000), Pakistan (58,000), the Democratic Republic of Congo (40,000) and Ethiopia (32,000), it said.

Globally, pneumonia is the major cause of paediatric mortality, especially in children under 5, claiming the lives of more than 800,000 kids every year, more than 2,000 every day.

In India 5 per 1,000 live births under five mortality rate due to pneumonia in 2018, the study said.

Overall, pneumonia claimed 1,27,000 under-five children in 2018

"In India, 14 per cent of child deaths were due to pneumonia in 2017, and it was the second biggest killer of children under-five in 2017 (after wasting). Pneumonia killed more than 1,27,000 children under-five in 2018 - more than 14 children every hour," the study said.

It further said USD 16 was spent by the government on health per person in 2016 in India.

"Every day, nearly 2,200 children under the age of five die from pneumonia, a curable and mostly preventable disease. Strong global commitment and increased investments are critical to the fight against this disease," Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF said.

Pneumonia is caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi, and leaves children fighting for breath as their lungs fill with pus and fluid.

Globally, more children under the age of five died from pneumonia in 2018 than from any other disease. Around 437,000 children under five died due to diarrhoea and 272,000 due to malaria.



BRICS to boost economic links: PM

PTI ■ BRASILIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hoped that the BRICS summit will enhance the economic and cultural linkages between the member nations as he arrived in the Brazilian capital to take part in the two-day meeting.

"Reached Brazil to take part in the BRICS Summit. Will also meet various world leaders during this visit," Modi tweeted after his arrival here.

On the sidelines of the 11th BRICS summit, Modi will meet Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to discuss ways to enhance the bilateral strategic partnership.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to hold separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday.

"I am sure the BRICS Summit will enhance cultural and economic linkages between BRICS nations," he said.

BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

This year's event is being held under the theme BRICS: Economic Growth for an



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received on his arrival at Brasilia, Brazil to take part in BRICS Summit



Innovative Future.

This will be the sixth time Modi is participating in the BRICS summit, his first being at Fortaleza, also in Brazil in 2014.

Describing his welcome as "as vibrant as BRICS itself", Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh

Kumar tweeted, "PM @narendramodi arrives in Brasilia to participate in the 11th #BRICS Summit. This year's BRICS under the theme "BRICS: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future" will further strengthen the traditional ties among the BRICS countries." Brazil is the current chair of the

grouping which represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world population and they have a combined nominal GDP of USD 16.6 trillion.

During the summit, the five major economies of the world will aim to significantly strengthen their cooperation in science, technology and innovation, Modi said in his departure statement.

The BRICS countries will also look to enhance cooperation on digital economy and build mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation within the BRICS framework, Modi said.

He would also attend the BRICS business forum closing ceremony and the 'closed' and plenary sessions of the summit.

In the closed session, the discussions are expected to be focused on challenges and opportunities for the exercise of national sovereignty in the contemporary world.

This will be followed by the BRICS Plenary Session, where the leaders will discuss the intra-BRICS cooperation for the economic development of BRICS societies. A BRICS memorandum of understanding between trade and investment promotion agencies is expected to be signed.

India pledges to contribute \$5 mn in 2020 to UN Palestine refugee agency

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India has pledged to contribute USD 5 million in 2020 to the UN Palestine refugee agency, even as it voiced concern over the agency's "dire" financial situation due to the funding gaps that risk its core services to the refugees in the fields of education and health.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu said as a mark of solidarity with the Palestine refugees, the Indian Government has increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to the core budget of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), from USD 1.25 million in 2016 to USD 5 million in 2018.

"We have contributed USD 5 million in 2019 and pledge to contribute USD 5 million in 2020 also," he said while speaking at the General Assembly Fourth Committee meeting on the UNRWA for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

"India's support and solidarity with the 5.5 million Palestine refugees remains

strong and abiding," he added. India also appealed to other traditional donors of UNRWA to consider enhancing their contributions and non-donor member states to consider contributing to UNRWA in solidarity with the Palestine refugees.

Naidu, however, noted that UNRWA's resources come from voluntary contributions, with a limited donor base, saying that this arrangement is already "fraught with uncertainties" of sudden crisis and it is critical that the faith of donors in the agency is restored.

Voicing concern over the agency's "dire" financial situation, Naidu said the funding gap of USD 89 million in 2019 has put to risk the agency's core services to the Palestine refugees, notably in the fields of education, health, and assistance to the most vulnerable ones.

About 3.1 million Palestine refugees depend on health services provided by UNRWA while the agency's schools educate 526,000 students every year, of which half are female. Keeping these services

operational throughout the year is important, Naidu said.

He added that the agency has been able to overcome similar funding gaps in the past through innovative global fund raising campaign and outreach and internal cost-saving measures.

Naidu, however, cautioned that while these efforts continue, they may still not be adequate in 2019.

Highlighting India's ongoing capacity-building assistance in Palestine, Naidu said 150 Palestinian professionals are trained every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme and 100 meritorious Palestinian students are offered fully funded scholarships under the Council Scholarship Scheme of the Indian General for Cultural Relations every year.

In addition, during the last five years, under an India-Palestine development partnership, 17 agreements have been signed in the fields of agriculture, health care, information technology, youth affairs, consular affairs, women's empowerment and media.

Baghel, ministers to meet President, Union ministers today

To end the deadlock on contentious paddy issue

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday said that his government is going to hold talks with the Centre to end the deadlock over paddy procurement issue, clearly indicating a change of strategy on the contentious issues over which ruling Congress and the BJP are at loggerhead.

The Chief Minister hinted that while keeping the option for a stir ajar, at present the state government will try to find an amicable solution to the issue through



Baghel and his ministers had correspondences with President Ram Nath Kovind at Congress's state headquarters, Baghel informed that he was talking to media persons.

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recent days.

"The President of India gave an appointment on Thursday evening while Prime Minister's Office in a letter has said that since the Prime Minister would be abroad, he (Baghel) could talk to Union Minister for Agriculture", the CM informed the media.

Baghel said, "Responding to the letter, I had demanded that Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies should also be there in the meeting so that any amicable solution could be hammered out" "Cabinet colleagues

would also accompany me in meeting with the President and Union ministers," he added.

Notably, earlier the Chief Minister along with thousands of farmers of the state and his cabinet colleagues, as well as Congress workers, had declared to march in own vehicles to national capital on November 13.

The CM later postponed the demonstration after the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya anticipating adverse law-and-order situation in the states through which their convoy was suppose to pass.

Maoists instigated Potali - Dantewada villagers' stir: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The state government has claimed that it was under pressure from Maoists that villagers of Potali in Dantewada district of Bastar region staged a demonstration on Tuesday.

There was a drastic change in their behavior when they were pacified on Wednesday, it claims.

Notable, a couple of days ago a security camp was established in Potali village in Arampur region of Dantewada district. Hundreds of villagers on Tuesday assembled and demonstrated against opening of security camp in their village.

Government sources accepting that there was resentment among villagers

over opening of security camp, claimed that on Wednesday there was a drastic change in the attitude of villagers.

In a press communiqué state government claimed that they will win hearts of Potali villagers through development of the region and by providing them security from the Maoists.

"Potali is strategically a very important location for Naxals as it is considered their safe corridor, Naxals are instigating the villagers to oppose the camp," the communiqué said.

"Trust-Development-Security' model of policing in Potali would be adopted by Dantewada police to deal with Maoist problem", the communiqué added.

BJP to stage sit-in tomorrow



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP state president Vikram Usendi said his party is organising a day-long sit-in-demonstration on November 15 at 'mandal' (division) level across the state, demanding procurement of paddy from that day itself.

Previous BJP government

used to commence the procurement from November 15 every year, he said.

Addressing the media, jointly with Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik, he said the delay is causing loss to farmers as at 'Mandi' (Agriculture Produce Market) the paddy is being sold for ₹1300 to ₹1600 per quintal

depending on the variety while the state promised a MSP of ₹2500 per quintal. There will be a month's delay if procurement starts from December 1 as planned by the state government, he added.

Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik said, "BJP does not have any objection over Chief Minister calling on Prime Minister, Union Agriculture and Food ministers. The issue of procurement should be resolved to benefit the farmers and procurement should be ensured from November 15."

No assessment of loss due to lack of rains and excessive rain during harvest season in the state was done despite agriculture minister's claim if conducting such assessment, he alleged.

It should have been done before the procurement begins so that loss to farmers can be ascertained, he said.

Chhattisgarh to get 5 female wild buffaloes from Assam

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Government of India has cleared the proposal for shifting of five female wild water buffaloes from Assam's Manas National Sanctuary.

The bovines will travel around 1500 kilometres to reach Chhattisgarh.

In a statement Principal Chief Forest Conservator (Wildlife) Atul Shukla said this will create conducive atmosphere for breeding and increase the number of state's official animal in future. At present, the state has 10 wild water buffaloes and with five more the



total will be around 15. Out of the 10 wild water buffaloes, 8 are male and two are female. This will also help to reduce the gender parity with 8 males

and 7 females in the state, he added.

PCCF Rakesh Chaturvedi when contacted said, the permission was granted a year ago as transportation is a critical factor due to sensitivity of these bovines, special care has to be taken.

It was decided to shift them after the monsoon and the present climatic condition is suitable for shifting. It is for the first time such transporting of wild water buffaloes is being undertaken in the country.

He said the modes of transport, may be through road or train, will be opted

based on situation and conditions. They will be brought to a special enclosure made at Barnawapara sanctuary. After acclimation, they will be shifted to Udanti-Sitanadi Sanctuary.

The wildlife experts feel that with five female bovines from Assam, the impending extinction of Chhattisgarh states' official animal can be saved. Water buffaloes are on the verge of extinction in the central Indian state.

Chhattisgarh government is expected to return the favour by sending around 40 spotted deer to Assam to help its tiger conservation efforts.

CAIT reaches out to MPs to push for e-commerce policy

BUSINESS REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh unit of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Wednesday gave representations to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members from the state as part of the confederation's nationwide agitation against e-commerce companies Amazon and Flipkart.

They want the parliamentarians to raise in parliament, what they called unethical business practice of the e-commerce companies.

A delegation led by CAIT national vice president Amar Parwani handed over the representation to Raipur MP Sunil Soni and briefed him as to how e-commerce companies are allegedly deriving benefits of FDI policy.

The different delegations reached out to other Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs. Sunil Soni assured the



delegation that he would take up the issue with Union minister at the Winter session of parliament, which will commence from November 18. The session will be held till December 13.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

want a healthy business competition within the country and steps for the same are being undertaken.

Parwani said for long they have been demanding for an e-commerce policy.

Multinational companies in country is creating wedge by their mode of functioning, thus

creating a future crises before the 60 crore retailers existing in the country and those working with them, he alleged.

He pointed out these multinationals also sell materials cash on delivery but local traders have to pay tax while under FDI, they get all benefits and subsidies. Thus, they sell a

product of ₹100 to ₹80 to reach out to maximum customers, which hits local traders.

Parwani said all companies are eyeing the ₹45 lakh crore business of the country. "Our only demand is to bring all these e-commerce companies under the ambit of our country's laws," he added.

SEC review meeting today

RAIPUR: To review preparations for civic bodies polls, which will be followed by three-tier Panchayat elections in the state, State Election Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Thakur Ram Singh has called a meeting on November 14 at 4:00 pm at New Circuit House auditorium, Raipur.

Singh said divisional commissioners, all district collectors and superintendents of police have been called for receiving feedback of the progress made in election process undertaken across the state. Based on their feedback, the strategy for upcoming election for both civic bodies and panchayat will be chalked out.

Chief Secretary R P Mandal and Director General of Police D. M. Awasthi are also likely to be present in the meeting.

Rail services disrupted, many trains cancelled

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Normal train services were disrupted on Howrah-Mumbai route after a crane fell near the Road Under Bridge construction site at Chuchuiya para, Bilaspur on Wednesday blocking tracks and OHE breakdown.

According to South East Central Railway, train number 12879 (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Bhubaneswar Express) has been diverted from Lakholi-Sambalpur route, while 18029 (Shalimar Express) has been diverted from Raipur-Lakholi-

Sambalpur-Jharsuguda route.

The train number 12070 (Gondia-Raigarh Janshatabdi Express) and Raipur-Bilaspur local have been terminated at Uslapur.

The cancelled trains are Raipur-Gevra Road (58204), Bilaspur-Gevra (68736).

Trains which will remain cancelled on November 14 are Gevra-Raipur, Gevra-Bilaspur, Raipur-Gevra, Bilaspur-Tatanagar, Bilaspur-Devra-Bilaspur, and Bilaspur-Gevra (68746).

Gevra-Itwari (18239) and Korba-Trivandrum (22647) have been delayed by five hours.

CM Baghel orders probe in Radiant Way school mishap

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel taking serious note of the alleged laxity on the part of management of Radiant-Way public school, which led to an accident during adventure sports, ordered a probe into the matter.

A girl student of class-4 of the school located in the state capital got serious injuries in a mishap which happened while she was doing adventure sports in the school premises.

A girl student of class-4 of the school located in the state capital got serious injuries in a mishap which happened while she was doing adventure sports in the school premises

She fell into the ground and received

serious injury on her face as no safety precaution in the floor was maintained.

Meanwhile, parents of students of the school on Wednesday met Chief Minister Baghel at Jan-Chaupal: Bhent-Mulaqat programme at his official residence and gave him detailed information about the mishap that took place during the adventure game.

Chief Minister took the matter seriously and instructed Raipur collector to probe into the matter.



1. Chief Minister during his weekly public contact programme, Jan Choupal, on Wednesday gave instructions for providing financial aid under Sanjivani Kosh scheme to Bhilai-3 resident Khilleshwari for treatment.



2. Children of Dimrapal Ashram of Bastar region led by social worker Padma Shri Dharampal Saini paid visit to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at Jan-Chaupal: Bhent-Mulaqat, where Baghel made their wish come true by taking them on a tour to CM House.

Haryana Cabinet expansion today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After 17 days of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister taking oath, the first expansion of the Manohar Lal Khattar-led Haryana Cabinet will take place on Thursday.

Khattar (65), who took oath as the Chief Minister for the second time on October 27, and Dushyant Chautala (31), who was sworn-in as his deputy, are the only two members of the present Cabinet.

"Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the Haryana ministers at the Haryana Raj Bhawan on Thursday at 12.30 pm," an official spokesman said on Wednesday.

The Haryana Cabinet can have 14 members, including the chief minister and the deputy Chief Minister.

The BJP and the Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) have factored out various per-



Manohar Lal Khattar



Dushyant Chautala

mutations and combinations to give wider representation to all sections and regions of the state in the first expansion, sources said.

The JJP is likely to get two ministerial berths and one or two Independents can also be accommodated in the expanded council of Ministers. The BJP is likely to induct six ministers from its camp, they said.

Haryana's main opposition party Congress had criticised Khattar over the delay in inducting ministers, with its senior leader Randeep Singh Surjewala saying nearly three

weeks have passed after the declaration of election results in Haryana, but the BJP-JJP are only "busy in fighting to secure maximum number of ministerial portfolios".

Haryana polls were held on October 21 and results declared on October 24. The BJP had formed Government in the state with the help of the JJP. The seven Independents are also supporting the Government.

The saffron party had won 40 seats, the JJP 10 and the Congress 31 in the polls to the 90-members State Assembly.

The INLD and the Haryana Lokhit Party won one seat each.

On Tuesday, Chautala had discussed the cabinet expansion issue with the chief minister here.

There was also a discussion on allotment of departments with the chief minister, Chautala had told reporters after meeting Khattar.

Front-runners from the BJP for ministerial berths include six-time legislator Anil Vij, former speaker Kanwar Pal, Seema Trikha, Mahipal Dhandra, Deepak Mangla, Ganshyam Saraf, Banwari Lal and Kamal Gupta.

Ram Kumar Gautam, Ishwar Singh or Anoop Dhanak are probable from the JJP and the Independents, who are likely to be inducted into the Cabinet, are Ranjit Singh Chautala and Balraj Kundu.

The impasse in Maharashtra was believed to be

one of the factors that delayed the cabinet expansion, which was to be held on Tuesday.

Khattar had met Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah in Delhi this week. Khattar was invited by the BJP-JJP coalition, were invited by Khattar for dinner.

Sources said the JJP, besides the Deputy Chief Minister's post, has been eyeing crucial portfolios of Home, Finance and Excise and Taxation.

Dushyant parted ways with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in December 2018 after a bitter vertical split in the party and the Chautala family and formed the JJP.

Ahead of the induction of the council of ministers, both BJP and JJP leaders have worked on the formulation of a common minimum programme.

Bear \$20/pilgrim Kartarpur fee, Capt asks rich SGPC

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With footfalls at the Kartarpur Corridor reported to be quite low so far, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday asked the cash-rich Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) to pay the \$20 per pilgrim fee for travel out of their own coffers, at least to the yellow card holders who simply could not afford to pay the amount.

Amid reports of confusion among pilgrims, the Chief Minister also urged the Prime Ministers of both India and Pakistan to waive off the passport condition for travel through Kartarpur Corridor and instead accept other forms of identity, including Aadhar card, driving license etc. These should be acceptable since there was no requirement of visa to be

stamped on the passport in any case, he added. The Chief Minister said that the low number of devotees reportedly crossing over to the historic gurdwara was not because of lack of interest among the people but because of the two conditions of passport and 20 dollars fee. "Lakhs of pilgrims were waiting to visit the Kartarpur Gurdwara on this historic 550th prakash purb of Guru Nanak Dev ji but were held back because of these problems," he added.

Though Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had tweeted, before the opening of the Corridor, that passport would not be needed for devotees to come through, the decision was not formalised, Capt Amarinder pointed out. He urged Imran, as well as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to resolve the problem by coming to an agreement to amend the MoU

requirement for passport to travel through the Corridor. "If pilgrims are unable to make full use of the Kartarpur Corridor, the whole purpose of this unique initiative on the part of the two Governments would be defeated," he added. "However, instead of flaunting their money to appease their ego and make a political point through this religious occasion, they should spend the same on supporting the devotees, especially the poor Yellow Card holders who simply did not have the money to pay the necessary fee to Pakistan for entering their territory to pay obeisance at the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara," he quipped.

"Why can't the SGPC and their political masters, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and particularly the Badal family, shell out some money for the actual good of the community," said Capt Amarinder.

HUGE CROWD TURNOUT

Nomination for 1st phase of J'khand Assembly polls ends

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

On the last day of nomination for the candidates contesting Assembly polls in the first phase, a huge crowd of more than 12,000 people in Daltonganj on Wednesday was effectively managed by the police. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is very particular about crowd management and traffic regulation, said sources.

No untoward incidents were reported and no elderly citizen negotiating roads found crossing from one side to other of the road hazardous as police bandobast was adequate.

There was heavy traffic all around but no chaos. Sources said no road side vendor had any problem with the crowd that had come in from three assembly constituencies Daltonganj, Panki and Bishrampur on the last day of nomination here.



put in his 3 deputies Surjit Kumar, Anup Baraik and Sandip Gupta on the job for the day today. Kumar and Baraik were in block A of the Palamu collectorate while Gupta was overseeing things in the town Daltonganj which

saw a full 25 minute speech of chief minister Raghubar Das in the nomination rally held in the Shivajee maidan here.

The management of crowd at the Shivajee maidan was flawless as said Gupta "Our SP has asked us to take all possi-

ble measures for a smooth traffic without causing any problem to any visitors coming over here in the town Daltonganj today." Linda said, "We knew the gathering would be too enormous. We had our own plan to handle it and we

did it."

The most conspicuous nomination which everyone saw with a heavy heart was when Chandrasekhar Dubey alias Dadai Dubey came to file his nomination as Congress candidate for Bishrampur assembly constituency the very next day of his elder son Ajay Dubey's cremation who breathed his last in Ranchi on Monday.

Ajay was cremated on Tuesday Nov 12. Speaking to the Pioneer senior Dubey said, "Fate has many twists. I am to exit from this world but my son did it. There is nothing in our hands." There is a strong swell of sympathy for him now.

At Shivajee maidan CM Raghubar Das looked unfazed about the way AJSU is so pulling the strings of the NDA as here he in his speech he lambasted Congress, JMM and RJD terming them as corrupt, looters and thieves of fodder.

Das called them quite an 'adulterated' one too and

warned people not to allow such adulterated stuff to come into power. He said if voted to power again his Government would make Palamu a bowl of rice by strengthening the irrigation facilities. Surprisingly Das did not even for once mention Babul Marandi's JVM.

Das spoke of Ayodhya and Ram Temple and thanked Muslims and judges of the Apex Court saying, "The Congress was keeping this Ram Temple issue hanging over the last 70 years or so."

Termining his 3 BJP candidates Shashibhushan Mehta (Panki), Aloke Chourasia (Daltonganj) and Ramchandra Chandravanshi (Bishrampur) as 'flower' (read lotus the party symbol) CM exhorted the people to bring them back again in the government. These 3 filed their nomination today.

Das had a similar nomination rallies one each at Bhavnathpur and the other at Chhaterpur where he said the crowd was 'tremendous'.

Work in double-shift to finish construction works for Kumbh 2021: U'khand CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Work should be undertaken in double-shift to expedite the construction works for Kumbh Mela 2021. Officials, involved in Kumbh Mela works, should prepare a clear road-map of works to be done at their level and ensure completion of the works on time. Government orders for permanent works for Kumbh Mela should be issued soon for works regarding which the government orders have not been issued yet.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat issued these directions while chairing a meet to review preparations for Kumbh Mela to be held during 2021 in Haridwar. Rawat said that deadline should be set for construction of all the bridges to be made for the Kumbh Mela. Timely construction of the bridges will make the construction of roads more convenient, he said.

It was stated in the meeting that ₹402 crore has been approved for permanent construction works out of which ₹154 crore has been made available to the departments concerned. Rawat said that if private organisations want to construct bathing ghats at their own expense, technical support should be provided to them.

He stressed on the need for special focus on sanitation and removal of encroachments in the Mela area.

Directing that security be provided to prominent representatives of Akhadas, Rawat said that arrangements for the Kumbh Mela should set an example for future events too. Work on undergrounding the electricity and gas pipelines in the Mela area should be expedited.

All that is required for the Kumbh Mela arrangements will be provided, he said, while



stressing that all officials should work in coordination. Focus should also be laid on maintaining the identity of Haridwar considering the spiritual aspects of Uttarakhand.

The CM also directed that strict approach be adopted against anti-social activities and that effective measures be taken for removal of encroachments. Stating that the Kumbh Mela is the world's biggest religious and spiritual fair, he said that crores of people from across India and abroad are expected to arrive here to attend it.

Elaborate arrangements will have to be ensured accordingly.

The State's Urban Development and Housing minister Madan Kaushik said that the success of Kumbh Mela is linked with joint efforts by all.

Asking all officials concerned to understand their responsibilities, he also told them to take cognisance of suggestions received from members of the religious fraternity.

Focus should also be laid on demarcation of the Kumbh Mela area and developing necessary infrastructural facilities in the new areas.

Chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh, principal secretary Anand Bardhan, secretaries Amit Singh Negi, Nitesh Jha, Arvind Singh Hyanki, Garhwal commissioner Ravinath Raman, director general (law and order) Ashok Kumar and Kumbh Mela officer Deepak Rawat were also among those present in the meeting.

NCP, Cong talk CMP as bids on for...

From Page 1

Though there has so far not been any formula discussion on the power-sharing arrangement among the three parties, a power-sharing formula emerged from the Congress-NCP camp. Under this formula, the Shiv Sena and NCP - which have 56 and 54 MLAs respectively - will share the post of Chief Minister for a period of two and half years each, while the Congress - with a strength of 44 MLAs - will get the deputy Chief Minister's post for the entire period of five years. Similarly, the Sena and the NCP will get 14 ministries each, while the Congress will

get 11 ministries.

The formula does not throw light on the crucial Speaker's post. All the three parties are vying for this post, as the Speaker plays a crucial role in the current Assembly in which there may be frequent battles over numbers during the next five years.

Sources in both the NCP and Congress said that they were agreeable to Sena president Uddhav Thackeray being nominated as the Chief Minister of the three-party for the first two and a half years.

Earlier in the day, the NCP and Congress nominated five leaders each for hold-

ing meetings and drafting the CMP for the three-party Government. While leaders like Jayant Patil, Ajit Pawar, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay Munde and Nawab Malik will represent the NCP, the team of the Congress will comprise Balasaheb Thorat, Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan, Vijay Wadetiwar and Manikrao Thakre.

Addressing his party's newly elected MLAs and leaders, Sr Pawar allayed the fears of legislators about the possibility of a mid-term election in the State. "The President's rule will not come in the way of our Government formation efforts.

Be assured that there would not be mid-term elections in the State," the NCP president said. Later in the afternoon, all the newly elected MLAs of the Congress left Jaipur for Mumbai, as the party leadership told them that there was no need for them to remain there for more time.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut reiterated that his party's man will be the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Raut, speaking to a regional television channel from his hospital bed, lamented that the Shiv Sena could not prove its majority before the Governor as the Congress and NCP did not give his party their letters of support on time.

Raut said that his party's

Hindutva agenda would not come in the way of the formation of a Shiv Sena-led three-party Government in the State.

Asked if he felt uneasy being at the hospital at a time when there was hectic political activity outside, Raut said: "I am used to doing something or other at all times. I can't sit idle. Even while in the hospital, I wrote an editorial for the Sena's official mouth-piece Saamana".

In a related development, former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan alleged the BJP was making desperate attempts to prevent its erstwhile ally Shiv Sena from aligning with his party and the NCP to form a Government in Maharashtra.

Rafale, Sabarimala judgments today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Thursday its verdict on petitions seeking a review of its judgment giving a clean chit to the Modi Government in the Rafale fighter jet deal with French firm Dassault Aviation. Also, it is to give its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking re-examination of its decision to allow entry of women of all age group in Kerala's Sabarimala Temple. Political parties, right-wing outfits and devotees in Kerala are keeping their fingers crossed. **PTI**

UCO BANK
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E-mail: pandri@ucobank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of the UCO BANK under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) a demand notice dated calling upon the borrower Rules, 2002 issued repay the amount mentioned in the notice being as on plus Unapplied Interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and cost thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this date.

The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO BANK for an amount.

Branch Name	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Address & Description of the property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount of Demand Notice
Pandri Branch, Raipur	Borrower : Mrs. Jaimala Devi Singh W/o. Mr. Anjani Singh, Co-Borrower : Mr. Praveen Kumar Singh S/o. Mr. Anjani Singh, Guarantor: 1. Mr. Anjani Singh S/o. Mr. Hariballam Singh, 2. Mr. Naveen Singh S/o. Mr. Anjani Singh, 3. Mr. Manish Kumar Singh S/o. Mr. Anjani Singh, Address: H.No. E.W.S.111/112, Behind Electric Office, Tatibandh, Raipur (C.G.) - 492099	1. An area of land admeasuring - 380.58 Sq.Ft. in Kh.No. 186 EWS- 122 situated at Housing Board Colony, Tatibandh, Shahid Bhagat Singh Ward No. - 13, P. H. No. 103/34, PS - Amanaka within Sub Registrar office of Raipur, Dist. Raipur (C.G.). The above Sale Deed registered in Sub Registrar office, Raipur, vide Book. No. AD-1, Vol. No. 70762, Page No.49 to 62, Sale Deed Serial No.1333 (KH), dated 30.05.2016 and bounded by North: Rasta, South: L.I.G. - II Plots, East: E.W.S. - 121, WEST: E.W.S - 123. 2. An area of land admeasuring 380.58 Sq. Ft. in Kh. No. - 186 EWS-123 situated at Housing Board Colony, Tatibandh, Shahid Bhagat Singh Ward No. - 13, P. H. No 103/34, PS - Amanaka within Sub Registrar office of Raipur, Dist. Raipur (C.G.). The above Sale Deed registered in Sub Registrar office, Raipur, vide Book. No.AD-1, Vol.No.70762, Page No. 63 to 76, Sale Deed Serial No.1334 (KH) dated 30.05.2016 and bounded by North: Rasta, South: L.I.G.-II Plots, East: E.W.S -122, WEST: E.W.S -124.	30.07.2019	08.11.2019	Rs. 12,94,541.10 +Interest + Other Expenses
	Date:08.11.2019, Place: Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) (AUTHORISED OFFICER) UCO BANK				

CJI office within RTI ambit

From Page 1

The bench said it was necessary that question of "judicial independence is accounted for in the balancing exercise" with RTI. It cannot be doubted and debated that independence of the judiciary is a matter of "ennobled public concern" and directly relates to public welfare and would be one of the factors to be taken into account in weighing and applying the public interest test, said the judgment, running into 108 pages.

"Thus, when public interest demands disclosure of information, judicial independence has to be kept in mind while deciding the question of exercise of discretion," Justice Khanna said.

Reference to the principle of judicial independence is not to undermine and avoid accountability which is an aspect "we perceive and believe" has to be taken into account while examining the public interest in favour of disclosure of information, it said.

It, however, said the verdict "should not be understood to mean that the independence of the judiciary can be achieved only by denial of access to information".

The verdict, which has been concurred by Justices NV Ramana and DY Chandrachud in separate verdicts, said that in some cases judicial independence may "demand openness and transparency by furnishing the information" and in some cases disclosure may not be needed.

Reference to the principle of judicial independence is not to undermine and avoid accountability which is an aspect "we perceive and believe" has to be taken into account while examining the public interest in favour of disclosure of information, it said.

"Distinction must be drawn between the final opinion or resolutions passed by collegium with regard to appointment /elevation and transfer of judges with observations and indicative reasons and the inputs/data or details which the collegium had examined," the bench said while stressing on balancing between the right to information, judicial independence and confi-

dentiality of personal information.

The rigour of public interest in divulging inputs, data and particulars of a candidate (probable judge) would be different from that of divulging and furnishing details of the output that is the decision, it said.

"The public interest test would have to be applied keeping in mind the fiduciary relationship,(if it arises), and also the invasion of the right to privacy and breach of the duty of confidentiality owed to the candidate or the information provider, resulting from the furnishing of such details and particulars," it said on the collegium deliberations.

Judicial independence and accountability go hand in hand as accountability ensures, and is a facet of judicial independence. Further, while applying the proportionality test, the type and nature of the information is a relevant factor," it said.

It said the transparency and openness in judicial appointments "juxtaposed" with confidentiality of deliberations remain one of the most delicate and complex areas. With the passage of time, there has been a change as con-

cerns have been expressed on disclosure of the names and the reasons for those who had not been approved by the collegium, it added.

Deciding three appeals, the judgement said it was not possible to answer these questions in absolute terms, and "in each case, the public interest test would be applied to weigh the scales and on balance determine whether information should be furnished or would be exempt".

Consequently, the top court dismissed first appeal filed by CPIO against the HC verdict asking it to furnish information on SC judges who had declared their assets.

It, however, partly allowed the other two appeals of the CPIO of the apex court in which it was directed to disclose complete correspondence with the then CJI as a news report alleged that a Union Minister had approached a HC Judge to influence his judicial decisions. The second appeal pertained to seeking file notes on appointment of three judges in SC while superseding some senior HC judges.

The verdict referred these two cases to the CPIO to re-examine them after following procedure under the RTI Act.

SC doubts efficacy as more odd-even mulled

From Page 1

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor SAFAR said Delhi's neighbouring States recorded only 480 incidents of stubble burning on Tuesday and the share of smoke from farm fires in Delhi's pollution is likely to decrease to 13 per cent on Thursday "in spite of favourable transport-level wind trajectory".

However, air quality is likely to improve on Friday with an increase in wind speed due to a fresh western disturbance and a dip in farm fires, the SAFAR said on Wednesday.

Delhi-NCR gasped for breath as the noxious smog resulting from raging farm fires and unfavourable weather pushed pollution levels in the region towards the "emergency" zone for the third time in the last 15 days.

Incidents of stubble burning in Haryana and Punjab have increased and northwesterly winds have been bringing more farm fire plume to the Delhi-NCR region, said weather experts.

Chaos in HK as pro-democracy protests 'blossom everywhere'

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Pro-democracy protesters on Wednesday stepped up a "blossom everywhere" campaign of road blocks and vandalism across Hong Kong that has crippled the international financial hub this week and ignited some of the worst violence in five months of unrest.

The new phase in the crisis, which has forced schools and shopping malls to close as well as the shutdown of large chunks of the vital train network, has prompted police to warn the city is on the verge of "total collapse" and a "breakdown".

China, facing the biggest challenge to its rule of the territory since it was handed back by the British in 1997, has insisted it will not buckle to the pressure and warned of even tougher security measures.

As they have since the start of the week, protesters on Wednesday choked roads and blocked traffic with anything they could lay their hands on including bricks, bicycles, couches and other materials.

Key arteries routes were targeted in morning and after-work peak hours. Various lines on the subway — used daily by more than half of the city's 7.5 million people — were also suspended, forcing many workers to stay at home.

In the Central business district, hundreds of people left their offices at lunchtime to join the more hardcore protesters setting up barricades outside luxury-item shops and headquarters of big financial firms.

Masked protesters dressed in their signature black were also locked in a series of tense standoffs at university campuses, following intense clashes on Tuesday night that saw police fire tear gas and rubber bullets.

Highlighting the growing security fears, mainland Chinese students began fleeing Hong Kong on buses and boats back across the border, according to police and universities, although it was not immediately clear how many had left.

The chaos was part of the large-scale leaderless protest movement's new strategy branded "blossom every-

where", in which small groups target as many parts of the city as possible to cause maximum disruption and stretch police resources.

Police raise security around Hong Kong after night clashes

AP ■ HONG KONG

Police have increased security around Hong Kong and its university campuses as they brace for more violence after sharp clashes overnight with anti-government protesters.

Many subway and rail stations were closed Wednesday after the protesters blocked commutes and vandalized trains. Classes were suspended at schools and universities.

Police and protesters battled on multiple fronts overnight at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Erdogan to meet Trump at White House today

Washington/Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet his US counterpart Donald Trump at the White House on Wednesday.

The development comes only a month after Trump, wrote a letter to Erdogan, calling him a "fool" over Turkey's military offensive in Syria.

Erdogan's visit to the US comes amid tense relations between the two NATO allies, Arab News reported.

The tensions between US and Turkey escalated after Ankara launched a military offensive in northeast Syria against Washington-backed Kurdish forces, who are fighting against the terror group Islamic State.

Washington is also angered over Ankara's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence system. The US has halted the delivery of support equipment and supplies to Turkey for F-35 jet fighter jets. It has also threatened to impose sanctions on Turkey over the Russian defence purchase.

However, Erdogan's latest visit to the White House might serve to smooth over differences and provide a boost to bilateral trade relations. **IANS**

Risks for all sides as Trump impeachment hearings swing open

Washington: The closed doors of the Trump impeachment investigation are swinging wide open.

When the gavel strikes at the start of the House hearing Wednesday morning, America and the rest of the world will have the chance to see and hear for themselves for the first time about President Donald Trump's actions toward Ukraine and consider whether they are, in fact, impeachable offenses.

It's a remarkable moment, even for a White House full of them.

All on TV, committee leaders will set the stage, then comes the main feature: Two seasoned diplomats, William Taylor, the graying former infantry officer now charge d'affaires in Ukraine, and George Kent, the deputy assistant secretary in Washington,

telling the striking, if sometimes complicated story of a president allegedly using foreign policy for personal and political gain ahead of the 2020 election.

So far, the narrative is splitting Americans, mostly along the same lines as Trump's unusual presidency. The Constitution sets a dramatic, but vague, bar for impeachment, and there's no consensus yet that Trump's actions at the heart of the inquiry meet the threshold of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Whether Wednesday's proceedings begin to end a presidency or help secure Trump's position, it's certain that his chaotic term has finally arrived at a place he cannot control and a force, the constitutional system of checks and balances, that he cannot ignore. **AP**

First televised Trump impeachment hearing opens in US House

Washington: The US House of Representatives opened its momentous first televised hearing Wednesday on whether to impeach President Donald Trump, as Democrats seek to make the case to the public that he abused his power for political gain.

Two career diplomats — acting ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs George Kent — are testifying before the House Intelligence Committee in what is expected to be a fiery showdown between Democrats and Trump's Republican backers. **AFP**

GLOBE TROTTING

PAKISTAN TO REOPEN CLOSED HINDU TEMPLES
Islamabad: Considering the long-standing demand of Pakistan's Hindu community, the Imran Khan government has decided to reopen the closed Hindu temples and also renovate them.

E-CIGARETTES MORE HARMFUL THAN TOBACCO
New York: Researchers have found that electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes might be just as harmful to the heart, than traditional cigarettes.

MUSIC MAY CUT CARDIAC STRESS WHILE DRIVING
Rio de Janeiro: Stress while driving is a risk factor for the development of cardiovascular disease and sudden cardiac complications such as heart attack, but new researchers have found that listening to music while driving can reduce cardiac stress.

WESTERN RAILWAY

CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR AND MINOR BRIDGES
 Dy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Prataknagar, Vadodara-390 004, invites E-tender as per the details given below : **E-Tender No.:** Dy.CE/C/IBRC/IMG-SMLA/20. **Name of the work :** Construction of Major Bridge No. 31, 9 Nos. Minor Bridges over existing canal siphone & balance Minor bridge's super structure with PSC slab on already completed sub-structure, Side drains, Toe Walls, Retaining Walls and protection works etc. from Km 0/0 (Including MYG yard) to 30.00 (Including Miyagang to Dabhoi section in connection with "Gauge Conversion of existing NG track to BG track between Miyagang-Dabhoi-Samlaya (96.46Km)". Approximate cost work : ₹ 1167.88 lakhs. EMD : ₹ 733900/-. Availability of online Tender for bidding : From : 19.11.2019 at 11.00 Hrs. To : 03.12.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Date of opening & Time :** 03.12.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. **Like us on:** facebook.com/WesternRly

Israel vows to keep hitting militants as 18 killed in Gaza

Gaza City: Israeli airstrikes killed more Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza on Wednesday as rocket fire toward Israel resumed after a brief overnight lull, raising the death toll in the strip to 18 Palestinians in the heaviest round of fighting in months.

The military said more than 250 rockets have been fired at Israeli communities since the violence erupted following an Israeli airstrike that killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander accused of being the mastermind of recent attacks. Israel stepped up its battle against Iran and its proxies across the region.

The latest fighting brought life in much of Israel to a standstill. Schools remained closed in Israeli communities near the Gaza border and

restrictions on public gatherings continued as rockets rained down.

Those attacks came after the early morning strike on Tuesday killed Bahaa Abu el-Atta and his wife as they were sleeping. Rocket fire from Gaza reached as far north as Tel Aviv, and two people were wounded by shrapnel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a special Cabinet meeting that Israel has no interest in sparking a wider confrontation but warned the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad that Israel will keep pounding them until the rockets stop.

"They know we will continue to strike them without mercy," Netanyahu said. "They have one choice: either stop these attacks or absorb more and more blows." **AFP**

Bushfire threat still high as Australia clean up begins

Glenreagh (Australia): Australians on Wednesday began sifting through the ashes of hundreds of bushfires that have ravaged the country, relieved that their worst fears were unrealised—but wary of a long and brutal summer ahead.

Firefighters were still battling around 140 blazes across the country's eastern seaboard, but a respite from "catastrophic" weather conditions meant the danger from many fires was downgraded.

The northern state of Queensland remained on high alert, with residents on the north shore of popular holiday town Noosa told to "leave immediately" to avoid an "unpredictable" fire burning nearby. **AFP**

Mineral capable of preserving life's signatures found on Mars

New York: Researchers, using data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, have found deposits of hydrated silica — a mineral good at preserving chemical signatures of life — in a crater on the Red Planet where the US space organisation plans to land a rover next year.

The study, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, noted that the crater, named Jezero, contains a large delta deposit formed by ancient rivers that fed an ancient lake.

The researchers, including those from Brown University in the US, used the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM) instrument that flies aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and applied big data analysis methods to tease out the weak spectral signature of the silica deposits.

They said the delta would have concentrated a wealth of material from a vast watershed, similar to deltas on the Earth which are good at preserving signs of life.

According to the researchers, finding hydrated silica at Jezero, increases the preservation potential of chemical signatures of life.

They said, one of the silica deposits was found on the edge of the delta at low elevation.

"The material that forms the bottom layer of a delta is sometimes the most productive in terms of preserving biosignatures. So if you can find that bottom layer, and that layer has a lot of silica in it, that's a double bonus," said study co-author Jack Mustard, a professor at Brown University.

The study noted that the minerals may have formed in the discovered region, and may represent the bottom layer of the delta deposit. **PTI**

7 killed, several injured in Kabul car bomb blast

Kabul: At least seven people were killed and seven others injured on Wednesday in a car bomb attack in a northeast neighbourhood of the Afghan capital, where military and civilian airports and a foreign military base are located, said sources.

The explosion occurred at around 7.25 am local time in the northeast of the Afghan capital, where a government complex is also located, Efe news quoted Afghan Interior Ministry spokesperson Nasrat Rahimi as saying in a statement.

The spokesman later told EFE that the attack was conducted by a suicide bomber, who used a van loaded with explosives and blew up the vehicle on the main street. **IANS**

China holding third Taiwanese man on security grounds: Media

Beijing: Beijing is investigating a Taiwanese man on suspicion of engaging in activities that endanger national security, Chinese media reported on Wednesday — the third such case to come to light in three months.

Shih Cheng-ping, a retired professor at the National Taiwan Normal University and chief economist for Chinese conglomerate Huaxia Group, disappeared after entering the mainland in August of last year, according to Taiwanese media.

Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said Wednesday that Shih was being investigated "for suspected activities endangering national security," according to state-run People's Daily. **AFP**

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
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UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		QUARTER ENDED		HALF YEAR ENDED		QUARTER ENDED		HALF YEAR ENDED	
		30-Sep-19	30-Sep-18	30-Sep-19	30-Sep-18	30-Sep-19	30-Sep-18	30-Sep-19	30-Sep-18
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Total Income from Operations	2103.43	1839.36	2103.43	1875.39	175373.76	176755.32	354034.68	337594.55
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (including discontinued operations)	2064.62	1805.35	2022.74	1821.83	36700.02	19471.48	61109.64	37860.81
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (including discontinued operations)	2064.62	1814.86	2022.74	1897.49	29948.75	15243.29	49138.62	28761.99
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2064.58	1814.53	2022.36	1897.53				
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26
6	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
	(a) Basic :	32.00	28.14	31.35	29.44	241.42	124.29	398.87	234.93
	(b) Diluted:	32.00	28.14	31.35	29.44	241.42	124.29	398.87	234.93

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financials Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.kamaholdings.com).

For and on behalf of the Board
Ekta Maheshwari
 Whole Time Director, CFO & Company Secretary
 (DIN: 02071432)

Place : Gurugram
 Date : November 13, 2019

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED
 CIN: L74899DL1976PLC008036
Regd. Office: Unit No 8, Ground Floor Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076
 Telephone: 011-42334176 E-mail: info@rotoindia.co.in Website: www.rotoindia.co.in

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019 (In Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.09.2019 Un-audited	Half year Ended 30.09.2019 Un-audited	Quarter Ended 30.09.2018 Un-audited
Total Income from Operations (Net)	2.87	2.87	5.50
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	(0.65)	(2.93)	2.26
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	(0.65)	(2.93)	2.26
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	(0.65)	(2.93)	2.26
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(0.65)	(2.93)	2.26
Equity Share Capital	360.13	360.13	360.13
Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) Basic and diluted (not annualised)*	(0.02)	(0.08)	0.06

Notes:
 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015. The full format of Quarterly financial Results are available on the stock exchange website www.bseindia.com and Company's Website at www.rotoindia.co.in.
 2. The financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standard (IND AS) notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) (Amendments) Rules, 2016.
 3. The above unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of Directors at their meeting held on 13.11.2019.

For Rotographics (India) Limited
Naresh Kumar Bansal
 Director

Place: New Delhi
 Date: 13.11.2019

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
 Vinijayam Bhawan, C-Block, Shivajik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017.
 Website: www.derc.gov.in, Telefax: 26673608

PUBLIC NOTICE
To provide comments/ suggestions/objections on draft procedure for verification of Captive Generating Plant (CGP) Status

The Commission received various requests/ suggestions/ clarifications from the stakeholders, Nodal Agency, licensees to devise the guidelines for verification of Captive Generating Plant Status in time bound manner.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers vested under Regulations 12 and 17 of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Open Access) Regulations, 2005, the Commission, have prepared the draft procedure for verification of Captive Generating Plant Status in time bound manner. The Draft Procedure is available on the website of the Commission i.e. www.derc.gov.in.

Stakeholders are requested to forward their suggestions / comments / objections on the draft procedure for verification of Captive Generating Plant Status to the Commission, latest by **29.11.2019**. The comments/ suggestions/objections may be forwarded to Secretary, DERC either by post or through email to secyderc@nic.in.

Sd/
Secretary,
 Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission
 DIP/Shabdarth/0984/19-20

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED
 CIN: L51109DL1980PLC256335
Regd Office: 23, Eastern Avenue, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi - 110065
 E-mail: atut.addi@gmail.com, Ph.: 0120-2529335

Statement of Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2019 (Rs. in Lacs, except per share data)

Sr No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year	Half Year Ended	Quarter/Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year	Half Year Ended	
		30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	
1	Total income from operations	25.05	10.76	42.37	28.22	13.71	48.70
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and exceptional items)	3.26	(15.35)	1.69	6.38	(12.43)	7.95
3	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, after exceptional items)	3.26	(15.19)	1.61	6.38	(12.27)	7.87
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	3.10	(14.98)	2.02	5.97	(12.25)	7.79
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the Period after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after Tax)	4.12	(14.76)	4.05	6.99	(12.03)	9.82
6	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value Rs 5/- each)	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 5/- each) (Not Annualised)	0.03	(0.14)	0.02	0.06	(0.11)	0.07
	(a) Basic (amount in Rs.)	0.03	(0.14)	0.02	0.06	(0.11)	0.07
	(b) Diluted (amount in Rs.)	0.03	(0.14)	0.02	0.06	(0.11)	0.07

Notes:
 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter & half year financial results filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the quarter & half year financial results are available on the websites of the stock exchange. (URL-www.bseindia.com).
 2. The above financial results have been reviewed by Audit Committee and thereafter approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on November 13, 2019. The Statutory auditors have expressed an unmodified audit opinion.
 3. The Impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s) due to change(s) in accounting policies shall be disclosed by means of a footnote.

For and on behalf of Directors
ADDI Industries Limited
 Sd/-
Hari Bansal
 Director
 Din : 0022923

Place : New Delhi
 Date : November 13, 2019

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas
 The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Shubham Papers/ Usha Aggarwal/ Shalabh Aggarwal/ Rahul Aggarwal/ 113205500212	Plot No-785, Pocket- C IFC Ghazipur, Delhi/ November 08, 2019	August 21, 2019 Rs.1,00,30,639/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 14-11-2019
 Place: Delhi
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Let Rajpath be

Repairing and rejigging heritage structures is one thing, changing skylines quite the other



When the glass Pyramid came up in the courtyard of the Louvre Museum, ostensibly to serve as a central conduit for a more functional visitor movement, the then French President François Mitterrand was lambasted for creating “an architectural joke, an eyesore, an anachronistic intrusion of Egyptian death symbolism in the middle of Paris, and a megalomaniacal folly.” Parisians still have mixed feelings about the new-age intrusion, which has allowed more utilitarian and pedestrianised access to art besides increasing foot-

falls. But the oddity of its existence was such that critics and conservationists compelled the architects to tone down on drama, keep much of the rejig of the Louvre’s internal map underground and stay away from the surrounding classical architecture. Mitterrand, an avid art lover, was thinking about keeping the Louvre relevant for generations than sealing a political legacy. However, the real intent of the argument that Lutyens’ Delhi needs a makeover, particularly the central vista of the Rajpath, to create more spaces for Ministry offices and freeing up more citizen-friendly spaces, is entirely political and in no way cultural or futuristic. Tradition’s co-existence with modernity is encoded in our DNA and Delhi is the best testimony, where each successive ruler has sedimented through relics and monuments. And Delhiites have never denied heritage its place — Rajput, Islamic, European or colonial — making it a part of their living history, one where Lutyens’ Delhi is a key chapter. Talking of the central vista and the domed buildings around it, do we really need to tamper with the elegance and classicism of design here? The green pavilions, perches, cupolas and the islands are the only democratic spaces where citizens can move and roam free, catching the afternoon sun in the middle of winter and the gentle breeze of a summer evening. No kiosk or retail space is needed for it is precisely to escape these that Delhi families assemble here.

Besides, being the first stretches to be locked down for security around Republic and Independence Days, they are anyway sanitised and cannot ever be a porous event space like Washington’s National Mall. Redevelopment wouldn’t necessarily mean more freedom to the masses. Considering the India Gate and now the war memorial are a tribute to martyred soldiers no less, do we need to scream our triumphalism and identity any louder with an Eiffel tower-like structure? Shouldn’t the Government be wiser to leave a legacy of policy and governance instead? Repurposing administrative offices within the shell of an existing facade and rejigging interiors are the done thing. But to change the skyline is quite the other. Agreed, there may be an increasing demand for land in the cities and the size of the Government means that its bureaucracy needs to be accommodated. Does that mean Lutyens’ bungalows should be torn down indiscriminately without attempting a solution within the original plan? Cannot some Government accommodation be relocated to areas where vertical structures are the norm than the exception? The Rajpath has been our ceremonial pivot, providing a monumental, dignified and symbolic setting for governmental structures, museums and national memorials. Attempting to change it for no pressing reason, therefore, is like marginalising and eroding its place-based identity. Simply because of its historicity as a power statement. One that the current regime wants to overlay with its own imposition of a Bharat Parv, as if we never had one through millennia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn’t quite like the “Lutyens’ world” and the power structures embedded in it. “For me, everything is about the people of India,” he had said. But in the name of breaking elitism and freeing up space for people, one cannot justify political point-scoring. Or even the political economy it will generate — the project is expected to run into multi-crore tenders. There are fruits of preservation; they serve as reminders of what was and where we need to go. There are only ruins of demolition, forcibly reconstructing the past on wobbly stubs to suit our ends. Given the secrecy around the makeover project, the least the Government can do is to put a proposed plan to a public vote, keep it transparent, consultative and reasonable and synchronise its character with the aspiration of Delhiites to be citizens of a world heritage city. The city’s application, submitted to the Unesco in 2013, lists Lutyens’ Bungalow Zone (LBZ) along with Shahjahanabad (old Delhi) as the rationale for seeking the tag. That sure will have a longer legacy than proving a point for BJP’s manifesto of 2024, the deadline of the project.

Trouble in Jharkhand

After Maharashtra, allies AJSU and LJP turn adamant on seats, show BJP why it needs them



From the west to the east, BJP’s allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are seeking to assert themselves and give the “big brother” a tough time in both pre and post-poll scenarios. That’s because the results in Maharashtra have proven that the BJP, regardless of the brute force of the Lok Sabha verdict, cannot make it on its own. It has hardly recovered from the jolt in Maharashtra, where its three-decade-old ally, the Shiv Sena, snapped ties with it for its failure to honour a rotational chief ministerial for-

mula, but is staring at another one in Jharkhand. Here its long-time ally, the All Jharkhand Students’ Union (AJSU), has upped the ante by staking claim to 17 seats for itself. But the BJP is not willing to concede. The AJSU has since gone ahead by fielding its candidate even against the BJP’s State unit chief. As if this wasn’t enough, another BJP ally, the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), has announced it will go alone and field its candidates in 50 of the 81 Assembly seats.

The timing is all wrong for the BJP, which is actually looking to consolidate its gains in the State. The Raghubar Das-led regime has the distinction of completing a full five-year-term, which is a first in the 20-year history of the State that has always had fractured mandates leading to half-a-dozen Chief Ministers helming the affairs from time to time. For the BJP, however, the LJP is not a cause of worry given its minuscule presence in the State. The LJP contested only one Assembly seat in 2014 and lost. By contesting 50 seats this time round, its new president Chirag Paswan wishes to gain some foothold in Jharkhand. But as far as AJSU is concerned, the party, which is a product of the Jharkhand movement, has a strong presence, especially in areas around Ranchi. AJSU has been a part of almost all Governments formed in Jharkhand ever since the State’s creation when Babulal Marandi became the first Chief Minister. Its chief Sudesh Mahto has handled plum portfolios throughout, including that of the funds-rich Road Construction department. He played a key role in hijacking MLAs to prop up the Arjun Munda regime. The AJSU is also gaining strength from the fact that Opposition parties are courting it. AJSU fighting alone, nevertheless, will be advantage BJP as the former shares a support base with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and could cut into its votebank. Despite its dominance, the BJP cannot alienate time-tested allies who have stood by it through thick and thin. As Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Naresh Gujral said, the BJP should not treat its allies as lesser partners as they, too, have self-respect.

Guarantors vs enforcers

The brawl between police officers and lawyers over a parking lot was the manifestation of a misplaced sense of entitlement at work. The episode should lead to corrective introspection



BHOPINDER SINGH

Submission to an inviolable sense of justice, order and probity ought to be at the heart of professionals rendering policing and legal services to society. The nobility of purpose in both these professions mandates a certain code of conduct and ethics that posits the responsibility to the citizenry at large and, thereby, the nation. Many such mandates have been legislated, ingrained and templated in the form of standard procedures, processes and even uniforms that they bear with aplomb and responsibility. The allegorical personification of Lady Justice (originally *Lustitia*, the goddess of justice in the Greek mythology) with a blindfold, a balance and a sword is deeply symbolic of those who uphold its tenets as protectors of justice.

Similarly, the khaki uniform of the police personnel is freighted with the citizen’s charter that explicitly seeks, among other things, the “maintenance of law and order in civil society” as a common bond between the two services. Many illustrious lawyers and policemen (and policewomen) have conducted themselves with the highest dignity, civility, service and personal sacrifices that have been the pride of the society and the nation.

Yet, the unfortunate spectacle of the violent clash between policemen and the lawyers at the Tis Hazari court in the national capital shamed the edifice of justice, which is the shared responsibility of these two callings. In an age of reckless social media, the free flow of visuals of the fights, accusations and the public protests was a reflection of institutional breakdown at various levels.

The immediate impact of this wholly avoidable fracas goes way beyond the perceptions about these two professions. It speaks volumes about the institutional one-upmanship, prevailing societal anger and above all, a misplaced sense of entitlement that some individuals may carry — all of which could taint the entirety of their services. For the sake of national security and order, institutional blame-game must be contained with immediate effect. The High Court-appointed judicial inquiry must ascertain individual acts of misdemeanour and those involved must be punished, irrespective of their professional callings.

However, the lazy and wanton lust to sully the reputation of either of the institutions can have unfathomable repercussions that the nation can ill-afford, given that both are unique and irreplaceable services, often the only source of ensuring justice to the citizenry. To that extent, the act should be treated as a matter of individual (at best a group of individuals) culpability or complicity as opposed to a situation where the top-brass of either institutions lock horns on behalf of their colleagues. The fact that the violence was triggered by



a seemingly innocuous dispute over a parking space reeks of ego, vanity and a sense of fiefdom that was involved. The proverbial “turf-war” further eroded the citizen’s waning trust, faith and decorum about governmental and judicial arms, who are in dire need for reforms and reassurances.

In the melee of excesses was the regrettable irony of the Delhi Police’s motto of “*Shanti, Sewa, Nyaya*” (Peace, Service and Justice) or indeed, the fact that the lawyers are the ultimate restorers of the law of the land. The hapless citizenry could only mull and reminisce their own experiences at the hands of either of these two.

Such incidents also give a parallel vent to latent concerns that have remained unaddressed for far too long but contextualising the same to this incident is to distract from the immediacy and specificity of action. The unwarranted politicisation of the incident, with political parties assuming positions that suit their immediate narrative, can only fan the fire. Sane voices, who are either in positions of seniority in the respective hierarchies or those who have retired from official service, would do yeoman service by insisting on isolating the individuals concerned in the violence, as opposed to taking institutional positions.

“SUCH INCIDENTS ALSO GIVE PARALLEL VENT TO LATENT CONCERNS THAT HAVE REMAINED UNADDRESSED FOR TOO LONG BUT CONTEXTUALISING THE SAME TO THIS INCIDENT IS TO DISTRACT FROM THE IMMEDIACY AND SPECIFICITY OF ACTION. THE UNWARRANTED POLITICISATION OF THE INCIDENT CAN ONLY FAN THE FIRE”

Other collateral concerns like work conditions and officer-soldier relationship in the police among others, however true and important in their own right, are a matter of separate enquiry and resolution. In fact, there has been a plethora of committees and commissions that have identified various reforms pertaining to the efficacy of the judicial and policing services. Unfortunately, political will has been lacking and even institutional lethargy to undertake the recommendations made by experts in the field.

A more reassuring arm of the Government has been the armed forces. The principal factor for this has been the relative isolation from the politicisation of its environment, functioning and ethos. In cases of individual culpability pertaining to the rare wrongdoings of a soldier of the armed forces, care is taken to isolate them from institutional framework as discipline cannot be compromised.

Discipline, leadership and soldiering ethos are made to walk the talk in the armed forces. The finest example of this is the “officer-to-soldier” fatality ratio, which is the highest for any military in the world. It is the professional culture and standard that are at stake when murmurs abound

of creeping politicisation even in the armed forces.

The onus is on the Government to contain this incident with speedy intervention, resolution and then usher in the much-delayed institutional reforms. No society can thrive where a revenue officer is burnt alive during the conduct of his/her duty, where police-lawyers vandalise public property, where policemen in uniform protest raising slogans, where suicide attempts for justice by lawyers are made. Indeed, forgotten from the recent limelight is the unprecedented tragedy of the war heroes of the armed forces sitting on roadside, asking for what was rightfully promised in OROP.

There is certainly a power play of institutional relevance, elbow-room and assertion at play. The fight over the parking lot was symbolic of the misplaced sense of entitlement that is at work with a few that shame their own institutions. This incident should lead to corrective introspection and cooling of tempers as opposed to a field day for those who have vested interest in TRPs, partisan concerns or perpetuating the existing systemic rot.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

RCEP is in our interest. If it is signed by other 15 nations and we are sitting outside, no multinational will want to come here.

NITI Aayog vice chairman
—Arvind Panagariya



Today, whether it’s pageantry, surviving in the modelling business or entering Bollywood, I don’t think you’ll survive if you’re not strong as a person.

Actor
—Lara Dutta



India, China and Russia are doing absolutely nothing to clean up their smokestacks. The garbage that they drop in the sea floats into Los Angeles.

US President
—Donald Trump



Women need to get out of their comfort zone. It’s time for them to lead the transformation in emerging technologies like AI and IOT.

Union Minister
—Smriti Irani



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JNU hullabaloo

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Fee hike unjust” (November 13). There is no doubt that there has been a significant hike in both the hostel room fee and one-time mess fee at the Jawaharalal Nehru University (JNU) but we also need to ponder as to how long will the State exchequer keep funding its students’ subsidised education. The monthly fee of ₹20 for a hostel room is something that really needed to be changed but at the same time, the authorities should have held discussions with the stakeholders on the amount that needed to be increased. There should have been a hike that would not pinch too much as students from all sections of the society come to study in this varsity. While it’s good that the authorities have partially rolled the proposed fee hike, students need to introspect why there should not be a basic hike in their fees when they are being part of one of the most sought after universities in the country. There has to be some rationality in this entire issue.

Bal Govind
Noida

Seshan was a poll crusader

Before TN Seshan occupied the office of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), not much was known about the game-changing ability of the Election Commission of India (ECI). Seshan proved what the electoral body could do to instill decorum in the way elections were conducted in the country. Until he took over, booth captures, corruption, impersonation, vandalism and violence were part of the election process. The introduction of electors’ photo identity cards was one of the measures taken by him which put the ECI’s integrity on the rising graph. The Model Code of Conduct got a fresh meaning as the “maverick” Seshan cracked the whip on politicians.

Ironically, Seshan paved the way for a three-member ECI. His aggressive style and frequent tiffs with leaders prompted former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao to re-introduce the three-member ECI. Again, Seshan met his match in the Supreme Court after he contested the powers of two newly-appointed Election Commissioners — MS Gill and GVG Krishnamurthy.



Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

He had to eat the humble pie everytime he tried to assert his supremacy. Despite his frequent squabbles with the Government, colleagues and the courts, Seshan was the architect of the “new Election Commission” in India.

Expand bases

Sir — It is given to understand that an applicant can apply for a normal passport at all Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras (POPSKs) and Passport Sewa Kendras (PSKs) spread across various States. It is further given to understand that for *tatkal* pass-

port applications, an applicant can approach only a few PSKs located within the States. Thus, for an applicant there is no possibility to apply for a *tatkal* passport at any POPSKs located across various district headquarters.

The current non-availability of *tatkal* appointments at POPSKs is causing much inconvenience to the applicants. All are compelled

to approach the nearest PSK located within the State. The move, thus, causes inconvenience to the applicants owing to logistical factors to reach the venue.

The Ministry of External Affairs must accept *tatkal*-based passport applications and allot appointments under *tatkal* quota at POPSKs, too. The suggested move will entail quick processing

of such applications and subsequently may even reduce the burden of PSKs.

Varun Dambal
Bengaluru

The great reformer

Sir — As the Chief Election Commissioner, TN Seshan brought many reforms in the country’s electoral process, which includes the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, introduction of voter ID cards for eligible candidates and curbing malpractices like the exchange of liquor and money during elections.

The real tribute to Seshan would be to enforce one of his orders where he directed that the ballot papers be mixed without fail before they were counted so that polling agents would not know in which booth who voted and how. This will partially curb the behaviour of our elected representatives who tend to tilt development funds towards the area that voted for them.

Harvinder Singh Chugh
Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Governor's decision unconstitutional

President's Rule in Maharashtra must be shot down by the SC. Elections are a costly affair and a poor country like India can ill-afford frequent polls



MARKANDEY **KATJU**

In my opinion, the recent imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra under Article 356 is unconstitutional and needs to be declared as such by the Supreme Court (SC). In the recent elections to the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, the BJP got 105 seats, the Shiv Sena got 56, the NCP 54 and the Congress 44. Although the BJP and the Shiv Sena had fought the election in alliance, after the poll it fell apart on the issue of power-sharing. No single party got a majority in the House and no alliance could be formed claiming a majority. Hence the Governor of the State recommended President's Rule, which was imposed. Now, a similar situation had arisen in Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 1996 where also President's Rule was imposed soon after the Legislative Assembly elections for the same reason, viz no party, nor combination of parties, had a majority in the House. The imposition of President's Rule was challenged in the Allahabad High Court (HC) and a full Bench of the HC, of which I was a member, held the imposition unconstitutional, vide HS Jain vs Union of India case.

The reasoning which the full Bench gave in that case squarely applies to the imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra too and it was this: "It has been held in the authoritative judgment of the Supreme Court in Bommai's case, (1994) 3 SCC 1 (in paragraphs 109, 120, 383 and 391) that imposition of President's Rule should not be resorted to unless all other recourses have failed."

In paragraph 112 of my decision, I observed: "The Governor should have sent a message to the House under Article 175(2) of the Constitution, after summoning it under Article 174(1) stating that despite his best efforts he was unable to find out who can command the confidence of the House and hence the House itself should inform him about such person. The Governor in this message should have asked the House to assemble and decide the matter within a reasonable period of time and then inform him. In this message the Governor could have also warned the House that if it did not make up its mind within a reasonable period of time, the House may have to be dissolved." In paragraph 128 of my decision, I observed that in case of a fractured electoral verdict, where no party or combination of parties appeared to have a majority in the House, "the only legal alternative left for the Governor is to ask the Assembly to inform him about the person in whom it has confidence. Who can be in a better position than the House itself to inform the Governor in whom it has confidence?" And in paragraph 131 of my verdict I stated, "Although this course of action has not been expressly mentioned in the Constitution, it logically flows out of Article 164(2) and is the only democratic alternative short of dissolution. In today's era of fractured verdicts, it is the only logical method."

I referred to Article 6 of the Japanese Constitution which states, "The Emperor shall appoint a Prime Minister as designated by the Diet" (the Japanese Parliament is called the Diet) and observed "Although we do not have a similar provision in our Constitution, while judicially interpreting it we can borrow from the democratic spirit of the Japanese Constitution."

Thus, when the Governor of Maharashtra could not find any party or combination of parties, which appeared to have a majority in the Assembly, before recommending imposition of President's Rule he should have sent a message to the House under Article 175(2), after summoning it under Article 174(1), asking the House to assemble, deliberate and then inform him within a reasonable period of time in whom it has confidence, so that he could be appointed Chief Minister.

In Bommai's case it was held that imposition of President's Rule was a very serious step and was a last option, to be resorted to only when all other recourses failed. In Maharashtra, as in UP in 1996, there was an option left, as referred to above. Hence without resorting to it, recommending imposition of President's Rule straightaway was clearly unconstitutional.

Some people may ask what use such a step would have been when the political leaders were unable to come to a compromise?

The answer was given in paragraph 134 of my judgment. "In my opinion, if the elected members are permitted to come together and meet in the House, then a Socratic debate may take place and it is possible that a solution may emerge. When two or more persons are sitting separately they may not be able to resolve their differences but when they come together it is possible that by discussions and negotiations some compromise may come about. This is the democratic method also. The elected representatives may put pressure on their leaders to give up their intransigent and uncompromising attitude and adopt a more flexible approach."

It must be remembered that elections are a costly affair and frequent polls are a recourse which a poor country like India can ill-afford. Also, frequent elections were one of the causes of the collapse of the Weimar Republic and Hitler coming to power in 1933. Hence every effort should be made to avoid them.

If elected representatives are not allowed to meet in the House, should they meet in a tennis court, as happened in France during the French Revolution of 1789?

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

EVERYTHING IS GOING FINE. TALKS ARE ON IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND A DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

— SHIV SENA PRESIDENT
 UDDHAV THACKERAY



OUR MEETING WITH UDDHAV THACKERAY WAS A COURTESY CALL. THE FACT THAT WE ARE MEETING IS ITSELF A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

— MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS CHIEF
 BALASAHEB THORAT

Shed the protectionist mindset

Keeping in mind the criticality of being an integral part of the global supply chain to achieve a \$5 trillion economy, India needs to reconsider its decision on RCEP



UTTAM GUPTA

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a conglomeration of 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) viz. Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, The Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei, Laos and Cambodia plus six others viz. Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, China and India. If it really sees the light of day with all 16 members intact, the group will cover 3.6 billion people or almost 50 per cent of the world's population and account for nearly 40 per cent of the global GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

India is aiming to double its GDP to \$5 trillion by 2024-25. To achieve this, it is looking inter alia to doubling its exports from the current over \$500 billion to \$1 trillion and increasing agricultural exports 2.5 times from \$40 billion to \$100 billion. In this backdrop, the RCEP with a combined GDP of \$30 trillion presents, at least on paper, a huge opportunity that the country can't afford to miss.

Since 2012 (when the RCEP was mooted), 29 rounds of negotiations have already been held. During the ASEAN Summit (November 11-15, 2018), Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for early conclusion of the process. In the recent ministerial gathering held in Bangkok (October 10-12), even as discussions reached a deadlock over a dozen contentious issues, ministers were given 10 days to iron out the differences. If, they didn't succeed, Modi, with his famed "Midas touch" was expected to make it happen in the third RCEP leaders' summit.

However, on November 4, Modi announced India's decision not to join the group citing that "the present form of the RCEP Agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of RCEP. It also does not address satisfactorily India's outstanding issues and concerns". So, what are India's major concerns? And, are these valid?

First, India wants the reference date for undertaking tariff reduction to be extended to 2019 instead of 2014 planned initially. Since 2014, the Government has raised import duty on 3,500 items. In this backdrop, if for the purpose of phasing out duties, it were to use 2014 as a reference point, this benefit will be lost. The Indian stance is perfectly logical as the quotation date for commencement of tariff cuts has to be in sync with the date the agreement takes effect.

Second, under the Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause, the investment or service related concessions given to a trading partner under a bilateral treaty have to be automatically extended to all other members of the group without any time gap. India was not inclined to accept this. This stance is illogical. MFN is a cardinal principle governing World Trade Organisation (WTO) — the international body dealing with global rules of trade. India should not be seen as taking a stance which is inconsistent with WTO rules.

Third, India wanted an "automatic trigger safeguard mechanism." What it really means is that in the event of import of a particular commodity exceeding a certain number (also known as threshold), this clause will automatically kick in, giving the right to the importing country (read: India) to apply higher tariff to prevent a surge. This stance is untenable as it militates against the principle of free international trade based on comparative advantage.

INDIA'S APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS ON RCEP IS OVERLY PROTECTIONIST. BARRING SHIFTING THE REFERENCE DATE FOR UNDERTAKING TARIFF PHASE OUT TO 2019, IN ALL OTHER AREAS, THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND IS NOT TENABLE. IT IS BORNE OUT OF THE FEAR THAT JOINING THE GROUP WILL DEVASTATE OUR FARMERS AND SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES AT THE CURRENT JUNCTURE WHEN THE ECONOMY IS IN THE GRIP OF A SLOWDOWN. ITS WORRY IS MORE ON ACCOUNT OF A FLOOD OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA. THIS FEAR IS UNFOUNDED



The rationale behind eliminating tariffs on goods moving across international borders is to enable participating countries to maximise their respective gains from trade. This overarching objective will be defeated if a member gets the right to automatically increase the duty, which will prevent the exporting country from realising the full potential of its low cost. Moreover, if India insists on this clause, others too will want it. In that scenario, all members will end up compressing the market for each other.

Additionally, there will be practical problems in determining the threshold level (each member would like to keep it at the lowest level possible for extracting maximum mileage) and the number of commodities to be covered by this dispensation (each member will insist on having a large number). They will end up denying access to the market for each other instead of expansion, which is the overriding consideration behind forging a free market area.

India should shun the idea of automatic trigger safeguard mechanism. Instead, it needs to focus more on requiring member countries to refrain from giving subsidies, including "hidden" (as China does by making fuel, power and other inputs subsidised for enterprises) so that a situation of selling commodities at below cost (or dumping in plain words) in other members' markets is avoided. Further, it should insist on stricter and transparent rules of origin to ensure that China does not use other members' territories to flood the Indian market (it is learnt that our negotiators have not done enough home work in this area).

Fourth, India is opposing the demand of other members to seek trade concessions in its domestic space. Termed as "ratchet" in trade terminology, the concept implies that any policy changes will be automatically com-

mitted under RCEP agreement to all members after a fixed period. While, India is willing to give concessions in the services and investment segment, developed countries are pushing for similar concessions in goods trade as well.

Fifth, India is also not comfortable with the "standstill" clause, which binds a member to the current level of domestic liberalisation in services; hence can't be reversed in future. For instance, if the Modi Government wishes to withdraw the 51 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail, which was allowed earlier in 2012 by the UPA dispensation, it won't be able to do so.

Having taken a policy decision in the overall interest of our economy, there is nothing wrong in staying with it to ensure stability of the policy environment.

Finally, India has offered to phase out Customs Duty on imports from China on nearly 74 per cent of the tariff lines (jargon for a product as defined in lists of tariff rates; products can be sub-divided, the level of detail reflected in the number of digits in the Harmonised System code used to identify the product) as against 90 per cent of tariff lines on imports from all other members. China refused to join negotiations on this offer which it considers highly restrictive.

To sum up, India's approach to negotiations on RCEP is overly protectionist. Barring shifting the reference date for undertaking tariff phase out to 2019, in all other areas, the Government's stand is not tenable. It is borne out of the fear that joining the group will devastate our farmers and small-scale industries at the current juncture when the economy is in the grip of a slowdown. Its worry is more on account of a flood of imports from China. This fear is unfounded.

First, under the agreement, tariff elimination is mooted over a reasonably long period of up to 20 years and it should be possible to backlog most of it, especially on sensitive items. Any apprehension of an adverse effect in the near-term is misplaced. The Government should not allow its decision to be obliterated by the present state of the economy.

Second, the handicap of domestic industry is more due to local factors such as the high cost of power, fuel (currently, neither is under the Goods and Services Tax, which means suppliers are not eligible for Input Tax Credit resulting in a cascading effect on cost. Besides, the excise duty and Value Added Tax are also high), logistics, capital and so on. If only these costs are lowered, "Made in India" products can compete with the lowest priced goods from anywhere in the world.

Third, we also need to look at the potential that China offers for boosting India's exports. The Chinese economy is undergoing a metaphorical transformation from export-driven (until hitherto) to domestic consumption and from industry to services. According to an estimate, China has plans to import goods and services worth \$12 trillion over five years. India should tap this potential market.

Keeping in mind the criticality of being an integral part of the global supply chain to achieve a \$5 trillion economy, India needs to reconsider its decision. The Government should shed its present tough stance on MFN, safeguard mechanism, "standstill" and "ratchet." On the offer to China, this may be improved to 80-85 per cent (from the 74 per cent already on the table). With a flexible mindset, it should consider joining RCEP which is expected to be sealed in March 2020.

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

Answer to power woes blowing in the wind?

The speed at which India is progressing on its wind energy agenda is not encouraging, whereas the targets the country has set itself are very ambitious. Why is there such a major disconnect between plan and action?



KOTA SRIRAJ

Many environmental sceptics will write off wind energy as a resource that has literally gone with the wind and rightly so, as India still has a long way to go before it can say that wind power has come to play a pivotal role in becoming the alternate source to fossil fuels.

Having said this, wind energy obviously cannot be written off as it has tremendous potential that is just waiting to be tapped. The specific circumstances in India are not able to create an enabling environment for the full-fledged harnessing of this amazing pollution-free sustainable and renewable power resource.

The speed at which India is progressing on its wind energy agenda is not encouraging whereas the targets the country has set itself are very ambitious.

Why is there such a major disconnect between plan and action? Is it due to the lack of a cohesive vision? For instance, India has set an ambitious target of achieving 175 gigawatt (GW) renewable energy capacity by 2022. As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's figures, at the end of 2018, India had an installed capacity of 35 GW. Hence, the jump from 35 GW to 175 GW by 2022 sure looks ambitious and maybe a tad unachievable, not because the target is high but because there is an absence of aggressive policy-backed implementation efforts and initiatives to achieve the same.

The world is witnessing a major shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, mainly due to the rising awareness regarding their ill-effects.

Thanks to this awakening, the cost of renewable energy infrastructure is coming down rapidly elsewhere in the world, but in India this fall in installation rates is not translating into renewed enthusiasm for wind energy and this is concerning. The full potential of wind energy, if and when harnessed, has the ability to mitigate climate change and pollution together. In our renewable energy sector, the emphasis on grand plans and commitments is given primary importance, whereas time-bound execution of projects is sorely missing. Yet another pressing factor is going to make reliance on renewable energy compulsory sooner than later. According to a



study by the Indian Statistical Institute, the projected domestic social cost of coal-based power generation will be too high by 2024-25. This will necessitate reduction in building of new coal-based power plants and render the operations of the existing ones unviable. At a time such as this, a fully-developed portfolio of renewable energy options will be able to shoulder the burden of India's energy demand. However, this portfolio, with a robust GW capacity cannot happen overnight and needs a sufficient run up, which is not happening in the country today.

Senior environmentalists and policymakers must understand that

though time is short, it is also ripe for harnessing wind energy. This is because the technology is available and energy storage is improving exponentially as a lot of innovation is taking place. Hence, it will be much more easy to adopt wind energy today than ever before.

Wind energy cannot be seen as a back-up resource or a plan B. Renewable power sources, especially the trio of solar, wind and hydro power are going to be the mainstay of the future energy sector of the country. To make this happen India must invest appropriately also.

According to the estimates of the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), the country will require \$500 to \$700 billion in renewable energy and supporting grid investment over the coming decade in order to meet its renewable energy targets. Some immediate steps can go a long way to counter the wind ener-

gy generation slowdown.

India must first, bring policy consensus and ensure that implementation and execution remain the strong points of its policy. Also, a monthly monitoring of the hurdles being faced by the renewable energy sector will help in smooth scaling up of the wind energy portfolio.

In addition to this, the authorities may want to prepare a compelling mix of wind and solar energy generation options for small and medium investors as this will raise awareness and present a major business opportunity too. The proper and viable storage of energy is an ongoing issue, which needs to be taken care of as well.

Wind energy has a potential that is still waiting to be tapped and India can easily sail through any future energy crisis only if it has got the wind in its sails.

(The writer is an environmental journalist.)

FOREIGN EYE



BEIJING NEEDS TO STEP BACK A LITTLE

John Tsang, Hong Kong's former financial secretary, defeated by Carrie Lam for the chief executive's post, has said that given the imbalance of power between protesters and the Chinese Government, the latter must take the initiative to de-escalate the force it is using. Coming from a pre-establishment figure it is a striking statement. Yet it will almost certainly go unheard by Beijing.

(The Guardian editorial)

SC VERDICT ON KARNATAKA MLAS

Ruling against conspiracy of ex-Speaker, Sidda, says BSY

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court decision to allow disqualified MLAs to contest polls, and termed it as verdict against the "conspiracy" of the then Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar and Congress leader Siddaramaiah.

Expressing confidence that BJP would win all the 15 seats, where bypolls are scheduled to be held on December 5, he said the party would decide on giving tickets to disqualified MLAs.

"The whole country was eagerly awaiting this verdict. The previous Speaker Ramesh Kumar had conspired along with Siddaramaiah (Congress leader) — Supreme Court has given clear decision to it,"

Yediyurappa said. Welcoming the court decision to allow disqualified MLAs to contest the polls, he said, preparations have begun to win all the seats.

"From tomorrow itself all our ministers and leaders will take responsibility. We will put all efforts to win all the seats," he added.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the disqualification of 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs by the then Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar but allowed them to contest the December five bypolls in the state.

The court struck down the portion of the order of then Speaker by which the legislators were disqualified till the end of the 15th Karnataka Assembly in 2023.

Responding to a question

whether disqualified MLAs would get BJP tickets, Yediyurappa said, "we will discuss at the core committee meeting today and take decision by evening."

Asked if the 17 disqualified MLAs — 14 of the Congress and three belonging to the JDS — will be joining BJP, he said, "wait till evening."

They are all be coming back in the evening, I will discuss with them, also with national leaders and take an appropriate decision."

Bypolls to 15 of 17 seats represented by disqualified MLAs, whose resignation and absence from the trust vote led to the fall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government, and made way for the BJP to come to power, will be held on December five.

Cong demands K'taka Govt dismissal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday called for the dismissal of the Yediyurappa Government in Karnataka, saying the Supreme Court's decision upholding the decision disqualifying 17 Congress and JD(S) MLAs but allowing them to contest the bypolls had exposed BJP's 'Operation Kamal' in the State.

"The Supreme Court's decision has exposed the BJP's 'Operation Kamal' in Karnataka... The Yediyurappa Government is an 'illegitimate' Government in terms of law and constitution and should be dismissed immediately," Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. He also asked for an inquiry into the role of the BJP leadership.

"Public opinion and democratic values demand that not should only the 'illegitimate' Yediyurappa government be sacked, but the BJP's conspiracy to bring down an elected Government on the basis of



money power of the legislators investigated. The 'Yediyurappa Tapes' need to be investigated. Where did all this black money come from? What was the role of BJP leadership?" he asked.

His colleague Abhishek Manu Singhvi echoed him and said the Yediyurappa government has no moral right to continue in office any more. "There is clearly an attempt

by the BJP to destroy democratic values through shameless display of money power... The Supreme Court decision vindicates the stand of the Speaker almost 95 per cent. It shows

that 'Operation Kamal' is happening everyday and everywhere in the country," Singhvi told reporters.

"It shows that a large number of Congress-JDS MLAs were lured by the BJP through the use of money power," he said. Demanding the resignation of the Karnataka chief minister, he said the BJP's "character" was now exposed.

"Those who preach to us about corruption, moral and Gandhian values, they have to realise that they have to walk the talk," Singhvi said. A H Vishwanath, one of the disqualified MLAs from the JD(S), said he was satisfied with the decision of the apex court.

"I welcome the judgement of the Supreme Court which has now permitted all 17 MLAs to contest the elections," Vishwanath told reporters. The speaker had disqualified the 17 legislators of the ruling Congress-JD(S) coalition ahead of a trust vote in July. Then Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy resigned after losing the trust vote, paving the way for the BJP-led Government in the state under Yediyurappa. Bypolls to 15 out of these 17 Assembly seats which fell vacant following the disqualification of MLAs are scheduled on December 5 and candidates are required to file their nomination papers between November 11 and November 18.

K'taka ex-Speaker Ramesh Kumar heaves sigh of relief

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday expressed "sigh of relief" as the Supreme Court upheld his decision to disqualify 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs.

"Supreme Court has upheld the disqualification - to that extent, it's a sigh of relief (for me). On the issue of tenure (of disqualification), Supreme Court has not agreed to my interpretation I will speak on that after going through the text of the judgement," Kumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, he has gone by the tenth schedule, keeping in mind the political and constitutional morality.

The apex court on Wednesday upheld the disqualification of 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs in Karnataka on orders of the Speaker but allowed them to contest the December 5 bypolls in the state.

The court struck down the portion of the order of Kumar by which the legislators were disqualified till the end of the 15th Karnataka Assembly in 2023.

In July this year, 17 MLAs were disqualified by Kumar based on the complaint of Congress and JD(S) after their absence and resignation from the assembly during the trust vote leading to the collapse of then H D Kumaraswamy-led Government.

SC verdict on K'taka MLAs has no meaning: Kumaraswamy

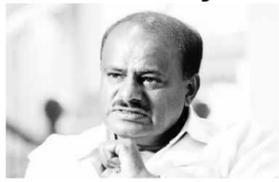
PTI ■ BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy claimed on Wednesday the Supreme Court's verdict on the disqualified MLAs "has no meaning."

"On the one hand upholding the disqualification and on the other, allowing them to contest the election..." he told reporters.

The apex court upheld the disqualification of 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs on orders of the then Speaker but paved the way for them to contest the December 5 bypolls for 15 seats.

The court struck down the portion of the order of then Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar by which the legislators were disqualified till the end of the term of the 15th Karnataka Assembly. "Without giving power to the anti-defection law, we put our back saying that we have introduced the law. What is there in the anti-defection law? To prohibit them (public representatives) from arbitrary acts of resigning whenever they want and can be easily influenced,"



Kumaraswamy said.

"The way you are encouraging, your decision has no meaning," Kumaraswamy said.

"If at all the democracy of the country has to survive, some degree of discipline should be displayed. There is no meaning if the anti-defection law is not respected," he said.

Asked whether there was any possibility of "compromising" with the BJP, Kumaraswamy said there was no need for him to do so.

He accused Congress leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of creating such a narrative about the JD(S). "When 2018 assembly elections were held, he asked Rahul Gandhi to announce that the JD(S) is the B-team of BJP. The same card he wants to play again. This time it will not work," he said.

BSY can run Govt safely for remainder of his term: Gowda

PTI ■ BENGALURU

JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda on Wednesday said Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa can complete his term as he no longer has to worry about how to manage the disqualified MLAs, who have been allowed by Supreme Court to contest coming bypolls.

"With common sense I can say that Yediyurappa was worried about how to manage these 17 people (disqualified Congress-JDS MLAs)," he said when asked to comment on the Supreme Court verdict on their petitions.

"We don't need to bother about him (Yediyurappa). He can run the Government safely for the next three years and four months (remainder of the term)," he added.

He also ruled out any truck with the Congress in future, especially with its senior leader Siddaramaiah. "Siddaramaiah is also safe. There is no problem. There is no question of Siddaramaiah and Deve Gowda coming together to form the government. He will remain safely as the opposition leader," Gowda said.

BJP bracing for rebellion in bypoll bound constituencies in K'taka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Rebellion in a few of the bypoll-bound Assembly constituencies amid indications that several of the 17 disqualified Congress and JD(S) MLAs who are set to join the party might get tickets to contest the December 5 polls.

At least two leaders Raju Kage from Kagwad and Sharath Bachegowda, son of BJP Chikkaballapura MP BN Bacchegowda, have openly revolted against the party upset over indications that they may not get tickets to contest the bypolls to 15 constituencies.

Both had unsuccessfully contested the 2018 assembly elections against Congress candidates, who are among the disqualified MLAs.

Kage had already announced his decision to quit the BJP and join the Congress, while Sharath on Wednesday said he would file nomination as an independent in Hoskote.

Sharath's announcement came on a day when the Supreme Court gave partial relief to the disqualified MLAs by allowing them to contest the bypolls and

Kage had already announced his decision to quit the BJP and join the Congress, while Sharath on Wednesday said he would file nomination as an Independent in Hoskote

all eyes are the BJP's next move on whether it will give tickets to them.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said the disqualified MLAs would join the BJP on Thursday.

Kage on Wednesday met Congress leader Siddaramaiah and said he was all set to join the party and would file his nomination from Kagwad on November 18.

"Today or tomorrow, I am going to resign from the primary membership of BJP, he told reporters here.

BJP is likely to field Congress rebels Shrimant Patil and K Sudhakar in Kagwad and Hoskote.

Barely two days ago, Congress leader D K Shivakumar had met Kage and another BJP member Ashok Pujari of Gokak in Belagavi giving rise to speculations they may be absorbed by the party and fielded in the bypolls.

Cong releases manifesto for Rajasthan civic body polls

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The Congress' Rajasthan unit on Wednesday released its manifesto for the November 16 civic body polls in the State.

The party promises the State's people that it will do everything to ensure development, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said after releasing the manifesto.

Forty-nine civic bodies are going to polls on Saturday.

In its manifesto, the Congress has promised to start urban bus services in Bharatpur, Udaipur and Bikaner, get work worth Rs 3,500 crore done under the Smart City scheme in the next two years in Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota and Ajmer, and revive the Rajasthan Urban Development Fund besides 25 other promises.

"People have appreciated the Government's programmes. The Government will once again start the 'Prashashan Shehara Ki Aur' programme," the Chief Minister said.

Keeping in mind that



all-round development of cities is necessary, the Congress has prepared a manifesto and the government will work on its promises, he said.

Development of local bodies took place only when the Congress was in power, Gehlot said.

Congress Rajasthan chief and Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said the good work done by the government will be carried forward at a rapid pace in the remaining four years of this dispensation and all-round development will be done.

The BJP Government ran a rhetoric on smart cities. Six years have passed but no city has turned smart, whereas investments worth crores were made under the 'Jawaharal Urban Renewal Mission' programme during the tenure of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he said.

The Congress' Rajasthan in-charge Avinash Pandey said in the last bypolls, people of the state gave votes to the policies of the Congress and the good work done in the last one year by the Government.

Death of birds at Sambhar Lake worrying, officials investigating cause: Raj CM

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday said the death of birds at Sambhar Lake is worrying and protecting flora and fauna remains one of the top priorities of the state government.

Hundreds of birds including Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Shelduck, Plovers, Avocets were found were found dead on Sunday in the 5-7 km area around the Sambhar Lake, a wetland of international importance and key wintering area for tens of thousands of migratory birds.

"Death of birds at Sambhar Lake is very worrying. State govt has taken all necessary steps to find out what is causing loss of avian lives and also to take immediate steps to prevent deaths during this migratory season. Protecting flora & fauna remains one of our top priorities," Gehlot said in a tweet.

He said officials are investigating whether it has been caused by water contamination or algae poisoning.

"Once investigations are complete, we will do everything possi-



ble so that no more birds lose lives," he said.

Gehlot said a ground-level assessment has found that due to heavy rains in Sambhar, a number of new water bodies have formed, raising saline level and causing toxicity.

He said the Chief Conservator of Forest as well as several teams of Animal Husbandry Department are at Sambhar Lake to assess the situation.

"Both chief wild life warden (CWLW) and CCF are also monitoring the situation. Water samples have been taken and sent for testing. Carcasses are sent to Bhopal for testing for bird flu. Toxicologists have also been called from SARC-CON, Coimbatore," he said.



A man and a child walks past plastics and other wastes accumulated on the beach at Marina, in Chennai on Wednesday PTI

TSRTC strike: Another worker commits suicide

Hyderabad: Another

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) driver allegedly committed suicide on Wednesday in Mahabubabad district as the indefinite strike by the employees' unions entered the 40th day. A Naresh, 45, consumed some poisonous substance at his house in the early hours and was rushed to a hospital by his family where he

died, police said.

Already, four RTC employees had ended their lives and some others attempted suicide in different parts of Telangana since the strike began on October 5.

A senior police official said Naresh resorted to the extreme step apparently "upset" whether the ongoing RTC issue would be resolved.

A purported suicide note

in the name of Naresh allegedly mentioned that the State Government was not responding properly to the stir, the official said and added that its authenticity has to be verified.

Scores of TSRTC workers and employees along with members of some political parties took his body in a procession from the hospital towards the RTC depot raising slogans against the Government. PTI

SC lawyer issues legal notice to officials for stopping ration supply to Bru refugees

PTI ■ AIZAWL/AGARTALA

A Supreme Court lawyer has issued a legal notice to six officials for stopping supply of free ration and cash-dole to Bru refugees living in relief camps in Tripura leading to the "death of six persons", an organisation of the displaced people said on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has stopped free ration and cash-dole after repatriation of the Brus to their homeland Mizoram started on October 3. It is scheduled to continue till November 30.

The Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) had claimed that six people including

babies have died in relief camps since October 29 "because of starvation" after the ration supply was stopped to the 35,000 odd refugees. The Tripura Government, however, said four people died and the cause of the deaths was being ascertained.

Advocate Ali Zia Kabir Choudhary sent the legal notice to six officials including Tripura Director General of Police Akhil Kumar Shukla, North Tripura District Magistrate Ravel H Kumar and Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Kanchanpur Abhedananda Baidya, MBDPF leaders said.

When asked by PTI, Baidya said he received the notice.

The displaced people had

launched a roadblock at Anandabazar, known for a prominent market, at Kanchanpur in North Tripura district from October 31 demanding resumption of cash-dole and free ration to them. Following assurance from Tripura Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Debverma to resume supply of free ration, the blockade was withdrawn on October 7.

Baidya said, "The refugees have already started getting free ration."

Every adult Bru person living in a camp gets ₹3.50 in cash and 600 grams of rice per day as allowances, while each minor receives ₹2.50 in cash and 300 grams of rice per day, official sources said adding that they get clothes in every three years.

Guj Govt announces ₹700-cr relief for rain-hit farmers

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Government on Wednesday announced a relief package of ₹700 crore for the farmers in the State, whose crops have been damaged due to excess rain this year.

Talking to reporters, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said the move would benefit over four lakh farmers in the State.

Farmers in Gujarat witnessed damage to their crops due to excess rains that lashed the State even after the monsoon season officially ended.

"The cabinet meeting held today decided to declare a relief package for farmers who have faced crop losses due to excess rains in the last week of October and early part of November," Patel said.



"We have decided to give a relief package of ₹700 crore for the farmers. The main crops that have been damaged are groundnut, cotton and rice... Over four lakh farmers will benefit from this package," he said.

The relief package will be over and above the crop insurance that the companies will provide to the

farmers who under the insurance cover. The relief will be given as per the rules of the Central Government's Calamity Relief Fund, Patel said.

According to him, a survey is being carried out in different parts of the State to assess the crop damage and it will soon be completed. "Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had promised to provide relief to all the farmers even if they have not taken crop insurance. To keep that promise to the farmers in the state, this relief package has been announced," he said.

However, the opposition Congress termed the relief package to farmers as a mere "lollypop" and

asked the State Government to provide crop insurance to them.

The Gujarat Government's announcement came at a time when Congress leader Hardik Patel was about to end his day-long symbolic fast at Paddhari in Rajkot district over the issue of crop insurance and farm loan waiver in the wake of unseasonal rains.

"Farmers are committing suicide as they are not paid 100 per cent crop insurance. While we welcome the government's move (relief package), we want prompt disbursement of crop insurance," Hardik said.

"The BJP Government was forced to announce a package of Rs 700 crore because of the Congress. We will continue our fight for the farmers in the coming days," he added.

Sabarimala verdict: Anxiety grips Kerala

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Political parties, right wing outfits and devotees in Kerala are keeping their fingers crossed as the Supreme Court is set to pronounce on Thursday its verdict on pleas seeking review of its decision to allow entry of women of all age groups in the Sabarimala Temple.



The southern State had witnessed high drama and protests by devotees and right wing activists last year against the CPI(M)-led LDF Government's decision to implement the top court's order.

The verdict was also crucial for the LDF Government, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, as the beginning of the annual pilgrimage season at Sabarimala is just three days away.

The portals of the hill shrine, located in a reserve forest in Western Ghats in Pathanamthitta district of the state, would be opened for the two-month-long Mandalam Makaravilakku season on November 16 evening.

Vijayan had on Saturday taken stock of the preparations being carried out by various departments to ensure a hassle-free pilgrimage.

DGP Loknath Behara has said there will be tight security during the pilgrimage season.

Over 10,000 police personnel will be deployed in phases in and around the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple during the two-month long pilgrimage season.

While the state BJP, on Wednesday, expressed hope that the order on the review petitions, would be in favour of devotees, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), the

Government's decision to go ahead and implement the verdict.

BJP state general secretary M T Ramesh said if the verdict was against devotees, the party would seek constitutional means to address the concerns of devotees.

"We hope that the verdict on the review petitions will be in favour of devotees."

The stand adopted by the state government was the reason for the earlier judgment that came out against the sentiments of devotees," he told reporters.

The stand taken by the apex court in the Ayodhya case that deity Ram Lalla could be viewed as a special personality, can be applicable in the Sabarimala case also, he said.

A Padmakumar, the outgoing president of TDB, said the verdict should be accepted with self-restraint and peace.

"The Board's request to everyone is that we should accept the verdict whatever it may be. We hope that the state

BJP workers, police clash in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Dozen people including Apolicemen and BJP workers were injured after saffron activists clashed with the police during an agitation against alleged "Government apathy" in handling rising dengue cases in Kolkata.

The police lathi-charged the protesters and used water cannons to disperse hundreds of charging BJP Yuva Morcha supporters marching towards the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. At least 37 BJP men including State party leaders Raju Banerjee were arrested.

"We were protesting peacefully but the police suddenly started charging batons and firing water cannons," Banerjee said asking "how can the police use water cannons purchased with the tax-payers money. There is no democracy in Bengal," he said.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh attacked the Government for "reckless handling of dengue cases," adding "the number of dengue infection has more than doubled in the past fortnight taking the

saying, "we have every right to visit the affected areas as there are numerous complaints that Government is playing politics over distributing relief materials."

He said "the Chief Minister is not allowing the opposition parties to extend the hand of cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent Rs 200 crore for relief in advance but she is not paying heed to our suggestions. What is the harm if other parties too come in and work together at this time of crisis for the common people."

Cyclone Bulbul has affected large parts of nine districts destroying crops and properties worth hundreds of crores. "This has caused a bigger damage than Aila," a State official said.

Meanwhile Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who was on Wednesday touring Basirhat sub-division in North 24 Parganas told in an administrative meeting that "no partiality should be shown while distributing relief. Politics is in its own place but during grief we must unite and relief must be distributed without seeing political colours."

Cong, NCP hold talks over CMP away from media glare

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Senior NCP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar pulled a fast one on the media on Wednesday night. Or so it appeared.

There was considerable confusion and drama surrounding the first co-ordination committee scheduled for Wednesday night to discuss formulation of Common Minimum Programme (CMP).

After the conflicting versions emerged from both the Congress and the NCP camps as to whether the scheduled meeting was held at all or not, it was confirmed later in the night that the meeting was indeed held at a five-star hotel's conference room.

Senior leaders of both the parties, including veteran leader Sushilkumar Shinde, Prithviraj Chavan, Balasaheb

Thorat, Vijay Wadetiwar, Ashok Chavan, Manirao Thakre (all from the Congress), Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Dhyananjay Munde and Nawab Mallik (all from the NCP) were present.

The Congress and NCP leaders present reviewed the manifestos of the Congress-NCP alliance, which had come out with a joint manifesto, and the Shiv Sena. The two parties will use the manifestos of the Congress-NCP alliance and Shiv Sena as the base for the CMP. Given the different ideologies, the Congress-NCP

leaders also discussed the conflicting stands/views taken by the Congress-NCP alliance one hand and the Shiv Sena on the other. If it wants to go with the Congress-NCP alliance, the Shiv Sena will have to keep its Hindutva agenda on the back burner till they are in alliance



Senior Congress and NCP leaders attend a joint meeting on Wednesday to discuss issues relating to the formulation of Common Minimum Programme

with the two "secular" parties. Now that the Shiv Sena's process of alliance with the Congress-NCP alliance has begun, Sena president Uddhav Thackeray may cancel his scheduled visit to Ayodhya on November 24.

Earlier, while state NCP president Jayant Patil claimed

party leaders had with chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's "Silver Oak" residence in south Mumbai. He said that the meeting, scheduled between the leaders of his party and Congress on Wednesday night, to dwell upon issues relating to CMP, had been cancelled.

"The meeting has been cancelled. I am leaving for Baramati," Ajit Pawar said.

However, Sharad Pawar clarified later that Ajitdada, as the Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles, was very much in Mumbai and the meeting between the NCP and Congress leaders would take place in Mumbai on Thursday. "Ajitdada is very much in Mumbai. He might have made the comment in jest that he was heading towards Baramati," Sr Pawar said.

State Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat also con-

firmed that the meeting scheduled for on Wednesday was cancelled. "We (Congress and NCP leaders) were to meet today at 7.30 pm. The Congress leaders told us all of sudden that the meeting is cancelled. We will meet tomorrow," Thorat said.

Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan said: "We had an internal meeting among the Congress leaders today.... We were to meet the NCP leaders today. But that meeting is not happening today. We will meet them tomorrow."

Later in the night, State NCP president Jayant Patil claimed that the meeting between the leaders of his party and NCP was currently. "It was in jest that Ajit Pawar had made the statement that the meeting had been cancelled and that he was going to Baramati".

Authorities roll up sleeves to give Ayodhya complete makeover after SC verdict

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Authorities are gearing up to give Ayodhya a complete makeover following the Supreme Court verdict in favour of a Ram temple, with plans to build resorts, a five-star hotel, international bus terminal and an airport.

Besides these, the Uttar Pradesh Government also plans to start a cruise on the Sarayu river. Elaborating about the developmental plan, deputy director Information of Ayodhya division Murlidhar Singh said, "Ayodhya Teerth Vikas Parishad will be constituted. Plans are on to start river cruise on Sarayu river in Ayodhya. It will take almost four years for Ayodhya to become a city like Tirupati," he said.

Singh said work will be started at a very fast pace to construct an international airport in Ayodhya, so that the first flight can take off by Ram Navami (birth celebration of Lord Ram) in April 2020.

He said the expansion of Ayodhya railway station will

also be undertaken apart from construction of an international bus terminal in the town. In addition, a flyover measuring 5-kilometre-long will come up between Faizabad and Ayodhya, he said.

Work to construct a five-star hotel and setting up 10 resorts in Ayodhya is likely to commence in December, he said. "The temple of Lord Ram, which will be built in Ayodhya, will be the biggest religious place in the country. If 2,000 craftsmen (kaarigar) will be working for 8 hours in a day, then the temple will be ready in two-and-half years. So far 65 per cent of the stones have been already carved," Murlidhar Singh said.

He added that the responsibility to look after the area of nearly 5-kilometre around the temple will be on the Supreme Court-mandated trust for construction of a temple at the site in Ayodhya.

Sena not to mention plea against Maha Governor in SC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena will not mention in the Supreme Court on Thursday its plea challenging the Governor's decision of not granting it 3 days time for getting letter of support for Government formation in Maharashtra, according to the party lawyer.

The lawyer representing Shiv Sena in the apex court told PTI that the party has preferred not to mention the petition.

Advocate Sunil Fernandes,

who had filed the petition on behalf of the Shiv Sena, said on Tuesday that the Supreme Court had asked them to mention the writ petition at 10:30 AM on Wednesday.

The lawyer said another petition challenging the imposition of President's rule in the state was being readied. The Shiv Sena had on Tuesday moved the apex court challenging the Maharashtra governor's decision but failed to get an urgent hearing in the mat-

ter. The Shiv Sena had sought a direction from the apex court to quash the Governor's decision of not giving it the opportunity to prove majority on the floor of the House.

The party had claimed it was invited to form the Government on Monday and had indicated its willingness to do so on Tuesday.

In the petition, the Sena had contended that the governor's decision was violative of articles 14 and 21 of the

Constitution.

The plea had said the governor's decision rejecting the claim of the Shiv Sena, which is the second largest party with 56 MLAs, to form Government is "ex facie arbitrary, unconstitutional and violative of article 14".

The Shiv Sena was invited to form the state government on November 10 and the petitioner had indicated its willingness to form the Government on November 11, it said

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Freight, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers. **Tender No:** 197-S/187/CAMC of O.H.Crane/TKD/19/MC-IV **Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Over Head Cranes at Wagon Care Centre, Tughlakabad for Two years. **Advised Tender Value:** Rs. 69,80,870.56/- (Including GST) **Earnest money in favour of Sr DFM/NR, New Delhi:** Rs. 1,39,600/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS) **Date & time of submission of tender bid:** Up to 11.12.2019 at 12:00 hrs. **Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** www.ireps.gov.in. No. 197-S/187/CAMC of O.H.Crane/TKD/19/MC-IV Date: 13.11.2019 3641/19
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NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Freight, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers. **Tender No:** No. 197-S/86/ATL-Rep/TKD/19/MC-IV **2. Name of work:** Repair of Automatic Locks at Wagon Care Centre Tughlakabad for Two years **3. Advised Tender Value:** Rs 30,08,875.39/- (Including GST) **4. Earnest money in favour of Sr DFM/NR, New Delhi:** Rs 60,200 (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS) **5. Date & Time of submission of Tender bid:** Up to 11.12.2019 at 12:00 hrs **6. Website Particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** www.ireps.gov.in. No. 197-S/86/ATL-Rep/TKD/19/MC-IV Date: 13.11.2019 3643/19
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS Q2 FY2019-20

Statement of Un - Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended 30th September, 2019

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Half year ended		Year Ended	
		30.09.2019	30.09.2018	30.09.2019	30.09.2018		31.03.2019
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)
1	Total income from Operations (Refer Note -2)	17,672.44	16,483.68	34,578.77	33,175.81	67,584.91	
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	812.72	752.59	1,790.89	1,689.44	2,701.73	
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period Before Tax (After Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	812.72	752.59	1,790.89	1,689.44	2,701.73	
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period After Tax (After Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	573.63	541.89	1,302.57	1,193.12	2,142.52	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (After Tax) and other Comprehensive Income (After Tax)]	573.63	541.89	1,302.57	1,193.12	2,139.50	
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value of ₹ 1/- each)	469.17	469.17	469.17	469.17	469.17	
7	Reserves Excluding Revaluation Reserve						
8	Earnings Per Share for Continuing and Discontinued Operations (Before & After Extraordinary Items) (Face Value of ₹ 1/-each)						
	Basic	1.22	1.15	2.78	2.54	4.56	
	Diluted	1.22	1.15	2.78	2.54	4.56	

NOTES :

- The Auditor has conducted Limited Review of these Financial Results. The results were reviewed by the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has taken on record the financial results at its meeting held on November 13, 2019.
- The statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules 2015, (IND-AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- Effective April 1, 2019, the Company adopted Ind AS 116 "Leases", applied to all lease contracts existing on April 1, 2019 using the modified retrospective method along with the transition option to recognize Right-of-Use asset (ROU) at an amount equal to the lease liability. Accordingly, comparatives for the quarters ended September 30, 2018 and half year ended September 30, 2018 and year ended March 31, 2019 have not been retrospectively adjusted. The effect of this adoption is not material on the profit for the period and earnings per share.
- Figures for the previous period have been regrouped/ rearranged wherever necessary to make them comparable with current figures.

On behalf of Board of Directors
For, Gulshan Polyols Limited
Sd/-
(Dr. Chandra K. Jain)
Chairman and Managing Director

Date : 13th November, 2019
Place : Delhi

With Maha under President's Rule, GAD seeks files

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As day after President's Rule came into force in Maharashtra, the Ministries have been ordered to hand over possessions to the General Administrative Department (GAD) by Wednesday evening.

The GAD order is applicable to all ministries, OSDs (Officers on Special Duty) working for ministers, personal secretaries and personal

assistants.

They are directed to submit telephone bills and return identity cards issued to them to the GAD, the order stated.

They are told to return official files, confidential documents, office stationary, furniture etc.

The Central Rule came into force on Tuesday evening, 19 days after the fractured mandate in the State Assembly polls failed to elect a clear winner.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To whom it may Concern
It is for information for General Public that my Client, Mr. Khurshed Anwar son of Late Iqbal Hussain Resident of K-3, Gaffar Manzil Extension Part-II (Haji Colony), Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-25 has disowned his son Saifuddin Asad he shall have no right and concern with us or our moveable and immovable properties. I shall not be held liable & responsible for the acts/ deeds/ offences/ guarantee/ loan liability / debts / responsibilities of him and I shall not be held responsible for the same.
Jawaid Hussain Khan, Advocate
Lawyers Block, Saket Court Complex, N.D.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER NOTICE
Name of the work: Cleaning of level crossing, Clamping of hand Lever points, Vacuum release etc. inside Port prohibited area.
Estimate Cost: Rs. 1,03,68,162/- excluding GST.
Last date & time of submission of bid: 28.11.2019 up to 16:30 Hrs.
Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Traffic Manager,
PPT/PR/452/19-20 Dated: 13.11.2019

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jewan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 658/18 Date : 19-09-2019
Corporation Bank vs Applicant
Versus
Mr. Ankush Mehra & Ors.Respondent
Defendant
3. M/s Nivas Promoters Pvt. Ltd., 191, 2nd Floor, Pt. B, 3FS Flats, Subhdy/1st/25th Medo, East Delhi-110053, Owner of Shop No. 75, New Subji Mandi, Okhla New Delhi-110020, has applied for conveyance his son shop into Free hold in DDA. The original Demand Letter/Assignment letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession letter, N.O.C and receipts of payment made to DDA have been lost in the last month October 2019. In this regard any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact to above said owner or can personally contact to Dy. Dir. (Commercial Estate) DDA, A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.
Sd/-
Sumit Kumar, Advocate
Delhi High Court
E-No-DIG/178/11

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
Aditya Birla Finance Limited
Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 266
CIN NO. : U65990GJ1991PLC064603
APPENDIX IV
[See Rule 8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
WHEREAS
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, UCO Bank Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 07.09.2019 Calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers of M/s Dangrus RM India Company, Mr. Sanjay Singh, Archana Singh to repay, the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,41,01,652.72 (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two and Seventy Two Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ co-borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rule on this 8th Day of November the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.
The borrower / co-borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, UCO Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 for an amount Rs. 1,41,01,652.72 (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two and Seventy Two Paise Only) and interest thereon.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :-
All piece and parcel of Residential property being House No. H-16, SF, admeasuring area 1720 Sq. Ft. Situated at Mayfield Gardens, Sec. - 57, Gurgaon, Haryana which is owned by Mr. Sanjay Singh and Mrs. Archana Singh.
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
PLACE : NEW DELHI Sd/-
DATE : 14-11-2019 AUTHORIZED OFFICER

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ Freight, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers. **Tender No:** 197-S/226/Retrofitment of ATL/BFK HNTKD/19/MC-IV **Name of work:** Retrofitment of Automatic Twist Locks (ATL) in BFKHN wagons as per drawing at Wagon Care Centre, Tughlakabad for Six months. **Advised Tender Value:** Rs. 32,74,500/- (Including GST) **Earnest money in favour of Sr DFM/NR, New Delhi:** Rs 65,500/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS) **Date & time of submission of tender bid:** Up to 11.12.2019 at 12:00 hrs. **Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** www.ireps.gov.in. No. 197-S/226/Retrofitment of ATL/BFKHNTKD/19/MC-IV Date : 13.11.2019 3640/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.SSA/ESTT/Hearing Aid/374/2019/10095 Date : 13.11.2019
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Siksha Abhijan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer of Hearing Aids for assessment and supply of aids and appliances for Children with special needs.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19

Retail inflation hits 16-month high in Oct

New Delhi: Retail price based consumer inflation spiked to 16-month high of 4.62 per cent in October on costlier food items, reducing the headroom for a rate cut by the RBI in its monetary policy due next month.



inflation rose to 11.72 per cent.

The inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.99 per cent in September and 3.38 per cent in October 2018.

The earlier high was reported in June 2018 when the retail inflation print was recorded at 4.92 per cent. The inflation in the food basket spiked to 7.89 per cent in October 2019 as against 5.11 per cent the preceding month, showed the data released by the Central Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Wednesday.

During the month, inflation in vegetables spiked to 26.10 per cent from 5.40 per cent in September, while for fruits it jumped to 4.08 per cent from 0.83 per cent.

Likewise, the prices of cereals, meat and fish, eggs grew at faster pace of 2.16 per cent, 9.75 per cent and 6.26 per cent, respectively. For pulses and related products, retail

However, the prices of fuel and light category continued to witness downward move at (-) 2.02 per cent as against (-) 2.18 per cent a month earlier, showed the data.

The retail inflation during October remains above the RBI's comfort level of 4 per cent.

Aditi Nayar, economist at Ica said, looking ahead the pace of normalisation in vegetable prices will be the key driver of the trend in food inflation over the next few months.

"Overall, the CPI inflation may continue to print higher than 4 per cent in the remainder of FY2020, complicating policy choices in light of the slowdown in economic growth momentum.

"The sharp uptick in the CPI inflation in October 2019

has contrasted with the industrial contraction recorded in September 2019. In our view, the extent to which the Q2 FY2020 GDP growth reading eases further from the 5 per cent recorded in the previous quarter, will influence the MPC's decision on whether to cut rates further, and by how much, in the December 2019 policy review," she said.

Rahul Gupta, Head of Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services, said this sharp rise was especially due to uptick in food prices amid erratic monsoon.

"Despite rising inflation, we expect (the) RBI to continue its easing cycle on the back of sluggish growth and weak core inflation and cut repo rate at December meeting," Gupta said. **PTI**

Market tumbles as worries over economy, global trade deepen

Mumbai: Domestic bourses witnessed a broad-based sell-off on Wednesday as weak macro data, stumbling rupee and confusion over US-China trade deal fanned investor worries.

At closing bell, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 229.02 points, or 0.57 points, lower at 40,116.06. The index swung 386 points during the day.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty dropped 73 points, or 0.61 per cent, to close at 11,840.45.

In the Sensex pack, Yes Bank was the top loser, cracking 6.51 per cent, followed by SBI, Axis Bank, Vedanta, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, ITC, Infosys and Tech Mahindra -- shedding up to 3.69 per cent.

While BSE energy, consumer durables and IT indices rose up to 1.60 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices plunged up to 1.13 per cent. Investor sentiment was dampened by weak macroeconomic indicators, suggesting slowdown is deep and the recovery needs more reform measures.

The industrial production shrank by 4.3 per cent in September, registering the weakest performance in seven years due to output decline in manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors.

"Post the recent rally, the gap between valuation and earnings growth has enlarged. Influencing investors to stay cautious ahead of heavy economic data being released this week. Weak economic data and concerns over slowdown in earnings growth is hurting investor sentiments," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit

Financial Services, said.

Despite a series of rate cut from the RBI, core sector growth remains muted and inflation is inching higher which may incline RBI to be watchful in the future, he added.

Market is now eyeing consumer price inflation data, which is scheduled to be released later in the day, for further guidance.

Further, an SBI research report on Tuesday sharply cut the country's GDP growth forecast to 5 per cent for FY 2019-20 from the earlier projection of 6.1 per cent, raising concerns over the health of the economy.

A sharp depreciation in the Indian rupee too added to investors' woes, traders said. The rupee dropped below the 72-level against the US dollar in intra-day trade.

Continued unrest in Hong Kong led to fall in regional markets, also impacting sentiment on Indian bourses. **PTI**

₹ crashes to over 2-month low, tumbles 62 paise

Mumbai: The rupee nosedived 62 paise to hit an over two-month low of 72.09 to the US dollar on Wednesday as poor macro data and lingering worries over US-China trade war weighed on sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a weak note at 71.75 against the US dollar. As the day progressed, it crashed below the 72-level and touched the day's low of 72.10. The Indian unit

finally settled at 72.09 -- registering a fall of 62 paise over its previous close.

This is the lowest closing level for the rupee since September 4.

"Indian rupee fell for the third day in trot and heads for the biggest intra-day fall after September 16 amid contraction in industrial activity. India's IIP fell 4.3 per cent in September... and is the lowest since October 2011," said V K Sharma, Head

PCG & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC securities.

In signs of continuing weakness in the economy, India's factory output shrank to the lowest level in eight years as all three broad-based sectors of capital goods production, consumer durables, and infrastructure and construction goods contracted.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) fell 4.3 per cent in September as compared to a

contraction by 1.4 per cent in August 2019 and a growth of 4.6 per cent in factory output in the same month a year back, data released by the Ministry of Statistics showed on Monday.

Further, a strong dollar overseas also brought rupee under pressure, dealers said.

Continued unrest in Hong Kong led to weaker sentiment regionally, also impacting mood in domestic equity and forex markets. Further wors-

ening sentiment, US President Donald Trump dubbed China a cheater on trade even as he seeks an initial settlement to calm an 18-month trade war, adding to the uncertainty over the deal between the two countries.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose by 0.02 per cent to 98.32.

However, global crude oil benchmark Brent Futures fell

1.18 per cent to trade at USD 61.33 per barrel.

The 10-year government bond yield was down 0.52 per cent at 6.53 per cent.

On the equities front, the BSE Sensex ended 229.02 points, or 0.57 per cent, lower at 40,116.06. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 73 points, or 0.61 per cent, to end at 11,840.45. Indian forex and bond markets were shut on Tuesday. **PTI**

SpiceJet Q2 loss widens to ₹463 cr on higher costs

New Delhi: SpiceJet on Wednesday reported widening of net loss to ₹462.58 crore in the September quarter as higher costs related to grounding of Boeing 737 MAX planes and changes in accounting norms bogged down the no-frills carrier. With 13 MAX aircraft on the ground, the airline has initiated the process of seeking reimbursements and claims from Boeing and expressed hope about a 'favourable outcome'.

In a release, SpiceJet said the net loss of ₹462.58 crore in the latest September quarter was mainly on account of inflated costs with respect to MAX grounding and a seasonally

weak quarter.

The figure includes a "loss of ₹180.3 crore on account of accounting standard Ind AS 116". Indian Accounting Standard 116 or Ind AS-116 has come into force from April 1. It pertains to principles for recognition, presentation and disclosure of leases. Airlines mostly opt for sale and lease back of planes.

It had a net loss of ₹389.37 crore in 2018 September quarter. However, the airline's total income jumped to ₹3,073.50 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year from ₹1,902.08 crore in the same period a year ago. Operating revenue rose to

₹2,845.3 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal from ₹1,874.8 crore in the same period a year ago.

"With the grounding of Boeing 737 MAX, the company continues to incur various costs and losses with respect to these aircraft. The company is in the process of determining the costs and losses (including opportunity losses) incurred by it and has initiated the process of seeking reimbursements and claims from the aircraft manufacturer," the release said.

Earlier this year, SpiceJet grounded 13 MAX planes after a worldwide grounding of such aircraft in the wake of two deadly crashes. **PTI**

BHIM UPI goes global; QR code payments demonstrated at Singapore FinTech Festival

Singapore: As a first step towards internationalisation, a pilot demo of BHIM UPI QR-based payments began in Singapore on Wednesday with a live transaction at a merchant terminal at the FinTech Festival 2019.

High Commissioner of India to Singapore Jawed Ashraf demonstrated the first transaction under the pilot run, which will continue during the Singapore FinTech Festival 2019 that is being held between November 11 and 15.

This QR code-based system would allow anyone with a BHIM app to scan the Singapore Quick Response Code (SGQR) at NETS terminals in Singapore for payments, said the high commis-

sioner. "This is the first time that BHIM app has gone international," he said.

The project is being jointly developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS) of Singapore. It is targeted to go fully live by February 2020 and cover thousands of terminals in Singapore, after the Reserve Bank of India's approval.

By February 2020, it is also expected that all RuPay cards, including domestic ones, will be acceptable in Singapore, the High Commission said in a release on Wednesday. This is another achievement for fintech cooperation between India and Singapore, after the launch of RuPay International card and SBI's UPI based remittance app in May 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had then also suggested the launch of BHIM UPI QR code-based payments internationally, said the commission. Ashraf also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Trade promotion Council of India (TPCI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) for working towards access of the TPCI dashboard to Business sans Borders (BSB).

BSB, a project conceived by MAS and Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), is a hub for connecting trade platforms of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). BSB is currently running a pilot with SMEs in Southeast Asia and India. **PTI**

Traditional wholesale lost half its revenue share post DeMo, GST

Mumbai: A report on consumer goods distribution channels has revealed that while modern trade and e-commerce have gained significant revenue share after the "twin shock" to the economy, demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST), traditional wholesale has lost half its revenue share.

"In rural towns or villages, wholesale accounts for 60-70 per cent of sales. However, demonetisation and GST compliance nearly crippled this channel, which is still reeling from it," said the report by financial services group Centrum.

Post the twin shocks to the economy, Centrum said, the traditional wholesale channel was reeling under pressure as they operated on a purely cash basis.

Wholesale accounts declined from 135,000 before GST to 66,000 now, as per the estimates built on various interactions, Centrum said. This has led to loss of sales of 8-10 per cent and inventory correction in these outlets.

"Thus, companies which were highly reliant on the wholesale channel saw their revenue decline, forcing them to rebuild distribution," the report said.

The report further stressed that organised wholesale and cash-and-carry are replacing traditional wholesale providing GST compliance and no credit. In the past three years, they have doubled their store count to 100. **IANS**

BUSINESS CORNER

INDO-CANADIAN COOPERATION IN AVIATION



New Delhi: A high level Canadian delegation led by HE Nadir Patel, Ambassador of Canada in India visited Airports Authority of India Corporate Headquarters today along with Mr. Andrew Smith, Minister (Commercial), Viney Gupta, Trade Commissioner, High Commission of Canada and Senior officials from Bennett Jones LLP and met with the team of senior officials of AAI led by Anil Gupta, Executive Director (Business Development & Land Management) to discuss cooperation in field of Aviation Infrastructure, Airport Development of Indian Airports during the meeting. His Excellency, Ambassador of Canada in India AAI for its professionalism in development and modernization of aviation infrastructure in India. AAI also presented to H.E Nadir Patel, Ambassador of Canada in India E-Book on SkyFit -- Stress Management through simple breathing techniques, which was very recently launched by Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Hardeep Singh Puri during the 40th Triennial ICAO General Assembly in ICAO Headquarters Montreal in the presence of delegates from 193 countries.

GROWTH OF HUDCO REFLECTED IN Q2

New Delhi: HUDCO in its 616th Board Meeting held on 13th November 2019 has approved the 2nd Quarter Financial Results and the growth is remarkably high in all the financial parameters of its MOU targets, like Net Profit, Total Income, Net Worth, Disbursements and Balance Sheet Size, etc. Both the Gross NPA and Net NPA are the Lowest in the Financing Sector of a Government Listed Company. Hudco is in Golden Jubilee Year now in the FY 2019-20, having been incorporated in the 4th Five Year Plan, on 25th April, 1970 for financing to Housing & Urban Infrastructure Sector, as Central Public Sector Enterprise with 8 main objectives and huge mandate to implement all the programmes & policies of the GOI.

Banks may be given incentive to extend loans in backward areas: RBI Dy Guv

New Delhi: RBI Deputy Governor MK Jain on Wednesday made a case for incentivising banks to extend loans to poor in backward areas in a bid to promote financial inclusion.

Speaking at an event organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Jain said despite impressive growth in formal agriculture granted, there are still several challenges which need to be tackled.

Data on the average loan taken by agricultural households indicated that 72 per cent of the credit requirement was met by institutional sources and 28 per cent from non-institutional sources, he said quoting NABARD Financial Inclusion Survey Report 2016-17.

Further, the analysis of state-wise flow of institutional agriculture credit has revealed uneven distribution of credit among states, compared to their corresponding share in their overall output, he said. To a certain extent, the deputy governor said such regional disparity is on account of variation in credit absorption capacity of these regions. "We may also have to think of the ways to incentivise banks to lend in these backward areas so that both the demand and supply side issues are addressed," he said. He also exhorted NABARD to think of steps by which funds like Rural Infrastructure Development Fund can be earmarked to the most backward credit starved regions of the country to ensure faster development. Highlighting the other challenge, Jain said the problem of financial inclusion gets aggravated due to lack of legal framework for landless cultivators as the absence of documentary evidence becomes a major hindrance for extending credit to this segment of the farming community who take up cultivation work on oral lease. **PTI**

HDFC Bank to have 200 branches in N-E, hire 2,000 people

Guwahati: HDFC Bank on Wednesday said it will increase its headcount by 50 per cent to 6,000 employees in the north-east (NE) region in the next 2-3 years to cater its network expansion plans.

Out of this, the lender will hire around 1,500 people in the next one year in Assam as the bank plans to increase the number of its branches from 72 to 100 in the state, HDFC Bank Executive Vice President Sandeep Kumar said.

"North-east is very important for our business. We currently have 136 branches spread across the region. Our plan is to take this number to 200 in the next 2-3 years," Kumar said at a press conference here. To meet the growing demand and cater to its expansion plans, the bank will hire more people in coming years, he said. "At present, we have 4,000 staffers in the north-east on company rolls. In the next 2-3 years, our employee strength in the region will be around 6,000 people," Kumar said. Talking about Assam, the senior official said that the lender currently has 72 branches in the state and plans to increase it to 100 by the end of next year. **PTI**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Tanik Yadav, S/o** Baleshwar, R/o RZH-34/16, Udaey Vihar Part-3, N-Block, Nilothi Extension, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 15/10/2019 from the area of Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard **D.D. No. 29-A, dated 25/10/2019 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man is as under:

Name: Tanik Yadav, **Gender:** Man, **Age:** 50 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Striped shirt, black colour pajama and hawai chappal in his feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped Man, kindly inform SHO/Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-25946700

DP/2855/OD/19

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at PVC Road, Near Rohtak Road, Tikri Kalan, Delhi in the area of P. S. Mundka, Delhi on **27.10.2019** at 03:40 pm. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 29-A, dated 27.10.2019** at P. S. Mundka, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** approx 55-60 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **ID Mark:** One black colour Dora (Thread) wearing in his neck. **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Sky blue colour Shirt and dark grey colour trouser having monogram of Reebok Company. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Mundka, Delhi
Ph.: 8586932309, 7065036126

DP/2866/OD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sunil (Mob.: 09718004381)** S/o Mahavir R/o 50/1-A, Near Shri Deen Dayal Dharam Kanta, Dada Bhru Park, Mundka Village, Delhi-110041 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence CC No. 522/1/18 u/s 138 N.I. Act. P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sunil** cannot be found and whereas it have been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sunil** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sunil** accused of CC No. 552/1/18 u/s 138 N.I. Act. is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **13.01.2020**.

By Order: Sh. Rakesh Kumar-II
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West Distt.),
Room No. 105, 1st Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/2838/OD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Devender Pal Singh** S/o Kuldeep Singh R/o WZ-51B-1, 1st floor, Gali No. 8, Prithvi Park, Tilak Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 334/05 u/s 420/468 IPC P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Devender Pal Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Devender Pal Singh** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Devender Pal Singh** accused of FIR No. 334/05 u/s 420/468 IPC is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.12.2019**.

By Order: Sh. Fahad Uddin
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 180, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/6714/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one Girl namely **Ankita, D/o** Sh. Parmod Kumar Dixit, R/o L-1100, Mangolpuri, Delhi, **Age:** 20 years, **Height:** 5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Id Mark:** Injury mark on face, wearing White Colour Top-Blue Colour Jeans and Black Colour Shoes in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi since 30.07.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 05-A, dated 31.07.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

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

SHO
P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186

DP/2815/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one Girl namely **Isha, D/o** late Om Prakash, R/o F-446-A, 1st floor, Nihal Vihar, New Delhi, **Age:** 14 years 7 Months, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, wearing Gray Colour T-Shirt-Black Pajami and Blue Colour hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing /kidnapped since 04.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 695/19, u/s 363 IPC, dated 05.10.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

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

SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar,
New Delhi
Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

DP/2783/OD/19

Mission Dushanbe

Blue Tigers ready to counter multiple challenges and emerge victorious in World Cup qualifier away game against Afghanistan



Indian football coach Igor Stimac (second from left) shake hands with Afghanistan coach Anoush Dastagiv before the start of pre match press conference ahead of India's World Cup qualifier game against the Asian rivals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Hours after arriving in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, India head coach Igor Stimac stated that the Blue Tigers need to overcome "tough challenges" imposed by Afghanistan, besides braving adversities, when they face-off in the Group E encounter of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 preliminary joint Qualification Round 2

match at the Republican Central Stadium in Dushanbe today. "We know how difficult this game is going to be for us. We both (India and Afghanistan) have already faced Qatar and Bangladesh in the qualifiers. We see Afghanistan as a physical side with good composure. They have some players who also have the experience of playing in Europe. They are not in the top division, but playing in Europe always gives you an extra bit of confi-

Afghanistan vs India
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dence. They have stamina and they'll pose a tough challenge for us," Stimac said in the pre-match press conference held in Dushanbe on Wednesday morning. The city welcomed Blue Tigers contingent with chilly weather as the mercury hovered

around 6-7°C. However, despite the low temperature, the fighting spirit of the Indian team remains high as ever. "As a player, you have to be confident and face every challenge head-on. That's why we are here. Yes, the conditions have not been in our favour to some extent but that won't have any effect when the referee blows the whistle. If we can execute the coach's plans on the pitch, we can surely hope for a good result," a buoyant Pranyo

Halder voiced at the official press conference. Meanwhile, experienced centre back Anas Edathodika flew back home late on Tuesday owing to a family emergency. "Anas (Edathodika) is having a tough time. Our thoughts are with him and his family. He has been an instrumental member of the squad and we will miss him. The onus is now on the other players to take the mantle and deliver on the pitch," Stimac added.

The Coach analysed the Blue Tigers' last match against Bangladesh as well, saying, "The most difficult games are those when people who are following you, write the result before the game starts. We witnessed it against Qatar as well as Bangladesh. When Bangladesh came, they were defending with 10 players and were looking to counter-attack. Without taking away any credit from them, we earned a point against them. We can't forget that they were leading until the 87th minute."

The gaffer also maintained that India's passion for the beautiful game is changing and the Blue Tigers will try their level best to fulfil the expectations and grab their first win in the joint qualification round.

"We are happy that people in India are following us with lots of passion now. They have a great expectation on us and we'll try our level best to make them happy," he said.

Meanwhile, Anoush Dastagiv, Afghanistan head Coach mentioned though it's not their own country, they get "confidence" when they play in Dushanbe. "Yes, geographically it's far from own country and we would have been happier if we could have gotten the chance to play in our own country. But, playing in Tajikistan has always given us much-needed confidence. We have beaten Cambodia, Bangladesh here and settled with a draw against Tajikistan, Jordan. Those results will surely give us a psychological boost," Dastagiv said.

"Here, people speak our language. We feel at home. Whenever we play in front of Afghan crowd, we never fail to get positive results. We hope we can get something closer to that on Thursday as well," he added.



HS Prannoy prepares for a return shot PTI/File Picture

Sindhu, Prannoy start with win; Nehwal exits

PTI ■ HONG KONG

World Champion P V Sindhu made a positive start to her campaign but Saina Nehwal and Sameer Verma were ousted from the Hong Kong Open after suffering contrasting defeats in the opening round of the \$400,000 event here on Wednesday.

Sixth seed Sindhu, who had faltered in the opening round in a couple of recent tournaments, took 36 minutes to see off world No 19 Kim Ga Eun of Korea 21-15, 21-16 to progress to the second round.

The Olympic Silver medalist will face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan next.

HS Prannoy also crossed the opening hurdle, beating China's Huang Yu Xiang 21-17, 21-17 in 44 minutes to a clash with sixth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie.

However, eighth seed Saina, who claimed the Indonesia Masters in January this year, suffered her fifth first-round loss in the last six tournaments, going down 13-21, 20-22 to China's Cai Yan Yan for the second successive time. She had lost to Cai at China Open last week.

World No 16 Sameer fought for 54 minutes before going to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei 11-21, 21-13, 8-21 in the opening match. It was his third successive loss in the opening round.

Saina and Sameer are both scheduled to play Gwangju Korea Masters Super 300 tournament next week.

Women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also couldn't cross the opening round, losing 13-21, 12-21 to Denmark's Maiken Fruergaard and Sara Thygesen.

Villa retires after 19-year career

AFP ■ MADRID

Star striker David Villa, Spain's top goalscorer on Wednesday announced he will retire next month, ending a glittering career in which he won the World Cup, European Championships and Champions League.

The 37-year-old Vissel Kobe striker said he will call it a day at the end of the 2019 J-League season after a 19-year career that took in Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Valencia while accumulating 98 caps for his country.

"I have decided to end my professional career and that I have decided to retire," Villa told reporters in Kobe, his voice occasionally breaking with emotion.

"I've been thinking about this for a long time. This is the result of discussions I had with my family and people around me... I wanted to retire from football, not be forced to retire from football," he said.

Villa played in three World Cups and was a member of the Spanish side that lifted the trophy in 2010 and won the European Championships in 2008, though he missed out on the 2012 triumph through injury. He scored 59 times for Spain, a national record.

His club honours include the 2010-11 Champions League, the 2011 UEFA Super Cup, 2011 Club World Cup and two La Liga wins in 2010-11 and 2012-13 with Barcelona.

Villa scored the third goal for Barcelona at Wembley in the 3-1 win over Manchester United in the 2010-11 Champions League Final.

He won a third La Liga with Atletico Madrid in his one season there in 2013-14 after leaving Barcelona.

After leaving Atletico, Villa embarked on a successful spell in Major League Soccer for New York City, where he scored 80 goals in 124 appearances.

At Vissel Kobe, he played alongside fellow Spanish legend Andres Iniesta and German striker Lukas Podolski but the presence of the ageing foreign stars has done little to bring success to the ambitious Japanese club.

Villa has scored 12 goals in 26 appearances for Vissel. He is expected to play three more J-League matches as well as semi-finals and finals of the Emperor's Cup.

His retirement ceremony will be on December 7, the day of his last J-League game.

Djokovic, Federer ready for shootout

AFP ■ LONDON

Dominic Thiem produced a scintillating display of attacking tennis to beat Novak Djokovic and qualify for the last four at the ATP Finals on Tuesday, leaving the Serbian facing a shootout against Roger Federer.

In the standout match so far at London's O2 Arena, the Austrian fifth seed took the fight to the world number two, recovering from losing the first set to triumph 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

Earlier, Federer put himself back in the mix at the end-of-season event with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 win against Italian debutant Matteo Berrettini in their round-robin clash.

Federer and Djokovic will face off on Thursday in a repeat of this year's Wimbledon final to determine who else will progress from Group Bjorn Borg.

Thiem was forced to play high-stakes tennis against the



Dominic Thiem celebrates after defeating Novak Djokovic in ATP World Tour Finals AP

16-time Grand Slam winner, taking the breath away with some of his inside-out forehands and single-handed backhands

Forced to play at his limit, he hit 50 winners compared with

"Really epic one in an amazing atmosphere, beating a legend of our game. And also I've qualified for the semi-finals, which is the best."

"Coming back from 1-4 (down in the deciding tie-break) was a little bit of luck, but it was an unbelievable match and one I'll never forget. Novak is the best player in the world and I had to do something special."

In a captivating first set the players swapped a break apiece but Djokovic, a five-time ATP Finals champion, edged the tie-break.

Undaunted, Thiem broke his opponent at the first opportunity in the second set and, with Djokovic's error count climbing, went on to level the match.

Thiem also drew first blood in the decider but cracked in the sixth game as Djokovic levelled

the match and appeared to have engineered a switch in momentum.

The Austrian successfully challenged at 30-30 in the 10th game after his forehand was ruled out, preventing a match point for Djokovic and he toughed it out to level at 5-5.

He then broke Djokovic to love to earn a chance to serve for the match but stumbled and the decider went to a tie-break.

Still the drama was not finished. Thiem slipped to 4-1 down but battled back to win it on his second match point when Djokovic dumped a forehand into the net.

Third seed Federer had put himself under the cosh by losing his opening round-robin match to Thiem.

The six-time champion was not at his fluent best on Tuesday

but ultimately had too much for his Italian opponent.

The Swiss upped his game to take the first set tie-break comfortably and broke immediately at the start of the second set to leave the big-serving Berrettini with too much to do.

Federer was asked after his win against Berrettini whether his defeat to Djokovic at Wimbledon had left emotional or mental scars.

"We'll find out, but I think it's all flushed away from my side," said the Swiss.

"A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then."

Djokovic is hunting a sixth ATP Finals title to pull level with Federer's record and is also seeking to pip Rafael Nadal to the year-end number one ranking.

On Monday, top seed Nadal lost his opener in Group Andre Agassi to defending champion Alexander Zverev while Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Daniil Medvedev.

AFP ■ LONDON

England out to confirm Euro place

England's plan to celebrate their 1,000th international by qualifying for Euro 2020 in serene style against Montenegro at Wembley today has been ripped up by Gareth Southgate's decision to drop Raheem Sterling.

The Manchester City winger was involved in a physical confrontation with Liverpool defender Joe Gomez at England's training base on Monday as emotions spilled over from the highly-anticipated Premier League clash between the two clubs on Sunday.

Sterling has been the star of a qualifying campaign dominated by off-field issues where the Three Lions have largely let their football do the talking on it.

Bar a shock defeat to the Czech Republic last month, the World Cup semi-finalists have shown why they will be among the favourites to win a first major tournament in 54 years next summer.

Sterling has scored eight of his side's 26 goals in six games as he has blossomed into one of the world's best players for club

and country since failing to find his best form at the World Cup 18 months ago.

He has also been a leading figure as England have stood up to the racist abuse suffered by a number of players in Montenegro and Bulgaria.

Sterling could even return to action as soon as Sunday when Southgate's men travel to Kosovo.

England will hope there is nothing riding on that match for them as a point against the side ranked 61st in the world today will be enough to guarantee qualification.

Even in Sterling's absence, Southgate is blessed with an array of attacking talent including Harry Kane, Jadon Sancho and Marcus Rashford that should continue England's free-scoring form.

DUTCH ON CUSP

A thrilling crop of young players has Euro 2020 in its sights as the Netherlands prepare for a return to the big stage, while Teemu Pukki's Finland are on the brink of



England players including Trent Alexander-Arnold, second from left trains during practice England/Twitter

England vs Montenegro
Live from 1:15am IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

their first ever major tournament.

Ronald Koeman's side need just a draw at Northern Ireland to guarantee a spot at their first international tournament since coming third at the 2014 World Cup.

The 56-year-old has revitalised his country's dormant national team with the help of a crop of young players who are



Memphis Depay celebrates after scoring for the Netherlands Oranje/Twitter

putting a famous footballing nation back on the map.

They are level on 15 points with fierce rivals Germany but above them on head-to-head record and three ahead of Northern Ireland, who realistically need a win to carry on their battle for a spot in the tournament.

A late double from 25-year-old Memphis Depay, a revelation in qualifying with six goals in five appearances, in Rotterdam last month helped sink the brave Northern Irish and means they just have to avoid defeat at Windsor Park to join the likes of Italy and Spain.

Germany meanwhile just need to better Northern Ireland's result to make sure of their place.

The Finns are also on the verge of making history, with a win over lowly Liechtenstein in Helsinki tomorrow enough to see them qualify for their first ever European Championship.

They lie second in Group J behind already-qualified Italy thanks to a

magical run inspired by the incredible form of star man Pukki.

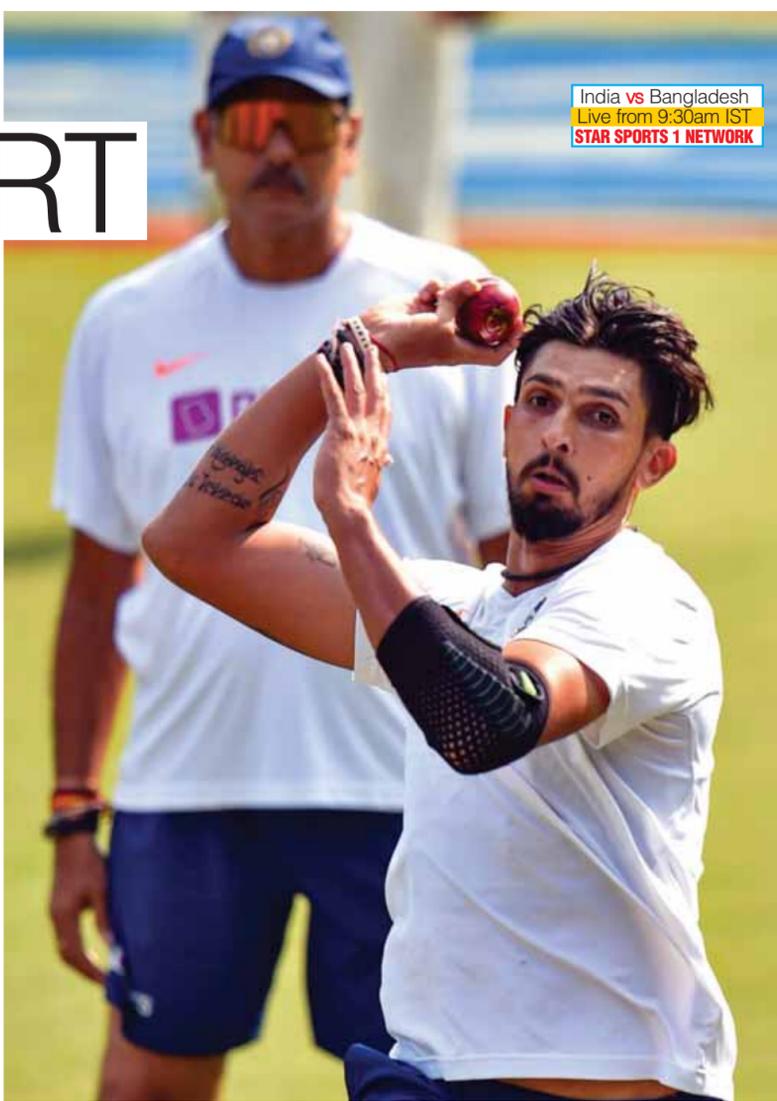
They are among several big hitters also a hair's breadth away from the main tournament. They might qualify before they even take the field against Moldova at the Stade de France today.

Didier Deschamps' world champions will take their place at the finals should third-placed Iceland not beat Group H leaders Turkey, although a win for France over bottom side Moldova would be enough regardless of what happens in Istanbul.

Reigning European champions Portugal meanwhile will have the chance to defend their title with a win over Lithuania, who have collected just a point from seven Group B games, if Serbia fail to beat Luxembourg.

The Portuguese are a point ahead of the Serbs as coach Fernando Santos recalls Lokomotiv Moscow forward Eder, whose goal won Euro 2016, with teenage star Joao Felix sidelined.

RED ALERT



India vs Bangladesh
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



Virat Kohli, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill and Umesh Yadav PTI

SINGLES

PBL 5 TO BEGIN ON JAN 20

NEW DELHI: Some of the top shuttlers including World Champion P V Sindhu will be in action when the fifth edition of the Premier Badminton League (PBL), featuring eight teams, gets underway on January 20. The upcoming season which concludes on February 9 will be staged this time in Chennai, Delhi, Lucknow, and Bangalore. The league owned by Badminton Association of India (BAI) and organized by Sportzlive, offers a total purse of ₹6 crore with the winner taking home a cheque of ₹3 crore.

DOORAN SUSPENDED FOR BALL-TAMPERING

DUBAI: West Indies wicketkeeper-batsman Nicolas Pooran was on Wednesday handed a four-match suspension after admitting to ball-tampering in the third ODI against Afghanistan, an offence for which he also issued a public apology. He will now miss the next four T20 International games for the West Indies and will have five demerit points added to his record. The game in question took place in Lucknow on Monday.

PERRY PLANS RECORD-BREAKING SHOW

SYDNEY: American popstar Katy Perry announced on Wednesday she will be performing at the final of the Women's Twenty20 World Cup in Melbourne next March before an expected record crowd on International Women's Day. "Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi!" Perry said in an Instagram post using the Australian sporting chant. "Let's break some records — join me in Melbourne on March 8, 2020 for the ICC @T20WorldCup Women's Final. We'll Roar in support of these awesome women on International Women's Day!" The International Cricket Council said Perry would perform both before and after the final in "what is anticipated to be the biggest women's cricket match of all time."

BOULT TO PLAY FOR MI, RAJPOOT FOR RR

NEW DELHI: New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult will play for Mumbai Indians in next year's Indian Premier League while domestic pacer Ankit Rajpoot will represent Rajasthan Royals after they were successfully traded by their respective franchises. According to an IPL statement, Boult will play for Mumbai Indians after being traded by his current team Delhi Capitals, while Rajpoot has been traded successfully by Kings XI Punjab. Boult made his IPL debut in 2014 and played for Delhi Capitals in the 2018 and 2019 season. He has 38 IPL wickets from 33 games. Rajpoot, a right-arm fast bowler who joined KXIP in 2018, has played 23 IPL matches and has 22 wickets in his kitty.

2019 WORLD KABADDI CUP FROM DEC 1 TO 9

CHANDIGARH: The 2019 World Kabaddi Cup, to be organised by the Punjab government, will be held from December 1 to 9, state's Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi said on Wednesday. He also said that this year's tournament would be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev ji. Sodhi said nine teams — India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan and Canada — are expected to take part in the tournament. He, however, informed that Pakistan and Canada are yet to get clearance from the Indian government. The inauguration of the event would be held on December 1 at Guru Nanak Stadium, Sultanpur Lodhi and four matches would be held that day. The closing ceremony would be held at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Sports Stadium in Dera Baba Nanak.

JUVENILE HOMES LEAGUE LAUNCH TODAY

NEW DELHI: Football Delhi is all set to launch a Juvenile Homes Football League at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from November 14 to December 15. This league is part of the Juvenile Homes Football Programme, launched by Football Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Child and Women's Development, Government of Delhi. Eight Juvenile Homes are part of this football programme and 6 teams will be participating in the tournament.

6 MEDALS ASSURED IN ASIAN YOUTH BOXING

ULAANBAATAR: India were assured of a bagful of medals at the Asian Youth Boxing Championships after six of the country's pugilists advanced to the semis with dominating victories on Wednesday. Soy Selay (49kg), Aman (+91kg), Ankit Narwal (60kg), Naorem Chanu (51kg), Jasmine (57kg) and Vinka (64kg) made the last four stage. Selay defeated Philippines' Flint Jara 5-0, while Aman (+91kg) out-punched Taiwan's Kai-Hsung Wang in a bout that didn't go the full distance. Narwal was also up against a Taiwanese in Yu Lin and the Indian prevailed 5-0. In the women's draw, Chanu claimed a 5-0 triumph over Korea's Eunso Sun. Jasmine and Vinka were both rewarded for domination with early closure. While Jasmine got the better of Japan's Kimura Mona, Vinka sailed past Taiwan's Hsueh-Tzu Tsui.

AGENCIES

India aim to build on early World Test Championship lead against Bangladesh

PTI ■ INDORE

The action begins with the red cherry but the focus is firmly on the pink ball as a formidable India looks to overpower a depleted-but-gritty Bangladesh in the first Test of a two-match series starting here at Holkar stadium today.

The rubber opens here but the buzz and the talk has been consistently centered on the second game in Kolkata, which will be played under lights — a historic first for both the teams.

This is also that one series in the World Test Championship calendar, in which Virat Kohli's men, currently in the "pink of form", can steamroll the rag-tag opposition well inside four days.

In fact, on paper, it is difficult to imagine how Bangladesh, without Tamim Iqbal and the suspended Shakib Al Hasan, will even be able to compete in a format, which has been their weakest till date.

Having crushed South Africa in their last series, this Indian team, with inarguably their greatest-ever pace unit till date, will definitely be too hot to handle for a side whose best batsman — skipper Mominul Haque — has less than 10 Test hundreds (eight).

Although Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad are committed cricketers but in the longest format, they aren't exactly formidable names.

Compare that to India's premier willow wielders — Kohli (26 hundreds), Ajinkya Rahane (11), Cheteshwar Pujara (18). They have 50 plus run collectively and it will be one hell of a task for Mustafizur Rahaman, Tajjul Islam and Mehidy Hasan Miraj to stop this line-up.

Indian pacer Ishant Sharma bowls at nets during India's practice session ahead of 1st Test against Bangladesh

PTI

And before these three even come into play, Bangladesh will have to deal with openers Mayank Agarwal and the indomitable Rohit Sharma, who can make mincemeat of their bowling attack.

Add to it, India's bowling unit with 800-plus scalps, this is one contest where the 'David' looks incapable of slaying the proverbial 'Goliath'.

Not to forget that Bangladesh, in their last Test match under the

mercurial Shakib's leadership, lost to Afghanistan in a one-off game. The Indians, however, do not want to take anything for granted.

"Bangladesh is a very good team. We played very well against South Africa but that's past now. With (World) Test Championship, every match is equally important. We like to take one game at a time which is Indore now," vice-captain Rahane said.

"We completely respect the

Bangladesh team and we are going to play to our strength rather than thinking about theirs," he added.

The track at the Holkar stadium has always been a batting paradise with ridiculously short side boundaries but there is bounce on offer.

Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav are certain in the pace line-up while Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin are expected to make the squad.

Kohli indicated that Ishant Sharma will be playing as the third seamer instead of an additional spinner.

"Yeah that seems pretty likely looking at the pitch. Also because of the way Umesh has bowled, Shami obviously has been brilliant. Bumrah isn't fit yet. Ishant's probably been our most consistent bowler in the last two years and a big reason for our success in Test cricket is his ability to just keep bowling in the same area and the others come and pick up wickets," he said.

"But also he has picked up 4-5 wickets on many occasions when he's gone through a great spell. So I think his experience will always be handy for the team."

For Bangladesh's young guns, the 'biggest test' in the Test will be to stretch this Indian team to

the fifth day which looks unlikely at the moment.

SQUADS

India (12): Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (captain), Ajinkya Rahane, Ravindra Jadeja, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav. **Reserves:** Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant.

Bangladesh: Mominul Haque (captain), Imrul Kayes, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Mahmudullah Riyad, Mohammed Mithun, Liton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraj, Mustafizur Rahaman, Naem Hasan, Saif Hasan, Shadman Islam, Tajjul Islam, Abu Jayed, Ebadot Hossain, Al Amin Hossain.

Captaincy will not affect my batting: Mominul

INDORE: He is new to captaincy but Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque is confident that the added responsibility will not affect his batting, which will be crucial to his team's chances of upstaging an accomplished India in the Test series.

The 28-year-old Mominul has replaced Shakib Al Hasan as five-day format skipper. "I am not feeling pressure just because I have been appointed captain. The way I batted before captaincy, I will bat in the same way now," said the left-hander, who is also the team's premier batsman with eight hundreds.

"I always try to think about the positive aspects. There are a few positives in being captain as well. Your knowledge about the game increases. You tend to become more responsible as a player. So I think, it will help me improve my performance," he added.

Mominul feels that since expectations from his side are not particularly high, the pressure is also a bit less.

Asked about India's pace bowling might, Mominul said: "India is such a team that they can challenge different opponents in different ways."



Virat Kohli checks out the new pink ball as he interacts with umpires after batting in the nets AP

Kohli interested to see how old pink ball behaves

PTI ■ INDORE

The pink ball swings more than the red one but how it would behave after getting old, especially when dew will be a factor, is keeping India skipper Virat Kohli intrigued ahead of team's historic day-night Test.

The pink ball Test is still a few days away but Kohli, on the eve of the series-opener, was busy answering questions related to the second Test starting November 22.

"I think it's a new way to bring excitement to Test cricket. The pink ball I played yesterday (on Tuesday), I felt it swings a lot more as compared to the red ball because there's extra lacquer (quote of paint) on the ball which doesn't go away too fast. And the seam holds upright quite a bit," the skipper's initial observation seemed in sync with what his deputy Ajinkya Rahane had assessed.

Kohli said they are yet to figure out how the old ball will behave during November evenings in Kolkata.

"If the pitch has extra help for the bowlers, then they will be in the game, especially fast bowlers throughout the course of the Test match. I don't know how the old ball behaves because with the dew and the lacquer going off, it will be interesting to see how much the old ball does," the skipper said.

However he made it clear that for a pink ball to be effective, it is important to have lively tracks.

"With the pink ball having enough life in the pitch will be very important factor."

The Indian team did not practice with the pink ball under lights but did take a few throw-downs on Tuesday to adjust to the colour of the new ball.

"I hadn't played with the pink ball before. I was given an opportunity to try and I wanted to. So that was my mind-set behind playing with the pink ball. You require extra concentration to pick the pink ball suddenly when you're playing with the red ball.

"It was to work on the reflexes a little bit as well. Because when you play with the red ball in the net and you arrive at the pink ball, it gets very difficult to pick, which can be the case in the game as well. To get into that zone was the reason behind it," he explained.

The skipper also maintained that while the hype about the day-night Test is understandable, the focus of his team is firmly on the first game. A testimony to that was no 'pink ball' training on the eve of the match.

"In Test cricket, I don't think you can afford to take focus away. Not even one session, not even one over. With the red ball you need to be absolutely precise in your focus, every game that you play, every ball that you play, every situation that you are in. Our prime focus is tomorrow's Test match.

"We are looking forward to that first and then we will focus on the pink ball later," he made it clear.

On the opposition, Kohli termed Mustafizur Rahaman as the man to watch out for.

"He is a very good bowler so he's going to be a threat, a key player for Bangladesh. He's an experienced bowler. He knows the Indian batsmen as well, having played the IPL. So, it's a challenge but we must look forward to those challenges," Kohli said.

Important to play attacking game as opener in T20s: Dhawan

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

The first six overs in a T20 game is considered the most crucial as both the batting and bowling team look to grab early advantage and with the World T20 in Australia less than a year away, India opener Shikhar Dhawan is very clear that for him it will be all about attacking from the word go Down Under.

Dhawan said that even as every team and every individual is playing with an eye on the showpiece event, he doesn't really have any special plan. All he wants to do is keep it simple and start on the attack before settling down and providing the middle order the perfect platform to finish with a flourish.

"The plan is to play a nice attacking game as an opener in the first six overs and build a good total. I like to play aggressive and if some wicket is slow or if the ball is stopping on it, then obviously the plan changes accordingly. If we can manage to get say



Shikhar Dhawan in a file picture AP

50-55 runs in the first six overs, then the momentum is there for a good finish. My job will be to primarily start well and then score big. Smart and attacking game is my mantra for the T20 format," he smiled.

Asked if it will be about one between him and Rohit Sharma playing anchor as the other attacks, Dhawan answered in the negative.

"Play as per the situation. If some day Rohit is attacking and I am not being able to connect well, then that is different. But otherwise, I don't believe that only one batsman can attack. If your game is to attack, then you must stay natural. Also, when you attack from both sides then the pressure is on the opposition," he explained.

While Indian teams over the years have been all about its batsmen, the current team has some of the best bowlers and Dhawan feels that is the reason why this team has won consistently both at home and on foreign soil.

"It is matter of tremendous pride that we have a team of bowlers who actually put the opposition batsmen on the backfoot. I feel the bowling line-up is one of the major reasons that we are winning consistently and also along with the pace bowling attack, we also have the experience to adapt. They train as professionals and know their job very well," he

explained. While he is one of the first names when the playing XI for the limited-overs team is announced, lack of form has seen him miss the bus in the longer format. But Dhawan isn't ready to give up and wants to return with a bang.

"Absolutely looking to get back. I am always on for Test cricket and when I get the opportunity (in domestic cricket) I will be playing. I will play Ranji Trophy when I am free. I will not sit at home. When I am not playing all the three formats, I will definitely play domestic cricket," he said.

Dhawan also said that Team India will be one of the favourites to win the trophy come the World T20 next year.

"We are strong contenders. From now onwards we will play so many T20s that we will get refined and be ready for the World T20. I am sure that we will do really well there," he said.

Harbhajan nemesis for me throughout career: Gilchrist

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian legend Adam Gilchrist has described Harbhajan Singh as his 'nemesis', saying the Indian off-spinner and Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan were the two toughest bowlers that he faced during his international career.

Talking about his illustrious career's milestones and memorable moments, the wicketkeeper recalled the 2001 away Test series against India where Harbhajan starred with the ball.

"He (Harbhajan) was a bit of a nemesis for me right throughout my career. I found him and Murali probably the two hardest bowlers to face," Gilchrist told *Cric.com.au* in their "The Unplayable Podcast".

The 2001 series, considered one of India's finest, saw the hosts break Australia's 16-match win streak in Tests.

While the visitors won the first Test by 10 wickets, Harbhajan wreaked havoc on Australia helping India win the remaining two Tests.

"(We were) five for 99, I went in there, got a hundred off 80 balls, we won in three days and I just thought, 'What have these blokes been doing for 30 years. How easy's this?'" Gilchrist said.

Harbhajan, who was adjudged Man of the series, picked 32 wickets in three matches, including India's first Test hat-trick at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata during the second Test.

"And how wrong I was. We've only got to fast forward to the next Test match and I came back to reality," Gilchrist said.

"As it would turn out, by the end of that series we probably needed to learn how to put a handbrake on just to get a holding pattern, rather than 'attack, attack, attack' because it doesn't always work — Harbhajan bamboozled us," he added.