

2nd clean chit on Rafale blunts Cong attack plank

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The second-time clean chit on Thursday by the Supreme Court to the BJP Government on the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets from French company Dassault Aviation and rejection of petition for registration of an FIR by the CBI for the alleged kickbacks in the deal like that in the Swedish Bofors howitzer Gun case, has seemingly knocked the bottom of the Congress plank of attacking the Narendra Modi dispensation on 'big-ticket' corruption and taken away its shine built on its anti-corruption pitch against the UPA regimes.

The verdict coming days after the court had put a lid on the decades-old dispute on the title suit of 'Mandir-Masjid' dispute paving way for the construction of a temple for 'Lord Ram' at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, has come as a major political boost for the BJP which had promised to the effect at its Palampur (Himachal Pradesh) convention in 1989, when it had adopted a resolution to build a temple at the birth place of Bhagwan Ram.

The BJP had reacted with obvious glee over the judgment which would only add further polish on the anti-corruption plank of the party and the claim that its leadership was "without a blemish".

The party leaders including BJP President Amit Shah also latched on the court's admittance to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for saying 'Chowkidar Chor hai' (alluding to Modi) and closing the contempt

Congress to take issue in PAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the doors of Rafale issue are closed in Court, the Congress is expected to take up the matter in Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by its leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. The PAC was constituted in the last week of August this year and has shortlisted the Rafale issue for examination in the coming days, which could lead to a fresh Congress-BJP face-off. The Committee is first expected to examine the CAG officials who prepared the report on Rafale and later, call the Defence Ministry top officials and senior Air Force officials.

It is likely that the PAC Chairman would prefer to call the PMO officials who dealt the files of Rafale negotiations

against the latter with a warning that he should be careful in future. They demanded an apology from the former Congress president for his misdeemeanor and 'lies'.

The BJP is now certain to convert the 'opportunity' to put the Congress on the back-foot on the issue in the coming winter session of the Parliament, beginning November 18, and insist that its image is spot clean.

The judgment has given a blow to the Congress efforts to turn the Rafale deal into a Bofors saga which had in the past derailed the successive Congress regimes. But given

with the French authorities. This might be the triggering point between the Congress and BJP MPs inside the PAC.

It is learned that the MPs opposing the Rafale deal are determined to raise demand for summoning PMO officials engaged in Rafale negotiations. The Congress MPs in the Committee may also demand summoning of Anil Ambani, whose company got offset contracts in the Rafale deal, which is the main controversy in the purchase of 36 fighter jets.

The PAC will not summon Ministers and need Lok Sabha Speaker's clearance.

The PAC Chairman is selected from the Opposition parties and the ruling party has a majority. The PAC has 21 Members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha and six from

Rajya Sabha. In the PAC, the Congress is having only three MPs including the Chairman, who has major decision-making powers.

This exercise by the PAC would lead to a face-off between Congress and BJP similar to the one they had in 2011, when then PAC Chairman Murli Manohar Joshi examined 2G scam, summoning all top officers from PMO, Telecom, Attorney General and all telecom corporate including Ratan Tata, Anil Ambani, Sunil Mittal and controversial lobbyist Nira Radia.

The PAC meetings of 2G Scam led to the members almost coming to blows with the ruling Congress MPs having majority then even occupying the chair of Joshi and declaring a parallel PAC.

Rahul's 'optimism' on the possibility of opening a probe, the political drama on the Rafale deal may still be on the roll despite Supreme Court's two-time dismissal of the cases on the French defence purchase. The issues raised by the opposition on the decision making process, pricing and the offsets were dismissed by the apex court.

However, Justice K M Joseph, who wrote a separate judgment said he agreed with the main verdict written by Justice S K Kaul, subject to certain aspects on which he has given his own reason. He said petitioners can approach CBI

for registering an FIR, which Rahul said "has opened a huge door into investigation of the RAFALE scam".

The apex court contended that the review applications cannot be entertained unless there is an "error apparent on the face of the record".

The petition seeking re-examination of the December 14, 2018 verdict was filed by former Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan. Other review petitions were filed by lawyer Vineet Dhanda and Aam Aadmi Party lawmaker Sanjay Singh.

BJP seeks RaGa apology for 'lies'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP lost no time to launch a blistering attack on the Congress on Thursday describing the Supreme Court judgment on Rafale as 'victory of truth' and demanding an apology from the party and its leader Rahul Gandhi for telling a spate of "lies" on the entire issue.

Soon after the SC verdict, the BJP fielded its top Ministers and party leaders to launch an all-out attack on the Congress and Rahul.

Leading the attack, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday termed the Supreme Court verdict on Rafale deal a befitting reply to the leaders and parties who rely on "malicious and baseless" campaign, and sought apology from them.

In a series of tweets, Shah said the judgement of the apex court has proved that the disruption of Parliament over the Rafale fighter aircraft deal was a "sham". "Supreme Court's decision to dismiss the review petition on #Rafale is a befitting reply to those leaders and parties who rely on malicious and baseless campaigns," he said.

Slamming the Congress, Shah said the decision reaffirms Modi Government's credentials as a dispensation that is transparent and corruption-free. "Now, it has been proved that disruption of Parliament over Rafale (issue) was a sham. The time could



have been better utilised for the welfare of people. After today's rebuke from SC, Congress and its leader, for whom politics is above national interest, must apologise to the nation," Shah said in a swipe at Rahul.

The Rahul and the entire Congress leadership have carried out an aggressive campaign before the last Lok Sabha elections against the multi-billion dollars deal to buy 36 Rafale fighter aircraft from France.

Hitting hard at Rahul, BJP working president J P Nadda said the Congress leader had tried to mislead the country on the issue and should now apologise. Asserting that truth has prevailed, Nadda said, "From road to Parliament, Rahul Gandhi and his party tried hard to mislead the country on this issue but truth prevailed. I wish Rahul would be in country and should apologise to nation.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Congress and in particular its former president Gandhi must apologise to the country. Hailing the Supreme Court's order on the Rafale deal as a victory of the country's national security, Prasad said, "It is recognition of the honest decision making process of the Narendra Modi Government... Satayam Jayate. The Congress party must apologise and Rahul Gandhi in particular must apologise to the country."

Pointing to Rahul's "Chowkidar chor hai" slogan ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Prasad said the Congress leader has not only called the Prime Minister a thief, but he lied about the former French Prime Minister's statements and misquoted the Supreme Court.

"Today the people of the country want to know which powers were backing Rahul Gandhi. All I can say is that the whole campaign is extremely suspicious. He ran a sponsored political programme that masqueraded as a quest for justice. Today, Rahul Gandhi, you need to apologise. Today even the review petition is rejected. You apologised to save yourself from the court. But will you apologise before the people of India?" Prasad said.

Hitting at Gandhi family, he said, "People having saga of corruption from Jeep scandal

to Bofors to submarine to AugustaWestland, where undertaking a political programme masquerading at the quest of justice.

With the Congress insisting on a high-level probe into the deal after the court's order, the law minister said it was really "shameless" of the opposition party to continue to push for an investigation despite losing the battle in courts as well as in elections.

Asked that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was also let off by a court order in the Bofors case, Prasad said that was a "highly questionable" order of the Delhi High Court when the Congress government at the Centre did not challenge.

In Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the allegations of corruption in the Rafale deal were aimed at maligning Modi's image of a clean and honest leader and demanded an apology from the Congress.

Hailing the judgement, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted the SC verdict on Rafale shows Government's decision was right on the price, the process and on the offsets. "PM Modi has put #NationalSecurity on top. Indian Air Force needed to be strengthened without any further delay. #NationFirst. Motivated propaganda defeated: Sitharaman tweeted.

ED arrests ex-Fortis chief, other

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



metropolitan magistrate in the Tihar jail itself as trial prisoners are not being produced in the Saket District court due to the ongoing lawyers' strike.

The court is informed that accused Malvinder Mohan Singh and Sunil Godhwani are lodged in central jail numbers 8 and 7 respectively at Tihar Jail. Accordingly, the applications filed by the ED be put up before the concerned duty MM, Tihar jail tomorrow, i.e., November 15, for disposal in accordance with law," Special Judge Sandeep Yadav said in response to the ED's plea.

However, the court directed the ED's counsel that the accused be produced before a

Duo was arrested from the Tihar jail where both are currently lodged in a case related to funds misappropriation

the corporate loan book and finally, the money was siphoned off and invested in other companies, according to the ED.

The Delhi Police had registered an FIR in March after it received a complaint from RFL's Manpreet Suri against Shivinder, Godhwani and others, alleging that loans were taken by them while managing the firm but the money was invested in other companies.

The money laundering case was filed by the ED after taking cognisance of the Delhi Police FIR as money laundering is a predicate offence.

Govt grants additional House Rent Allowance to forces serving in J&K

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry has granted additional House Rent Allowance to the tune of 16 per cent of basic pay in addition to normal HRA at the original place of posting where paramilitary forces personnel left behind their families to undertake duties in Jammu and Kashmir Valley.

The facility under Kashmir Valley Package will come as a relief for paramilitary personnel as many of them have to bear expenses of running two residences.

The benefit will not be applicable to such personnel who have availed government accommodation at their original posting.

In addition to the additional HRA, the paramilitary personnel will be entitled to



draw the normal HRA for the original place of posting. "The issue of grant of additional HRA to Central Armed Police Forces personnel posted in Kashmir Valley has been considered in the Ministry and it has been decided by Competent Authority that those personnel who are posted in Kashmir Valley and compelled to leave their families at their last place of posting will be eligible for drawing additional HRA."

The move has come days after the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir formally came into existence on October 31 after the Centre on

FCRA CASE

SC issues notice to Grover, Jaising on CBI plea against HC order

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



NGO and them in June be quashed.

The CBI registered the FIR following a complaint by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in May alleging violation of FCRA provisions.

While the FIR did not name Jaising as an accused, the MHA complaint, which is part of the FIR, mentioned her name and made specific allegations against her.

The CBI alleged that the NGO received foreign funds between 2009 and 2015, but failed to disclose a major part of it. It said that Grover and Jaising used foreign funds for "personal benefits". According to the MHA complaint, during her tenure as Additional Solicitor General, Jaising continued to draw remuneration from the

contributions received. The petitioners also pointed out that the MHA complaint was based on an inspection report from 2016 that had pointed out a single violation of non-disclosure under the FCRA.

At the time, following the inspection report, the MHA had issued an order cancelling the registration of Lawyers Collective for receiving foreign funds. This cancellation order was challenged in the high court by the NGO in 2017, and is currently pending before a single judge, the petitioners said.

While granting interim relief, the division bench took note of the petitioners' submission that the CBI's act of filing an FIR on the basis of a two-and-a-half-year-old report, when the matter had reached the court, was questionable.

NGO, the CBI said, adding that this came from foreign



President Ram Nath Kovind meets visually-impaired students on the occasion of Childrens Day, at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, in New Delhi

IN SHORT

RS BYPOLLS TO BE HELD ON DEC 12

New Delhi: The EC on Thursday announced that bypolls in two Rajya Sabha seats in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, which fell vacant recently, will be held on December 12. The Karnataka seat fell vacant after Congress member KC Ramamurthy resigned to join the BJP. The seat from Uttar Pradesh fell vacant after Samajwadi Party member Tazeen Fatma resigned to contest the Rampur assembly bypoll, the seat once represented by her husband Azam Khan. The counting of votes will take place on December 12.

TWO ADVISERS TO J&K GUV APPOINTED

New Delhi: Retired IPS officer Farooq Khan and former bureaucrat KK Sharma have been appointed as the advisers to the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. According to an order of the Union Home Ministry, the appointments of Khan and Sharma will be effective from the day of their joining in their respective posts. The advisers will assist LG Girish Chandra Murmu in the administrative work.

JAISHANKAR FOR 'HONEST REVIEW'

New Delhi: Delivering the fourth Rammohan Goenka Memorial Lecture in the national Capital, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday called for "an honest review of our performance" in the seven decades since independence in a "visibly changing global order". Our past handling of Pakistan, a society which we are supposed to know well, also raises many questions. These are not exactly hypothetical situations and are cited to underline the contention that emergence as a leading power requires great pragmatism," Jaishankar said.

TWO ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING GOLD

New Delhi: Two men have been arrested by the customs officials for allegedly trying to smuggle gold into the country by hiding it inside their wrist watches. The accused were intercepted after their arrival from Bangkok at the IGI Airport on Tuesday. The gold, weighing Rs 25.85 lakh, has been seized and the duo have been arrested.

AMIT SHAH TO VISIT CRPF HEADQUARTERS

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the CRPF's headquarters here on Friday and review its operational preparedness. This is the first time Shah, who became Home Minister, will visit the head office of the country's largest paramilitary force.

"beyond understanding". The court accepted that placing idols in a mosque and demolishing it is illegal. "But the court gave its decision in favour of those responsible for it," he said.

The JUEH president also said the court has accepted that the Babri mosque was not built by demolishing a temple during Babur's rule.

Madani said a decision on whether a review petition in the Ayodhya case should be filed will be taken in a meeting of the working committee of the JUEH which would sit till late evening to deliberate on the matter.

Settling a fractious issue that goes back more than a cen-

tury, the Supreme Court, in its verdict in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title case on Saturday, said the entire 2.77 acres of disputed land should be handed over to the deity Ram Lalla, who was one of the three litigants in the case.

The five-judge Constitution bench also directed the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board in Ayodhya to build a mosque.

Asked about his views on whether the land should be accepted by the Muslim side, Madani said, "The land has not been given to us. They have given the land to the Sunni Waqf Board."

"Our opinion is that the

India may again attempt soft landing on Moon next Nov

PTI ■ BENGALURU

After an unsuccessful bid two months ago, India may attempt another soft landing on the Moon by next year-end, probably in November, sources in ISRO said on Thursday.

The Indian Space Research Organisation had constituted a high-level committee, headed by S Somanath, Director of Thiruvananthapuram-based

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, the lead centre responsible for all launch vehicle programmes of ISRO, to prepare a report on the proposed Chandrayaan-3.

"The panel's report is awaited. The committee has been given a guideline to prepare the mission before the end of next year," a senior ISRO official told PTI. "There is a good launch window in November."

RELIANCE
RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED

Branch Office: Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur-492004. **Corporate & Registered Office:-** Reliance Centre, 6th Floor, South Wing, Off Western Express Highway, Prabhat Colony, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055

SALE CUM AUCTION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer (AO) of the Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHF), invites tenders/Quotations for purchase of the properties specified below of the below mentioned Borrowers, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, for recovery of secured debts plus interest and costs, etc. of RHF. The Properties are proposed to be sold on "As Is Where Is" and "As Whatever there is" basis* and on without recourse basis.

Name & Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/s 1) Kirti Tanwani, 2) Subh Labh Ladies, 3) Rajesh Kumar Tanwani, all addressed A-16 Galaxy Residency, Amildih, Raipur-492001, and also addressed at, PLLOT NO 93, KH NO PART OF 214/5, 237/6, MOUZA GRAM SONDONGRI PH NO 107/37, VEER SAWARKAR WARD NO-1, R.I.C, RAIPUR-492001, and, 4) Tanwani Traders, addressed at, VEER SAWARKAR WARD NO -1, Sondongri, Raipur-492001

Property/ Security Interest Details All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Plot bearing no.93, HARIOM GRH NIRMAN SAHAKARI SAMITI MARYA RAIPUR, KH No. Part of 214/5, 237/6, Mouza Gram Sondongri Ph No. 107/37, Veer Sarwan Ward No. -1, R.I.C Raipur-492001

Reserve Price (Rs.) Rs.10,00,000/- **Outstanding amount on date** Rs. 38,413/- as on 13-November-2019 **Earnest Money Deposit** Rs. 1,00,000/- **Last Date & Place of submitting sealed quotations/bids** 30-November-2019. 5pm. Bids to be addressed to: Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur-492004. Contact Person: Prashant Burman, Tel: 9073990702 Or Sunil C. Das, Tel: 9679992324 Or Gulam Farooque Tel: 9303666682

Inspection of Properties Bidders/ interested parties may inspect the properties/site between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., on 26th November, 2019. The interested parties may contact Mr. Prashant Burman at his mobile No. 9073990702, or Mr. Sunil C. Das at his mobile no. 9679992324 - Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Thapar House, 5th Floor, 163 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Road, Kolkata-700026, Mr. Gulam Farooque, Reliance Home Finance Ltd. Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur -492004 at his Mobile No. 9303666682.

Name & Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/s 1) Chandresh Kumar Patra, Residing At, House No 21 Ward No 29 Kalash Ward Near Raipur Naka Shivnath Colony Rajnandgaon, 491441, Also Addressed At- Flat No T-2/201 2nd Floor Building No 02 Tulsi Tower Khno72/2 Phno34 Raipur Naka Ward No 12 Mouja Lakhli Ramadhan Marg Rm Rajnandgaon -491441 And 2) Shefali Patel Residing At- Flat No T-2/201 2nd Floor Building No 02 Tulsi Tower Khno72/2 Phno34 Raipur Naka Ward No 12 Mouja Lakhli Ramadhan Marg Rm Rajnandgaon -491441

Property/ Security Interest Details Flat No T-2/201 2nd Floor Building No. 02 Tulsi Tower Kh.No.- 72/2 Ph.no.- 34 Raipur Naka Ward No.-12 Mouja Lakhli Ramadhan Marg Rm Rajnandgaon - 491441, Chhattisgarh

Reserve Price (Rs.) Rs.19,55,000/- **Outstanding amount on date** Rs. 24,76/- as on 13-November-2019 **Earnest Money Deposit** Rs. 1,95,500/- **Last Date & Place of submitting sealed quotations/bids** 14-December-2019. 5pm. Bids to be addressed to: Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur-492004. Contact Person: Prashant Burman, Tel: 9073990702 Or Sunil C. Das, Tel: 9679992324 Or Gulam Farooque Tel: 9303666682

Inspection of Properties Bidders/ interested parties may inspect the properties/site between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., on 09th December, 2019. The interested parties may contact Mr. Prashant Burman at his mobile No. 9073990702, or Mr. Sunil C. Das at his mobile no. 9679992324 - Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Thapar House, 5th Floor, 163 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Road, Kolkata-700026, Mr. Gulam Farooque, Reliance Home Finance Ltd. Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur -492004 at his Mobile No. 9303666682.

Name & Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/s 1) RAGHAVENDRA DEWANGAN S/O GYAN KUMAR DEWANGAN, residing at, M.K. 193, RAJPUT PARA BAWAR CHOWK NANDKATHI, DURG - 491001. Also at,Plot no.11, KH NO. 850/26 (Part of Kh No.850/3) Ph No.24, inside part of Nayapara Rajiv, Nagar, Ward no.1 Mouza Khas Durg 491001, Chhattisgarh, 2) GYAN KUMAR DEWANGAN, residing at, Plot no.11, KH NO. 850/26 (Part of Kh No.850/3) Ph No.24, inside part of Nayapara Rajiv, Nagar, Ward no.1 Mouza Khas Durg 491001, Chhattisgarh.

Property/ Security Interest Details Plot no.11, KH NO. 850/26 (Part of Kh No.850/3) Ph No.24, inside part of Nayapara Rajiv, Nagar, Ward no.1 Mouza Khas Durg 491001, Chhattisgarh

Reserve Price (Rs.) Rs.17,20,000/- **Outstanding amount on date** Rs. 26,696/- as on 13-November-2019 **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** Rs. 1,72,000/- **Last Date & Place of submitting sealed quotations/bids** 14-December-2019. 5pm. Bids to be addressed to: Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur-492004. Contact Person: Prashant Burman, Tel: 9073990702 Or Sunil C. Das, Tel: 9679992324 Or Gulam Farooque Tel: 9303666682

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Name & Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/s 1) Ramnarayan Kori, Residing At-Q No 30/A Ruabandha, Sector BSP Civic Centre, Bilai - 490006, Also Addressed At Board, Junwani, Teh & Dist - Durg-491001. 2) Sita Devi, And 3) Roshan Kumar Kori, Both Residing At, Flat No - LIG 61, Third Floor, Deen Dayal Awas Yojna , C.G Housing Board , Junwani, Teh & Dist - Durg-491001

Property/ Security Interest Details Flat No - LIG 61, Third Floor, Deen Dayal Awas Yojna , C.G Housing Board , Junwani, Teh & Dist - Durg-491001

Reserve Price (Rs.) Rs.9,30,841/- **Outstanding amount on date** Rs. 10,30,446/- as on 13-November-2019 **Earnest Money Deposit** Rs. 93,084/- **Last Date & Place of submitting sealed quotations/bids** 14-December-2019. 5pm. Bids to be addressed to: Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur-492004. Contact Person: Prashant Burman, Tel: 9073990702 Or Sunil C. Das, Tel: 9679992324 Or Gulam Farooque Tel: 9303666682

Inspection of Properties Bidders/ interested parties may inspect the properties/site between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., on 09th December, 2019. The interested parties may contact Mr. Prashant Burman at his mobile No. 9073990702, or Mr. Sunil C. Das at his mobile no. 9679992324 - Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Thapar House, 5th Floor, 163 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Road, Kolkata-700026, Mr. Gulam Farooque, Reliance Home Finance Ltd. Reliance Home Finance Ltd., Simran Tower, 3rd Floor, Opp. LIC Building, Pandri, Raipur -492004 at his Mobile No. 9303666682.

Terms and Conditions: The Interested parties may send/submit their quotation/bid in sealed covers superscripting on the envelope as "Quotation for Purchase of Properties"- (Mention the details of the property as mentioned in the table), along with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of Pay Order/DD, drawn in favour of "Reliance Home Finance Ltd.", payable at Raipur.

1. The EMD shall bear no interest, be adjusted in case of successful parties and shall be forfeited in case of default by such party.

2. Tenders/bids incomplete in any respect or unsigned or not accompanied by DD/PO for the requisite EMD are liable to be summarily rejected at the sole discretion of A.O.

3. The aforesaid Property/ shall not be sold below the reserve price mentioned above.

4. Successful party shall deposit 25% of the quoted amount, which amount shall include the EMD deposited, immediately on the same day by way of Pay Order / DD drawn in favour of "Reliance Home Finance Ltd.", payable at Raipur, and remaining 75% shall be deposited within 15 days of date of confirmation of sale or within the extended period as allowed by the undersigned in writing. The AO may at his/her sole discretion extend in writing the time for making the payments. In case of failure to make the required payments by the stipulated dates, the EMD and all amounts paid till then, shall stand forfeited without any notice and the property/ shall be resold.

5. All such Payments to be made only in the form of Pay Order or Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Reliance Home Finance Ltd., payable at Raipur.

6. The Successful party would bear the charges/fees payable for sale/conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fees, taxes, levies, etc. as applicable as per law also the miscellaneous expenses.

7. The AO will not be responsible for any change, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the properties/ under sale.

8. The AO reserves its right to negotiate with the highest bidder for improvement in the offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any quotation or adjourn/postpone/cancel the auction/sale without assigning any reason therefore.

9. The sale is subject to confirmation by the RHF.

10. If the Borrower pays the amount due to the RHF in full before the date of auction/confirmation of sale, the auction/sale is liable to be stopped.

11. To the best of knowledge and information of the AO, no other encumbrance exists on the above mentioned properties/ies.

12. The bid is not transferable.

13. This publication is also a notice of 15 days for the Property of KIRTI TANWANI, and 30 days for the Rest of the Properties to the Borrowers and Co-borrowers of the intention of holding of sale on above mentioned date if the dues are not repaid in full. If the borrower has any such proposal of selling of the properties/ies to any person by private sale or by getting quotation, the same may be communicated to the undersigned within 7 days.

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrowers and co-borrowers are hereby noticed to pay the total outstanding dues before the date of opening of bid failing which the secured assets will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest, cost and charges thereon from you.

Place: Raipur (Chhattisgarh) **(Authorised Officer):** Name: Prashant Burman
Date : 15, November, 2019 **Reliance Home Finance Ltd.**

Schoolchildren in J&K to get free health checkup twice a year

PTI ■ JAMMU

"Rover, lander and landing operations will get more focus this time and whatever deficiencies in the Chandrayaan-2 mission will be corrected," sources in the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said.

On September 7, ISRO attempted a soft landing of Chandrayaan-2's "Vikram" on the unchartered lunar south pole, before losing communication with the lander.

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir administration will conduct at least two free health checkups a year for the school children in the union territory, an official spokesperson said on Thursday.

During a review meeting of the school education department here on Wednesday, the authorities were directed by Lieutenant Governor Girish Chander Murmu to conduct the health checkups and provide health cards to school children, he said. The meeting was attended by Commissioner/Secretary, School Education Department, Sarita Chouhan and other

senior officials, the spokesperson said.

Murmu suggested that the parents be present during the checkup so that they get to know about their child's health, he said.

The Lt Governor also issued directions to the officials concerned to prepare health checkup calendars in consultation with the health department, the spokesperson said.

During the review meeting of the school education department here on Wednesday, the authorities were directed by Lieutenant Governor Girish Chander Murmu to conduct the health checkups and provide health cards to school children, he said. The meeting was attended by Commissioner/Secretary, School Education Department, Sarita Chouhan and other

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REGENT ENTERPRISES LIMITED			
Regd. Office : E-205 (LGF), Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110 046 Telephone No.: 011-29213191 Email ID: straders@gmail.com CIN:- L15500DL1994PLC151383			
Extract of Standalone Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended on 30th September, 2019 (Rs. In Lakhs except per Share data)			
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	15330.72	29579.97	36459.11
Net Profit/(Loss) for the Period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	22.34	48.03	55.36
Net Profit/(Loss) for the Period before Tax (after tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	22.34	48.03	55.36
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	14.84	33.03	33.77
Total Comprehensive Income for the Period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	14.84	33.03	33.77
Equity Share Capital	3345.63	3345.63	3345.63
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the Previous Year)	-	-	-
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 1/- each) (for continuing and discounted operations)	1 Basic : 0.04 2 Diluted : 0.04	0.10 0.10	0.10 0.10

NOTES:
 1. The above Financial Result were reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 13.11.2019 at 4.00 P.M. and Approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 13.11.2019 at 5.00 P.M.
 2. No complaint received from the shareholders during the quarter. Hence, at present no complaint pending against the company.
 3. Previous year's figures regrouped and rearranged, wherever necessary.
 4. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and Half Year ended 30th September, 2019, filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange <https://www.bseindia.com> and on Company's website <http://regenterprises.in>.

For Regent Enterprises Limited
Sd/-
Vikas Kumar
Whole Time Director
Din:05308192

THE HOME LIVING COOPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD.

Registered Office- Plot No. -14, Sector- 9, Dwarka, New Delhi 110077

Managing committee of the society has resolved and decided to submit the list of members for clearance for allotment of flats to the registrar of coop. societies Delhi. As required by the office of the RCS the list of resigned members in the society is published inviting objection if any from the concerned within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication.

Name of the Resigned Members (MR. / Ms.)	Membership No.	Address as per Record
HARCHARAN SINGH	04	5/48 Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
AMAR JEET SINGH	95	A-116 Panchsheel enclave, N, Delhi
GURINDER KAUR	97	A/15/20 Vasant Vihar, N, Delhi
BALJIT KAUR	21	5/48 Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
B.P. MISHLA	88	115, Kalkaji N, Delhi
SUB. DHIRAJ SINGH	35	Kanya Gurukul Narela Delhi
MINI SONI	56	G.T. Road Shahdadpur N, Delhi
GURBACHAN KAUR	70	8/69, Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
MANDEEP SINGH	105	F-10/12, Vasant Vihar, N, Delhi
VIRENDER KAUR	96	8/69, Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
MANINDER KAUR	13	8/69, Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
SURAIYA TABSUBUM	20	587, GaliJutewali, Chiruwiran, Delhi
ANJU	26	121-D, Kamla Nagar, Delhi
SOM DUTT SHARMA	86	247-4A, Panchkuan Road N, Delhi
LAXMI	101	27/22, Rly. Flats Kishanganj , Delhi
GULSHAN SINGH	52	594/6, Govind Pur N, Delhi
INDER MOHAN SINGH	99	N-3, Ring Road, N, Delhi
INDER MOHAN BHATIA	72	36-C,Pocket-L, Sheikh Sarai, N, Delhi
ANJU AHLIWALIA	60	51, Mayfair Garden, N, Delhi
R.S. AHLIWALIA	54	51,Mayfair Appmts., Mayfair Garden, N, Delhi
PAVNEET SINGH	92	1-A, Sardar Patel Marg N, Delhi
LAVLIN MADHU	42	E-104, Pragati Vihar, N,Delhi
GURDEEP SINGH	55	S-208, Panchsheel Park N, Delhi
RAMANDEEP SINGH	62	S-208, Panchsheel Park N, Delhi
BELMATI PAL	109	K-155, Sarojini Nagar, N, Delhi
GURDEEP MINHAS	82	6/600, R.K. Puram N, Delhi
DARSREET G. SINGH	106	C-4/10, SDA, N,Delhi
MULAKHRAJ	65	I-A/54C, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi
LAJWANTI	28	Vill. & PO - Mehdipur Delhi
SUNITA	63	D-121, Kamla Nagar, Delhi
SAVITA	64	99, State Bank Colony, Delhi
LAXMI DUTT JOSHI	89	C-4/67, B- Lawrence Road, Delhi
RAJ KALI	98	112,Sarai Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi
PHOOLVATI	41	13, Suraj Nagar, Azad Pur , Delhi
MANJU	84	32/2526 West Patel, Nager, N, Delhi
USHA	104	E-530, Greater Kailash-II, N, Delhi
AMTUL MATIM	39	577, GaliJutewali , Delhi
A.H. ANCHAN	03	A-294, Defence Colony, N, Delhi
J.K. GANDHI	14	B-138, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar, N, Delhi
SHAKUNTLA	103	I-A/54C, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi
SANJAY	100	BL-100, Shalimar Bagh, N, Delhi
ARUNA MAHAJAN	15	14, Savitri Nagar, N, Delhi
ANIL KUMAR MAHAJAN	57	T-517/D-52, Baljeet Nagar, N, Delhi
AJAY CHAUDHARY	05	13, Suraj Nagar, Delhi
SANTOSH DAHIA	08	67,Suraj Nagar, Delhi
VIJAY KUMAR	19	VILL. & PO- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
DEWAN SINGH	16	Traders Bank Ltd, Ultam Nagar, Delhi
PREMWATI	29	13, Suraj Nagar, Azad Pur, Delhi
R.R. CHAUDHARY	01	7/20, Darya Ganj, N, Delhi
PARMANAND	18	VILL. & PO- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
RAVINDER SINGH	23	VILL. & PO- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
JAWAHAR SINGH	31	VILL. & PO- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
RAJ SINGH	30	Municipal Quarters, Azad Pur, Delhi
CHOTO	37	Vill. & PO- Mehdipur Delhi
USHA SINGH	40	VILL. & PO- Bhalsawla, Delhi
LAXMAN SINGH	45	VILL. & PO- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
JANAK RANI	59	Municipal Quarters, Azad Pur, Delhi
SURAJ BHAN	69	3205, Katra Shivayya Basti,Punjabi Bagh N, Delhi
HAWA SINGH	25	VILL. & PO- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
KALAVATI	36	VILL. & PO- Mehdipur Delhi
PARVEEN BHUTANI	33	VILL. & PO- Mehdipur Delhi
SHIKSHAMAN	91	Y-2, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi
GIRDHARI	34	Kewal Park, P.O-Prachinat, Delhi
Dr. S.K. SONI	80	B-203/2,DDA Flats, East of Kailash, N, Delhi
RANJAN KUMAR	111	R-17, MDCD Sarojini Nagar N, Delhi
AJAY KUMAR	124	R-23,Nehru Enclave , N, Delhi
VIJAY KAPOOR	125	G-73, SangamVihar, N, Delhi
RAKESH NARANG	133	A-2A, Munirka, N,Delhi
MOHD. ILYAS	168	114-115, Vipin Garden Naiqarpur Road, Delhi
ANU	156	18/17/17, Old GovindPura, Delhi
ABHIMANYU MAHAJAN	126	E-211, Kalidoni Colony, N,Delhi
SUDHA	132	47, Friends Colony (E), N, Delhi
A.PAL	130	R-2, 2nd Floor, Nehru Enclave , N, Delhi
SUDESH KUBA	123	D-81/82, Kalkaji Ext, N, Delhi
NITI	122	27, Pusa Road, N,Delhi
KAMAL KHANNA	119	C-44, Press Enclave, N, Delhi
BLOSSOM	121	14-A, Dhruv Appit, Rohini , N, Delhi
ASEM CHAWLA	102	U-23/30, 1st Floor, Cutab Enclave, N,Delhi
NAUSHABA ZAFAR	127	D-22, Kalkaji N,Delhi
F.I. SIDDIQUI	142	47,D. Pocket-L, Sheikh Sarai, N, Delhi
SHAMBHOO NATH VERMA	136	H-NO-428, PushpVihar, Sect-07, N, Delhi
ASHOK KUMAR SAXENA	81	Sitaram Bazar, Delhi
ANIL AGARWAL	87	B-78, Kalkaji N, Delhi
Dr. S.S. RASTOGI	102	D-70, Kalkaji , N, Delhi
SUBHASH KUMAR DHINGRA	68	26,Tocam Road, N, Delhi
SUDHANSU ARORA	77	D-25, Pocket-JD, Area, G-8, Opp. Maya Puri UG Flats, Rajouri Garden, N,Delhi
ANCOOP TIWARI	120	Q-39, DishaGarden,N, Delhi
EVASWAROOP	150	B-32, AditiAptts., 16-A, Patparganj, Delhi
R.S.NANAND	140	F-1174, C, R. Park , N,Delhi
MOHIT MALIK	151	BC-11/G, Munirka DDA Flats, N,Delhi
SHIBANI MALHOTRA	93	B-59, Vivek Vihar, Delhi
ANAND DEWAN	146	24, Double Storey, New Rajender Nagar, Delhi
RASHMI NANGIA	182	Bunglow, No.-2, H.R. Flats, INA, N,Delhi
INDRA KAPOOR	159	K-43A, Kirtanagar, N,Delhi
ABHA SHARMA	176	B-5/78,Safdar Jung Enclave, N,Delhi
ROHIT KUMAR	134	H-10, SangamVihar, N,Delhi
SURINDER MALHOTRA	186	D-12/14, Sector-8, Rohini , Delhi
KULDEEP KUMAR	175	C-73,B.K.DUTT Colony, N, Delhi
GULNAZ BEGUM	131	A-109, SangamVihar, N,Delhi
NARAIN SINGH	162	587, G.F, Galijutewali, churuvilan, Delhi
AMIT MALHOTRA	157	33-A, Rameshwar Nagar, Azad Pur, Delhi
ZAHEDA	180	A-95, Vivek Vihar, N,Delhi
VAISHALI	152	587, Galijutewali, churuvilan, Delhi
MADANKUMAR	129	K-43A, Kirtanagar, N,Delhi
ANJSHIVANI	179	H.NO.-148, DaspuRia,V Naranghar Colony,Delhi
ANAND DEWAN	182	E-287, 2nd Floor,G-K, N,Delhi

Place: New Delhi
Date: 14/11/2019

Battle lines harden as US President impeachment inquiry goes public

AP ■ WASHINGTON

With historic impeachment hearings underway, Democrats and Republicans are hardening their arguments over the actions of President Donald Trump as they set out to win over a deeply polarised American public.

Democrats say Wednesday's extraordinary public session in the House revealed a striking account of Trump abusing his office by pressing the newly elected president of Ukraine for political investigations of rival Democrats, all while holding up needed military aid. "Bribery," they said, and "extortion." Republicans counter that the hearing showed none of that.

They say the two-season diplomats at the witness table had, at best, secondhand accounts of Trump's July 25 call that's central to the impeachment inquiry. There was no pressure on the young Ukraine leader, they argue, and eventually the aid flowed, though only after Congress intervened.

Day One of the rare public hearings in the House — part of only the fourth formal impeachment effort in U.S. history — set the contours for a once-in-a-generation political struggle. Images and audio from the hearing popped up on television, in earbuds and on the partisan silos of social

PORN ACTRESS FIGHTS TRUMP REQUEST FOR SETTLEMENT DOLLARS

Columbus: Attorneys for porn star Stormy Daniels are challenging a request by President Donald Trump's lawyers to stake claim to a settlement between her and Ohio's capital city.

A federal judge last year said Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, must pay Trump nearly USD 293,000 for his attorneys' fees and another USD 1,000 in sanctions after her defamation suit against him was dismissed.

Earlier this year, the city of Columbus reached a USD 450,000 settlement with Daniels over the porn actress' arrest at a strip club in 2018.

Trump's lawyers noted in a filing to the court involved in the Columbus judgment last week that Clifford owes him USD 293,052.

Daniels' attorneys said in a Wednesday filing that Clifford has an active appeal in her

defamation suit against him. "First I've heard of it," Trump told reporters during a news conference.

A different conversation sparked the impeachment investigation, Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, heard by several government officials and detailed in a partial transcript released to the public weeks ago. The core moment came when Trump asked the newly elected leader for "a favor."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Wednesday that the Democrats' first witness "wasn't on the phone call, never met with the president, never talked to the chief of staff. And he's their star witness?" Trump wanted Ukraine's government to investigate Democrats' activities in the 2016 election and his potential 2020 rival Joe Biden — all while the administration was withholding military aid for the Eastern European ally as it confronted an aggressive neighbor, Russia.

media, providing the first close-up look at the investigation.

"The president sought to advance his political and personal interests at the expense of U.S. National security," said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leading the probe.

Hong Kong police say protesters out of control, deny curfew

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong police warned protesters on Thursday that they were moving "one step closer to terrorism" by sinking the city into

Sabarimala takeaways

By referring its order that allows women entry into the shrine to a larger Bench, SC is buying time, not giving in



Faith over women's rights? A regressive over progressive society? Religion justifying patriarchy or not? The Supreme Court needs more time, investigations and a larger bench to give answers on who can pray at Sabarimala, knowing that its ruling will become a precedent for all time to come and should, therefore, be well-considered. That it will affect 50 per cent of the nation's population, namely women, who could always interpret justice as hostage to a brute majoritarian force. Till then, its earlier order allowing women of reproductive age into the shrine holds.

There were assumptions that the Supreme Court's verdict on Ayodhya, which relied heavily on the faith of believers and their continued practice of it, would influence it to review its own order. Simply because the patriarchal servitors of the house of Lord Ayyappa, the celibate God, had codified belief that women of a certain age group would bring temptation to a sacred space, if not the lord himself. As if menstruation and procreation were sins rather than the law of the universe. With their early hold on interpreting religion, they appropriated primacy by unequal means and solidified it as an ordained custom. They monopolised godliness when faith is a soul concern, irrespective of gender. They even equated the deity's rights to that of Ram *lalla*'s, humanising the claims of the God-kings to be treated as private individuals in their own homes. Such has been the sanctity of this practice in the public domain that even Judge Indu Malhotra, during the earlier ruling, had wondered if the ban should be respected as the ritualistic right of a sect to keep to its customs as a secular allowance. The apex court doesn't usually admit a review plea but given the confusion, it did so despite a 3:2 verdict, with justices Rohinton Nariman and DY Chandrachud against another relook. Though petitioners may claim an admission of oversight is implicit in this decision, there are layered takeaways. One, it is intended to defer another ruling of landmark proportions so soon after the Ayodhya verdict and control the fallout. Second, the top court has suggested widening the ambit of a woman's devotional rights across religions, including the entry of women into mosques and Parsi shrines and the practice of female genital mutilation in the Dawoodi Bohra community. This could work both ways. For one, the localised appeal by a sect could be circumvented and made a subset of a larger ruling on democratic rights of women across religions. Or the Hindu sect could be treated at par with the other groups with a right to practise their socially sanctioned faith and attendant rituals. Last but not the least, the deferment helps most mainstream political parties, which do not want to deal with the ramifications before the Kerala elections in 2021. For the BJP which has thrown its weight behind a review of the order allowing women inside the shrine, its stance has so far not yielded results, the party failing to win either a seat or increase its vote-share during the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress, in fact, has gained for endorsing the same line, that the hill shrine be entitled to its own traditions. So the court's need to study the objections raised is a reprieve for all parties concerned.

Yet it raises a vital question. Why do we need the highest judicial authority of the land to lay down the code of societal evolution and dynamism when we should be reforming practices and executing them ourselves? Why are we still hesitant to acknowledge that we need to look at women as they are without being referenced by the patriarchal gaze, be it social or religious. Lord Ayyappa himself as a fountainhead of divinity would not have discriminated between his people. The Hindu pantheon has always prided the sacredness of both the masculine and feminine as essential attributes of spiritual enlightenment and has made women the originator of *shakti*. Our early Vedic texts are replete with examples of women scholars and priests. Believers maintain that Lord Ayyappa had sworn not to marry till his earthly mission was fulfilled and women devotees who understand empathise with the woman who still waits for him. But Ayyappa is also the most democratic god there is. Devotees dress uniformly in black, symbolising a renunciation of worldly pleasures and donning a garb of equality beyond caste and other social hierarchies. A Dalit can lead the prayers if he is the group leader and a Brahmin follower must touch his feet, too. Nowhere in Hindu rituals is such liberalism on display. So lord Ayyappa himself would not turn away the genuine seeker, be it a woman or man. When will we understand this?

Setback for Congress

The SC dismissal of the Rafale plea has given the BJP fresh ammunition to target the party



Now that the Rafale jets have made their way to India and their indispensability has been proven to our forces, the Supreme Court was expected to dismiss a review petition against their acquisition. Politically though, it gave the BJP, weather-beaten by the latest round of Assembly results, some ammunition to beat the Congress with all over again. The latter was in for some embarrassment, not because its poll plank on the questionable nature of the Rafale deal was battered electorally, but because the court

warned the party's former chief Rahul Gandhi for justifying his "chowkidar chor hai" jibe, citing court observations that were never made. While the court exempted him from a contempt case, the BJP used the severity of its warning to demand a national apology from the Gandhi scion for insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The "chowkidar chor hai" slogan wasn't just in bad taste but gave the BJP an opportunity to crest public opinion by taking a high moral ground. It, in fact, turned the slogan on its head to make its most effective brand slogan of "Main bhi chowkidaa." The Congress, therefore, will have no manoeuvring space in its self-defence now and the BJP won't let go of a chance of cornering Rahul on this. Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad lost no time in reminding that not only did Rahul call the Prime Minister a thief, he lied about the former French Prime Minister's statements and misquoted the Supreme Court.

Without a cogent defence on the sliding economy and other pressing issues, the BJP is expected to use the Rafale ruling to animate much of the discussions in Parliament. The Congress may want to shy away from being reminded about its follies but cannot walk away from them either, considering that Rahul continued with the Rafale bandwagon in the run-up to the Maharashtra polls. He may be now demanding a JPC probe and the Congress, as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, may keenly vet the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor-General) report on Rafale but there's no political capital to be made. Already facing a crisis of confidence, the Congress now needs to be careful in choosing its target and subject. It needs to work on specifics and choose issues that impact everyday life rather than blustering against the monolithic consistency of Modi. It has an existing grassroot matrix to revive its local presence in States first, championing local issues. That seems to be working. Anti-Congressism is now a convenient excuse for everybody and the party must now think whether it really wants to be an excuse in Indian politics or be something else.

Pay heed to warning signs

It is unfortunate that the Government has failed to take cognisance of the deteriorating law and order situation in the country when one expected it to act responsibly



AJOY KUMAR

A little less than two weeks ago, the national capital witnessed unprecedented protests by hundreds of policemen. The personnel gheraoed their headquarters, demanding intervention and support of senior officers with respect to the clash that took place between them and the lawyers at the Tis Hazari district court complex. On their part, the lawyers have been on a strike and have threatened to continue with it unless their demands are heard to protect them from what they call the high-handedness of the police.

While the origin of the dispute is unclear, it has been reported that the clash was over a parking dispute. Whatever be the reason, the scuffle between them escalated into something much more serious. It was reported that three lawyers were shot and as a result of the struggle, more than 30 people were severely injured. Police vans and vehicles were set on fire and the lawyers' chambers were ransacked. The dispute continues to linger till the date of writing this article and peaceful ground between the police and the lawyers looks far away. Both sides have stuck to their guns, holding the other side responsible for the scuffle.

Almost a year ago, a similar dispute had erupted, which had led to the breakdown of the law and order situation. Again, a Central Government agency was involved. In October last year, an internal rift between the then Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Alok Verma and his number two, Rakesh Asthana, had become a public spectacle. Both Asthana and Verma hurled corruption charges against each other and approached the courts to ensure protection against legal action. In an extraordinary move, the Union Government sent both officers on leave and with effect, divested the CBI Director of all duties. This move was extraordinary because the CBI Director enjoys a tenure of two years after his appointment by a high-profile committee, which includes the Leader of Opposition.

However, this committee was bypassed to remove Verma, who among other voices, had cast aspersions on the Government for subverting investigations into significant cases. While I have written about the crisis of credibility in the past, the reason I want to recount this incident is because both the present crisis involving the police and lawyers as well as the last incident involving the CBI have two things in common: First, both situations make a mockery of the law and water down safeguards that are essential for a democracy to thrive. Second, in both cases no one from the Government took responsibility for the mess or showed interest to ensure that the situation is diffused in a responsible manner.

The failure to maintain law and order is unfortunately becoming more frequent over the last few years in the country. The law has been abused by individual lawmakers in power. It seems the rule of law has now changed to the law of rulers.



Therefore, I will not go through these details again.

The fact, however, is that we now live in a country where we have been immunised against impropriety in general. This is not necessarily always in the form of cases like Swami Chinmayanand and the Uttar Pradesh Police's handling of the rape case against the said BJP leader. Sometimes, mockery takes different forms. For example, the unilateral manner in which demonetisation was pressed upon the citizens and the lack of scientific examination into it that has had a tectonic impact on the country's economy.

Another example is how the Right to Information (RTI) Act was watered down or how fake news and hate speech have been allowed to thrive on social media.

All of these instances, while completely unconnected at the first blush, have a disconcerting common thread running through them: They are all symptoms of a weakening democracy. The clash between the police and the lawyers is only the latest symptom of a more serious problem.

Now let's talk about the second issue, which relates to the fact that no one from the Government has taken responsibility for or ensured that the stand-off between the Delhi Police, which comes under the Union Home Ministry, and the lawyers, is settled responsibly. It is here that questions about

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS FACED WITH A CRISIS, WE DO NOT SEE ANY OFFICIAL OFFER AN EXPLANATION OR PROVIDE REASSURANCE. IN A FEW INSTANCES WHERE WE HAVE SEEN MINISTERS TAKING QUESTIONS DURING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAN REASSURED

leadership arise. Through the entire dispute we saw senior police officials stepping in. We have seen numerous voices throw their inputs into the mix. But what we did not see was the intervention of the Union Home Minister on this issue. We have seen the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in the front and centre but none from the Union Government intervened. This is especially disappointing because it follows a trend where during the good times — typically election victories — we get to hear many representatives of the Government speaking on television for great lengths.

However, just as often, during times when the Government is faced with a crisis, we do not see any official offer an explanation or provide reassurance. In a few instances, where we have seen Ministers taking questions during difficult situations, we have been left a little concerned than reassured. One example of this was how the Finance Minister responded and reacted to the economic crisis. While taking questions on the slowdown of the auto industry, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman deflected the blame to cab aggregators like Ola and Uber for the plummeting sale of cars. A response like this seems to be disconnected from reality and displays a desire to deflect blame rather than taking responsibility to fix the situation.

Not one person can be

held completely responsible for a crisis. In an economic/job crisis, for example, external factors matter, too. However, as things stand today, there should be little debate on the fact that there are internal governance issues, which have exacerbated the problem further. It would have been nice to see the Finance Minister talk about redressing these issues rather than worrying about image management. The former is the kind of leadership that can help India steer itself through crisis.

The showdown between the police and lawyers calls for a brand of leadership where people are reassured that the Government is capable of taking steps to ensure that the crisis is averted with minimum loss and with maturity. I am fortunate to see the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at work. I have seen it taking steps while at the same time encouraging brand of leadership. No doubt, there will be instances where we may fall short, too, but I am optimistic that we will not shy away from the problem, no matter how uncomfortable.

I will instead face the problem head-on. This is frankly what our voters expect from us. Similarly, I think we should not be shy of demanding same standards from other political leaders, too.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, an MP and currently a member of the AAP)

Being watchful

Sir — Post the news that the Israeli spyware, Pegasus, targeted over 100 members of civil society, including journalists and human rights activists, WhatsApp, the Facebook-owned messaging app, is now banning global users if they are found to be part of group chats with malicious or suspicious names, in some cases permanently.

It's welcome that at least some action is being taken to address the problem of the spread of false information. Further, the social media giant must roll out an upgraded version of its app that is secured from the spyware. This way, it can be stopped from affecting more phones.

It is a matter of grave concern that Pegasus has had an impact on around 1,400 devices globally. The violation of one's privacy is a grievous offence. People may start feeling compelled to use other messaging apps if WhatsApp proves to be vulnerable to the malware. Something is better than nothing at all.

Tushar Anand
Patna

Prepare an action plan

Sir — With air quality index breaching the 900-mark, bad air is severely affecting the health of

the residents of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

It is sad that though the reasons that contribute to air pollution are well-known, we have

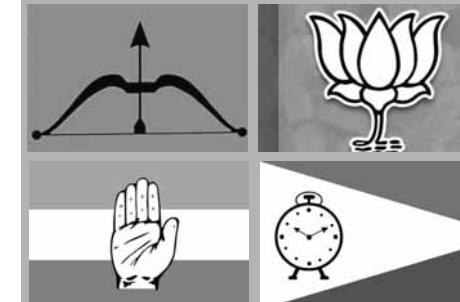
been unable to alter the situation.

One of the causes for such high level of pollution is the burning of crop residue by farmers in the neighbouring States of Punjab,

Maharashtra saga continues

The riveting turn of events in Maharashtra politics since the Assembly poll results has been a study in the possibility of political realignments. The fast-paced developments have validated the proposition that "politics is the art of the possible." The "divorce" between the Shiv Sena and the BJP — after "cohabiting" as ideological peers for more than a quarter century following their inability to hammer out a mutually acceptable power-sharing formula — has given the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress to try and form a three-party coalition Government. The imposition of President's Rule has attracted criticism that it presaged "Operation Kamal" by the BJP to outwit its opponents and "manufacture a majority" for itself. The BJP cannot claim itself to be "a party with a difference" since it is not against horse-trading if it helps in seizing power. By the way, turncoats betray a staggering contempt for decency in public life. The Assembly is now kept "in suspended animation"; it means the doors for revocation of Central rule and the formation of a new State Government are wide open. There is now ample time for parties to try out all sorts of manoeuvres in the game of politics.

Talks are now said to be under way among the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress on the contours of the Government, terms of power-sharing and a common minimum programme. Interestingly, the NCP is now said to ask for "rotational chief ministership", something that caused



the severance of Shiv Sena-BJP ties. It is evident from the non-committal positions of the NCP and the Congress over joining hands with the Shiv Sena and the speculation over the remote possibility of reconciliation between the erstwhile saffron allies that the current political scenario in Maharashtra is in a state of flux. We will watch with keen interest how things take shape. There is never a dull moment when news breaks split second by split second. However, how long will it take for the denouement of the political thriller in the "great State" is hard to tell.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The lack of seriousness on part of the respective State Governments as well as the Central Government to devise an action plan has led to the present saga of people suffering from "severe" category of air pollution. The Government must proactively work with all stakeholders concerned to bring down air pollution levels.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Piecemeal measures

Sir — The problem of air pollution is not new to the capital city. It is also a fact that policy measures kick in at the nick of the time when health is at stake. Besides, much of the policies do little to address the heart of the problem, which is stubble burning. Bans, incentives and targeted subsidies are only temporary solutions. If indeed we intend to tackle the problem, behavioural changes are needed.

Sunita
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Clear roadblocks to innovation

India and the US must address key digital issues and help their trade relationship reach its full potential



JASON OXMAN

Innovation does not happen in a vacuum. The constant free flow of ideas and data across the globe fuels the development of the new chip that powers our smartphones and the apps we use to learn, play and connect with loved ones. But to ensure that these advancements and technological breakthroughs not only continue but thrive, nations must embrace an environment of cross-border cooperation and competitiveness. And few trading relationships hold as much promise as the partnership between the United States (US) and India. The US and India are positioned to gain more than all other markets from a significant reduction in global barriers to services trade, according to a study recently cited by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Further, the strengths of India and America's technological sectors are complementary and allow both countries to innovate and excel. The Indian Information Communications Technology (ICT) sector employs around 3.5 million workers and contributed 9.5 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2014. India is the second-largest exporter of IT services and now has over 550 million internet connections and over 500 million smartphone users, making it the fastest-growing telecom market in the world. In addition, India has a vibrant start-up ecosystem, which is growing at a rate of 12-15 per cent annually. In fact, the nation saw the emergence of 1,200 startups in 2018 itself.

Similarly, the technology sector is essential for America's innovation, job creation and economic growth. Technology companies account for 10.2 per cent of the US economy and 7.6 per cent of its workforce, with application of technology products and services spanning all sectors. Every day, US companies work with partners and research hubs in cities around the world to create and bring to market new products and services that drive commerce and support jobs in the country.

By leveraging these strengths through international cooperation, both nations can pursue a meaningful digital future together. However, current policies in India challenge that growing relationship. Even where well-intentioned, Indian Government measures may inadvertently cut off Indian companies from collaborating with and benefiting from US partners. High tariffs, coupled with regulatory barriers, limit companies from importing products and components that drive local business and innovation. Potential digital barriers, such as restrictions on the movement of data and data localisation requirements, would compound investment uncertainty. The ongoing US-India trade talks provide an important opportunity for both countries to find solutions to long-standing technology trade issues, thus encouraging a robust, integrated and mutually beneficial trade relationship. As negotiators work toward a trade package, there are two essential issues to raise, which would elevate the promise of the bilateral innovation partnership. First, India's import barriers must be eased. ICT products are a key enabler of technology adoption and utilisation and an essential element of India's development as a technological leader. Reducing burdensome testing and conformity assessment programmes and high tariffs on ICT products would not only facilitate US sales, but would also allow India to buy the best equipment at the lowest cost. Additionally, breaking down these barriers would support job growth in both the US and India, and push the country further up the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, a key objective of the Indian Government. This would be a win-win for both the countries.

Second, the US and India must create a concrete and continuing dialogue to discuss digital issues. The Indian Government is considering a range of new policies, including a potential data protection law with restrictive elements and a broad framework for data governance. These are valid issues to consider and India is asking many good questions about how data should be handled to ensure that the economic benefits can be realised by all, including through finding ways for the Government to access data across borders to enforce the law and protect national security. However, if data policies in both the countries diverge so significantly that companies are unable to operate across borders, this will stifle innovation and economic benefits on both sides. A standing dialogue would provide a regular forum to discuss and inform digital strategies and help both sides avoid unintended consequences of new policies. The value of increased US-India trade is clear. Already, greater Indian openness to trade has led to economic growth and higher rates of economic inclusivity and educational attainment. The path to greater innovation starts with clearing existing roadblocks and ensuring that new ones do not emerge. The Information Technology Industry (ITI) council hopes that both Governments capitalise on the important opportunity of bilateral trade talks to address key digital issues and help the US-India trade relationship reach its full potential.

(The writer is CEO and president ITI council)

analysis

07

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE PREVIOUS SPEAKER RAMESH KUMAR HAD CONSPIRED ALONG WITH SIDDARAMAIAH. THE APEX COURT HAS GIVEN A CLEAR DECISION ON IT.

—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER BS YEDIYURAPPA



THE SC'S DECISION HAS EXPOSED BJP'S 'OPERATION KAMAL.' KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT IS ILLEGITIMATE IN LAW AND MUST BE DISMISSED IMMEDIATELY.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Understand the burning issue

With a robust combination of the right policies, economic incentives and awareness campaigns, the problem of managing crop residue in an environment-friendly manner can be addressed



SPOORTHY RAMAM

Delhi, one of the world's most polluted cities, is in the news again for its worsening air quality as the Government has been forced to close schools and declare a health emergency. The much-loved winter months in other parts of the country are a nightmare for the residents of Delhi-NCR as the area gets enveloped in a blanket of toxic haze.

With the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching new levels each year and going as high as 1,200+ (classified 'Hazardous') this month, the city is suffocating, literally. Apart from coal and construction dust, vehicular emissions and smoke from Diwali firecrackers, stubble burning by farmers in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (UP) are cited as the primary reason for this crisis.

While the Delhi Government has been trying to bring down pollution levels through its vehicle rationing odd-even scheme and by closing polluting factories and coal-based power plants among other things, biomass burning is something it has failed to stop. For this, it needs the cooperation of its neighbouring States and has no control over the farmers there.

Crop residue burning is a practice where farmers set their entire fields on fire after harvesting the rice crop, to make way for the next i.e. wheat. The sowing of rice is timed such that its intense water needs are met by the monsoon rains in the Indo-Gangetic plains and the crop is harvested just before winter starts. However, the result is a whopping 23 million tonnes of paddy residue in the fields that need to be cleared in a short span of 10 to 20 days, before the farms are readied for sowing wheat. If the farmers had more time between crops, they could have just left this biomass lie in the fields and let it turn to mulch, which is an excellent fertiliser. However, with such a short gap between the two crops, setting fields afire seems to be the easiest way to get rid of the stubble. This however severely degrades the ambient air quality of Delhi-NCR.

Taking cognisance of the consequences of stubble burning, the Government banned it in June, imposing fines on those who defied the dictat and recently the Supreme Court (SC) even pulled up the chief secretaries of the three neighbouring States and ordered them to ensure that farmers don't burn crop residue anymore.

Nevertheless, the practice seems to have continued as growers contend that feasible, affordable and scalable alternatives are lacking. In an effort to encourage farmers to find alternatives to burning the residue, the SC had also directed the three States to pay ₹100 per quintal of paddy straw to growers, but it doesn't seem to have worked.

The atmospheric factors at play: People often wonder how a practice followed a few 100 km from Delhi-NCR has big implications. Here is the science behind this phenomenon. During winter, the region sees low wind speeds and temperature inversion — an atmospheric phenomenon where the temperature of the air near the surface is lower than that of the air higher in the atmosphere. Hence, when the pollutants from vehicular emissions and crop burning are released into the air, they are not dispersed but trapped in the lower layers of the atmosphere. As a result, the air quality takes a deep dive.

“

IT ISN'T DELHI-NCR ALONE THAT TAKES THE HIT; OTHER TIER-2 CITIES IN THE REGION ALSO SEEM TO BE AFFECTED BY BIOMASS BURNING. A 2019 STUDY, WHICH INVESTIGATED THE SOURCE OF POLLUTANTS IN 20 INDIAN CITIES OTHER THAN DELHI, FOUND THAT IN PLACES LIKE AMRITSAR, CHANDIGARH AND LUDHIANA, CROP RESIDUE BURNING, ALONG WITH EMISSIONS FROM POWER PLANTS AND SEASONAL DUST STORMS CONTRIBUTED TO ABOUT 50-52 PER CENT OF PARTICULATE MATTER

”



Air pollution in cities like Delhi may be attributed to the growth of the metro and the pollutants from sources far away that get carried to the national Capital by the moving air or environmental conditions, which are unfavourable for the dispersion of pollutants," said Prof Vinod V from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar, talking about his study published in 2018. The study, among other things, had found that crop burning has been increasing at an alarming rate of 25 per cent since 2000.

It isn't Delhi alone that takes the hit; other tier-2 cities in the region also seem to be affected by biomass burning for similar reasons. A 2019 research, which investigated the source of pollutants in 20 Indian cities other than Delhi, found that in places like Amritsar, Chandigarh and Ludhiana, crop residue burning, along with emissions from power plants and seasonal dust storms contributed to about 50-52 per cent of particulate matter.

In essence, the timing of winter-related atmospheric phenomena, coupled with the surge in emissions when the fields are set on fire, is a perfect pollution cocktail.

The health and economic costs of stubble burning: It is well-known that inhaling polluted air can lead to severe health conditions like lung cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, bronchitis and dementia. Not just this, air pollution also adversely affects crop yields in India. But, what really is the economic cost of stubble burning in these maladies?

A study, published by researchers at USA's International Food Policy Research Institute and Oklahoma State University, pegs that number at \$30 billion, includ-

ing the economic loss and associated health costs. It found that about 14 per cent of acute respiratory infections, recorded in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi in 2013, could be attributed to stubble burning. Researchers estimate that living in areas where there is intensive crop burning increases the chance of acute respiratory infections three-fold, with children under the age of five being the most affected.

Crippled policies adding to woes:

As most studies have pointed out, a robust combination of the right policies, economic incentives and awareness campaigns are the need of the hour to curb the "burning" problem of air pollution. Badly-designed policies could have unintended effects on air quality, as shown by a research from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in India and Mexico and the Cornell University, USA. It showed that groundwater conservation policies, introduced in 2009 in Punjab and Haryana, could have contributed to the rise in stubble burning.

Although rice is a lucrative crop for farmers, it is water-intensive. Hence, the 'Punjab Preservation of Subsoil Water Act' and the 'Haryana Preservation of Subsoil Water Act' banned the transplantation of rice before monsoon to conserve groundwater. As the monsoon arrives in these States in July, the crop is harvested in early November, forcing farmers to clear their fields as soon as possible for wheat sowing. Using satellite data, the study found that prior to 2009, about 40 per cent of rice was harvested by late October and this number declined to 14 per cent after the law was enforced. The number of fires went up from 490 per day during late October prior to 2009, to 681 per day, peaking

around early November. The average daily PM2.5 concentrations in November were also found to be 29 per cent higher after the groundwater Acts were passed.

With the clamour for alternatives to stubble burning increasingly being heard, science may have solutions, as shown by a 2019 study. It analysed 10 alternatives to stubble burning and found that contrary to what farmers believed, these methods were not only environmentally friendly, but also profitable. Among them is using Happy Seeder, a machine that can sow wheat despite the presence of rice straw in the fields. This yielded nearly 10-20 per cent increase in profits or about ₹11,498 per hectare on an average. The profits come from lower land preparation cost and the reuse of the crop residue, which increases soil moisture and benefits the long-term health of the soil.

However, these benefits come at a cost of ₹2.4 billion — necessary to produce about 16,000 Happy Seeders to cater to 50 per cent of the rice — wheat cultivation areas. With a meagre subsidy of ₹2,000 provided by the Government for purchasing machines to manage crop residue, machines like Happy Seeders are unaffordable to many farmers, leaving them with no options but to set fields on fire.

As most of these studies have pointed out, with a robust combination of the right policies, economic incentives and awareness campaigns, the pressing problem of managing crop residue can be addressed. It is about time that policy-makers took note of such insights and acted to provide us all with clean air to breathe — a basic necessity of life.

(The writer is managing editor at a science portal)

The nuttiness of history in a nutshell

In analysing historical events, context provides uncomfortable perspectives that challenge simplistic versions of our understanding



NAHEED PARACHA

Histories, when confined to nutshells, become absolute fictions devoid of context. They are turned into miniature caricatures, paraded as stripped actualities that anyone can dress in the manner they deem fit. This is particularly true in the age of social media, that only allows the exhibition of historical facts as end results. It completely ignores the complex historical processes which led to the end results.

For example, as miniaturised history, the 18th century French Revolution was an uprising of the poor against the rich. Just recently I heard someone say this in a podcast, positioning it as a "historical fact" which the podcaster said was aiming

at a "privileged, middle-class" foe. Indeed, the poor did rise up in France but the uprising was largely instigated and navigated by the middle-classes against common foes: the aristocratic/landed elite and the powerful clergy. The well-known historian Henry Heller, in *The French Revolution and Historical Materialism*, roots the revolution in the gradual growth of the middle-class in France.

According to Heller, by the 18th century, the political and economic aspirations and interests of the French middle class began to clash with those of the *ancien régime*, i.e., the monarchy, the feudal class and the church. This friction saw the middle-class intelligentsia strongly propagate the ideas of democracy, secularism and nationalism, which became the main ideological engines of the revolution. Another example is the American Civil War (1861-1865). In nutshell, it is often explained as an armed conflict between the pro-slavery South and the anti-slavery North in the US. American economists M Thornton and RB Excludn write, in *The Economics of the Civil War*, that the

conflict was mainly due to economic tensions between the "industrialised North" and the "agricultural South." Prominent in this respect was the perception in the South that tax revenues collected there were largely being transferred to strengthen industrial interests of the North.

The anti-slavery position was

adopted by the North and President Lincoln only after the Southern states declared their secession.

Lincoln's original stance on slavery, which he displayed a year before the Civil War, was rather different. He had said: "I have no purpose to interfere with the institution of slavery where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I don't intend to."

There are numerous such exam-

ples from world history which, when carefully studied outside their nutshell versions, often add a deeper dimension to the end result. Many such examples are also present in Pakistan's history. Take for instance, the 1974 Second Constitutional Amendment and the 1986 Article 295-C in the country's penal code.

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16 rebel Cong-JD(S) MLAs join BJP

13 get bypoll ticket

PTI ■ BENGALURU

BJP on Thursday fielded 13 disqualified Congress-JD(S) legislators as its candidates for the December 5 Assembly by-elections in Karnataka hours after the rebels joined the ruling party in the State.

The party aiming to win a majority of the 15 seats that will go for the bypolls announced a list of 14 candidates with the nominee for Ranenbennur constituency yet to be named.

A day after the Supreme Court paved the way for them to contest the bypolls, as many as 16 disqualified MLAs on Thursday joined the BJP at the

party office here.

The disqualified MLAs, whose rebellion led to the fall of the Kumaraswamy Government and the return of the BJP to power in July, were inducted in the presence of Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kante and National General Secretary in charge of Karnataka P Muralidhar Rao among others.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday had upheld the disqualification of 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs in Karnataka by then Assembly Speaker K Ramesh Kumar but allowed them to contest the bypolls necessitated by the action against them.

The court had set aside the portion of the Speaker's order by which the MLAs were disqualified till the end of the



Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kante and BJP national general secretary Muralidhar Rao with disqualified MLAs, in Bengaluru on Thursday

current Assembly's term in 2023.

While the 13 disqualified MLAs have been fielded again from their respective seats, M Saravana, a former corporator, has been given the ticket from Shivajinagar, denying it to R Roshan Baig, a disqualified Congress legislator from the constituency.

Baig, a seven-time MLA, has not been inducted into the party, unlike 16 other disqualified legislators who were welcomed into the BJP fold.

BJP sources cited "reservations" expressed by party leadership over Baig, who faced inquiry in the IMA ponzi scam, among the reasons for his non-induction and denial of

ticket. Interestingly, Baig, a former Minister, on Wednesday had claimed he will join BJP along with the other legislators.

According to sources close to Baig, he met Chief Minister and expressed his displeasure and also was contemplating contesting as an independent candidate after consulting his supporters.

The other disqualified Congress MLAs who have been given ticket by the BJP are: Mahesh Kumatali in Athani constituency, Shrimanthagouda Patil (Kagwad), Ramesh Jarkiholi (Gokak), Shivram Hebba (Yellapur), B C Patil (Hirekerur), Anand Singh (Vijayanagara), K Sudhakar (Chikkaballapur), Byrati Basavaraj (K R Puram), S T Somashekhar (Yeshwanthpur) and MTB Nagaraj (Hoskote).

Kumaraswamy, who was forced to resign as Chief Minister in July after the rebellion by the now disqualified MLAs, said the JD(S) was facing the polls keeping both the national parties at "equal distance".

JD(S) announces 10 candidates; Cong, BJP can't neglect us: HDK

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Announcing candidates for 10 of 15 bypoll bound Assembly constituencies in Karnataka, JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday said his party cannot be "neglected" by Congress and BJP in the State and defeating the disqualified MLAs was his strategy.

Kumaraswamy, who was forced to resign as Chief Minister in July after the rebellion by the now disqualified MLAs, said the JD(S) was facing the polls keeping both the national parties at "equal distance".

Didi attacks Maha, West Bengal Guvs for 'crossing limits'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday lashed out at two Governors for playing partisan role and "acting like a BJP agent."

Hitting out at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for recommending President's Rule in Maharashtra "defying" constitutional provisions and Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankher for "acting like BJP's mouthpiece" the Chief Minister said federal structure of the country was in peril.

"I generally do not say anything on constitutional posts but there are some people who are behaving just like BJP's mouthpieces," she said pointing out at "what is happening in my State," she told reporters at the State secretariat. Without naming anyone she said, "they (the Governor) are running parallel administration in the State."

Referring to the constitutional provisions Banerjee said "both the Central and State Governments are elected Governments and both have their jurisdictions defined. This is the beauty of federal structure. And the federal structure of the country must be respected. (But) there are some people who are dominating too much. They are working just like the BJP's mouthpieces. They are even superseding the central government. And the Centre must take some decision on this."

Attacking the Central Government Banerjee said Delhi was yet to release ₹17,000 crores to West Bengal. She said, "as the Centre did not release devolution component (central tax 42 per cent) till October, we suffered a loss of

₹ 640 crores. Moreover, Centre is supposed to release ₹ 17,000 crores which the state has not yet received. Economic growth is so low that every State is suffering."

The relation between the Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (state secretariat) had been anything but cordial in Bengal with regular run-ins between senior Bengal Ministers and the Governor.

On the visit of Union Minister Babul Supriyo at Namkhana post cyclone Bulbul Banerjee said "some people are trying to play politics at this hour of crisis. They are trying to cash in on the people's distress which will not be allowed."

The tussle between Governor and Government started on September 21 when the Governor ignoring the advice of the State administration went to rescue Babul Supriyo blockaded by a section students at Jadavpur University. Things kept worsening after that with Dhankher regularly taking administrative tours in districts allegedly ignoring federal norms.

Recently he went to a block office at Singur leading a massive up roar in the ruling party

circles who questioned his "unconstitutional demeour." TMC leaders and Ministers said, "a Governor had no business in poking his nose in administrative issues without the advice of the State Government."

SPECIAL TRAIN

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during the Nirankari Sant Samagam at Bhodwal Majri from 15.11.19 to 20.11.19, one pair of Special EMU train will be run as per the following schedule:-

04071/04072 Delhi - Panipat - Delhi
EMU Special Train

Train No. 04071		STATIONS		Train No. 04072	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
-	09.00	Delhi Jn.		00.25	-
09.18	09.20	Subzi Mandi		00.03	00.05
10.20	10.40	Bhodwal Majri		23.00	23.05
11.00	-	Panipat		-	22.40

Days of Run: 04071 Ex. Delhi from 15.11.2019 to 20.11.2019 & 04072 Ex. Panipat from 15.11.2019 to 20.11.2019.

Note : For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1. Name of Work with its location	Provision of "Divyang friendly Toilets" along with septic tank and soakpit at 36 nos. under Sr. DEN-IV.
2. Approx. Cost of work	(1) Rs. 59,57,014.57
3. Earnest money	(1) Rs. 1,19,200.00
4. Date and Time of Submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date Up to 15.00 hrs. on 22.11.2019 opening of e-Tender at 15.00 hrs. on 06.12.2019.
5. Website particulars published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.reps.gov.in

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/74/19-20/W-IV Date : 13.11.2019 3659/19 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Noida Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

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E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of work	Amount in Lac
A 1	28 /GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	M/O Misc/other maintenance work (Construction of Boundary wall from Green Belt under flyover on MP-2 Road front of Film City sector-16A) Noida	₹ 29.69
2	4 /GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	D/O village (P/L C.C. in Ambedkar Vihar Sector-37) Noida	₹ 36.51

Which can be uploaded by Date: 28.11.2019 upto 05:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 29.11.2019 at 11:00 AM.

General Manager (R), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Modi meets Putin, gets invitation for annual Victory Day celebrations

PTI ■ BRASILIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Victory Day celebrations in May next year as the two leaders had an "excellent meeting" during which they reviewed the progress made in the bilateral ties and discussed ways to further expand the special strategic partnership.

Modi, who is in Brazil for the 11th BRICS Summit which will focus on building mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation and strengthen India's ties with the world's five major economies, met Putin on Wednesday on the sidelines of the meeting and reviewed the full range of India-Russia relations.

"Had an excellent meeting with President Putin. During our talks, we reviewed the full range of India-Russia relations. India and Russia are cooperating extensively in areas such as trade, security and culture. The people of our nations will benefit due to close bilateral ties," Modi said in a tweet.

During the bilateral meeting, the fourth between the two leaders this year, prime minister



China's President Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa pose for a photo at the BRICS emerging economies at the Itamaraty palace in Brasilia, Brazil on Thursday

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to be chief guest at next R-Day

PTI ■ BRASILIA

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020.

Prime Minister Modi met Bolsonaro on Wednesday on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS Summit held here to focus on building mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation and strengthen India's ties with the world's five major economies.

During his meeting with Bolsonaro, Prime Minister Modi invited the President of Brazil to be the chief guest at the Republic Day in 2020. Bolsonaro accepted the invitation with pleasure.

India, China agree to hold next round of border talks after Modi-Xi meet in Brazil

Brasilia/Beijing: India and China have agreed to hold another meeting on matters relating to the boundary question after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit here, according to an official statement.

The 21st round of India-China border talks, led by Special Representatives (SR) National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, were held at Chengdu in China in November last year.

According to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister Modi and President Xi "noted that the Special Representatives will have another meeting on matters relating to the boundary question and reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and security along the border areas."

Telangana RTC strike: Will temporarily drop merger demand, say unions

Hyderabad: Alleging that the Telangana Government was misleading the public and the courts, the agitating TSRTC employees on Thursday said they were willing to drop their main demand of merger of the corporation with the transport department, for time being.

"When talks were held earlier we had indicated that we were willing to drop some demands. However, the government kept sending messages that the employees were adamant on their demands. So the JAC decided to temporarily drop the merger demand. Now the Government should hold discussions on other demands," Ashwathama Reddy leader of the RTC unions said.

Poll process in J&K to begin 'soon': LG

Jammu: Hinting at holding Assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir in the near future, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday said the election process will begin soon.

"Election will come. It is a Union territory with a legislature, it will not continue like this (LG's rule)," he said, while addressing a function of the police department.

"The process for holding the election will come soon," Murmu said, speaking at the Attestation-cum-Passing out Parade of the 14th batch of Constables, held in the Talwara area of Reasi district.

PTI

Markets open for hours, public transport back on roads in Srinagar

Srinagar: Signs of normalcy were visible in Srinagar as most modes of public transport have started plying, while markets at some places remained open for longer hours, officials said on Thursday.

The intra-district connectivity in Srinagar has been restored as cabs have started plying in several areas of the city, the officials said.

There are reports of movement of intra-district cabs and other modes of public transport in most other district headquarters of the valley as well.

With this, most modes of public transport have started plying in the valley, especially in the city here, as inter-district cabs, auto-rickshaws and few mini-buses were already plying.

PTI

Regd. Office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5

50:50 FORMULA —

Sena wonders if PM was kept in loop

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Contesting Amit Shah's claim that the BJP had not promised rotational Chief Ministership to his party, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday charged that Shah had kept Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the loop about the 50:50 power sharing agreement reached with his party president Uddhav Thackeray ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

In a hard-hitting response to the BJP president's rejection of the Shiv Sena's claim about the promise of rotational chief ministership purportedly made by the former ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Raut said: "The fact remains that our beloved Amit Shah had not informed us to what transpired between him and Uddhav Thackeray at a closed door meeting ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. He should have informed the Prime Minister about whatever transpired at a closed door meeting between him and Uddhavji."

"If you (Amit Shah) had reconciled to whatever had been decided ahead of the Lok Sabha polls and kept the Prime Minister in the loop, Modiji would have cognisance of this and we would have not arrived at such a sit-

uation that we are witnessing today," Raut said.

Raut's remarks came a day after Shah wanted to know as to why the Sena had not objected to the repeated statements by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and him at election meeting that Devendra Fadnavis would be the next Chief Minister if the saffron alliance returned to power in the state.

"At all meetings, Narendra Modiji used to say Devendra Fadnavis would be the next chief minister. At all meetings, Uddhav Thackeray also used to say that the Shiv Sena man would be the next Chief Minister. When the alliance was formed between the two parties, Uddhavji used to say that they would be 50:50 sharing of power and positions. At that time why did Amit Shah not say that this kind of agreement had not been reached? He should have taken objection to Uddhavji's statement," Raut said.

"You (Amit Shah) did not say any such thing till the Lok Sabha polls. This issue has come up only after the State Assembly poll. We expect and practise morality in politics. We expected minimum moral ethics (from the BJP)," the Sena spokesperson said.



Raut said that he had not heard Amit Shah saying that Devendra Fadnavis would become the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra. "I had not heard Amit Shah say anything in this regard. I had heard Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that Devendra Fadnavis would become the next Chief Minister. We did not contest Modiji's statement keeping in mind his standing and stature of the Prime Minister and left it like that thinking that we would deal with it after the polls," he said.

Interestingly Raut, while ripping into Amit Shah, had good things to say about Modiji. At one stage, he said: "After all, we have sought votes in the name of Modiji Modiji is a tall leader. We have along respected Modiji and will continue to do so. After all, he is the Prime minister, he was a Chief Minister earlier and a leader. We love Modiji as much as BJP workers do."

Alluding to Amit Shah's statement that "it is not the BJP's tradition to disclose what transpires in close-door meetings", Raut said: "If something is decided at a closed door meeting but not implemented later, then things will definitely come out. Whatever transpired in the closed door meeting between Amit Shah and Uddhavji is not small thing. It involves the self-respect of Maharashtra. For us, it is like Pranaya vachan na jaye. It involves the future of Maharashtra. If you say that whatever transpired at the meeting did not happen, then definitely this issue will come out."

Raut said that the Shiv Sena had not converted politics into a business. "We are not traders, we are Maharastrians. This is the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji, Mahatma Phule, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and Shahaji Maharaj. Whatever we do comes from the inspiration of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The persons whom I referred to had never indulged in business. They sacrificed their lives for the country. For us politics is not business," the Sena leader said, while taking indirect dig at Shah.

Giving an emotional spin to the issue, Raut said: "The venue where Amit Shah and Uddhavji held talks was not an ordinary room. It was a room that belonged to late Balasaheb once. It was the same room from where late Balasaheb championed the cause of Hinduism and blessed Modiji on several occasions.... For us, the venue where the discussion between Amit Shah and Uddhavji is not just a room but a temple."

"If someone says such agreement had not take place in that room, it is an insult to that temple and late Balasaheb. It is also an insult to Maharashtra as well. We take the pledge in the name of Balasaheb and say we do not lie. If you still feel bad about whatever happened inside the temple, then please come out and tell the people what transpired at the meeting. We have never used lies to practise politics nor will we do. The Thackeray family has sacrificed for the country," he said.

The stand-off the two saffron alliance partners should be seen in the context of what transpired at the meeting that BJP president Amit Shah and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had with Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on February 18 this year when the two parties formalised the seat-sharing pact for the Lok Sabha polls.

Sena, NCP, Cong cross CMP hurdle; Pawar may meet Sonia

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

the Sena for a period of two and a half years and the Congress will in lieu get the deputy Chief Minister's post for the entire five years' period, as is being speculated.

Though the three parties are coming out in the open, the senior leaders of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress are developing the contours of the proposed three-party Government which may take full shape by the week end.

"The power-sharing formula will comprise CMP and the distribution of ministerial portfolios among the three parties," a senior Congress leader said.

The rapid pace in which the three parties are moving should be light of a request reportedly made by the Shiv Sena leadership to wrap up all the nitty-gritties before the Saturday evening so that it Sena can submit the letters of support received from the Congress and NCP to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on the death anniversary of late Bal Thackeray on November 17.

Received no communication from AIMPLB on reviewing Ayodhya verdict: Ansari

Ayodhya: Ahead of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board's meeting to decide whether to seek a review of the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case, the main litigant Iqbal Ansari has said he does not wish to be a party to that and the Board can do whatever it wants. He also said he has "not received any communication" from the AIMPLB about its meeting.

Ansari, 53, along with several other local Muslim leaders had recently said the five acres of land to be allocated for building a mosque as per the landmark verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute should be within the 67 acres of land acquired by the Government in Ayodhya.

"I know the Muslim Board (AIMPLB) is holding a meeting on Sunday to take a decision on seeking a review of the Supreme Court judgement. I have not received any communication in this connection," he said.

PTI

Wasim Rizvi donates ₹51,000 for Ram temple

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Shia Central Waqf Board chairman Wasim Rizvi on Thursday announced he is donating ₹ 51,000 for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Rizvi said the Board favoured the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya and the Supreme Court judgment on the decades-old issue is the "best verdict" that could have been possible.

In a unanimous verdict, the Supreme Court last week cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya and directed the Centre to allot a separate five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board to build a mosque. "Now preparations are on for the construction of a grand temple at the Ram Janmasthan," Rizvi said.

SC SABARIMALA VERDICT

Focus shifts to Left Govt in Kerala

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

state government was always ready to implement the court order, whatsoever it may be.

The top court has decided to set up a larger bench to re-examine religious issues including those arising out of its earlier verdict that lifted a centuries-old ban on women of menstruating age visiting the shrine.

Asked if women will be provided security to enter the shrine, Vijayan said such things can only be decided after clearing "certain doubts and confusions" in the order.

Ahead of the pilgrimage season commencing on November 17, Vijayan said "It seems like the September 28, 2018, order still stands.

However, there are certain confusions with regard to today's order. The court ordered for a seven-judge bench to consider various gender related issues. It had kept pending the review petitions on Sabarimala. We need to get more clarity on various matters," he said.

RSS welcomes SC ruling; says issue is not about discrimination

Nagpur: Welcoming the Supreme Court's decision to refer Sabarimala case to a larger bench, the RSS on Thursday said the restrictions on women's entry in the famous Kerala shrine have nothing to do with gender discrimination.

Arun Kumar, Akhil Bhartiya Prachar Pramukh of the RSS, said on the organisation's Twitter handle that "matters related to traditions and customs are issues of faith and belief".

"We welcome the Supreme Court decision to accept the review Petition and refer the matter to a larger Constitutional Bench," he tweeted. "Matters related to traditions and customs are issues of faith and belief. Restriction of women belonging to a particular age group to the Sabarimala shrine has nothing to (do) with gender inequality or discrimination, and that is strictly based on the specificity of the deity," the senior RSS leader said. PTI

Govt to consult legal experts on verdict: Vijayan

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The left Government would consult legal experts to get more clarity on the Supreme Court's Sabarimala verdict but it seems that the earlier order on allowing entry of women of all age groups still stands, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Thursday.

Vijayan, who met the media here to explain the government stand in the backdrop of the apex court's decision to refer the case to a larger bench, said the

Asked if women will be provided security to enter the shrine, Vijayan said such things can only be decided after clearing "certain doubts and confusions" in the order.

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SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (M-I) WEST ZONE
OPP. MADHAV PARK, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027.
NIT No. E.E. (M-I)WZ/2019-20/T/22
Dated : 13.11.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (M-I)WZ, S.D.M.C., invites on behalf of the Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, sealed percentage rates tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD (General Wing) online on portal <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> N.I.T. No. E.E. (M-I)WZ/2019-20/T/22 dated 13.11.2019. Estimated Amount Rs. 1,43,52,000/-, Tender Amount Rs. 1,30,96,178/-, EMD Rs. 2,87,000/-, Tender Cost Rs. 1,000/-, Time of Completion 5 Months. H.A XL-VIII-S. The mentioned work is related to improvement / development of lanes/ drain by providing RMC brick work, precast slab etc in the mentioned area.

Bidding documents with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER>. Start Date of sale of Tender Documents: 15.11.2019 from 6:00PM. Last Date of Bid Submission: 29.11.2019 up to 1:00 PM. Opening of Financial Bid: 29.11.2019 at 3:30 PM in the office of Superintending Engineer-I, West Zone, Dr. Sahil Singh Verma Niagam Bhawan, Near Shivaji College, Shivaji Enclave, Raj Garden, New Delhi-110027. All detail of Revisions, Clarifications, Corrigendum, and Addendum, Time Extension etc. if any, in respect of above tender(s) will be uploaded on SDMC website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> only and will not be published in newspaper(s) separately. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated in respect of the tenders(s).

Ex. Engineer (M-I)
West Zone

No. 101/DPI/S/2019-20

BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED

CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741

Corp. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoom Basti, P.O. Badarpurghat, Distt. Karimganj, Assam-788803

Tel No.: 0361-2464670/71, Fax: +91-361-2464672

Website: www.barakcement.com; E-Mail Id: cs@barakcement.com

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

(Rs. in Lakhs)

PARTICULARS	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED	
	Quarter Ended 30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2018 (Unaudited)
Total income from operations	3,878.32	7,730.70	3,574.42	4,126.20
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	86.27	237.59	39.33	60.19
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	86.27	237.59	39.33	60.21
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	65.30	169.97	25.78	45.12
Paid Up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	-	-	-	-
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)	0.29	0.77	0.12	0.18
Basic:	0.29	0.77	0.12	0.20
Diluted:	0.29	0.77	0.12	0.19

NOTES:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and half year ended September 30, 2019 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and half year ended September 30, 2019 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and Company's website www.barakcement.com.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttarakhand to the reputed companies meeting the qualification criteria for selection of system integrator for Request for Proposal (RFP) for Supply of Hardware at Uttarakhand Secretariat.
- The RFP document can be downloaded from www.uktenders.gov.in. The parties willing to participate in the RFP will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Uttarakhand available on the above mentioned web site under the link [Bidders Manual](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).
- ITDA reserves the right to cancel the RFP at any point of time, without assigning any reason thereof.

DIRECTOR

14/11/2019

Tender Notice No. 11/ITDA-471(A)/2019 dated 14/11/2019

Ref.: 1028/ITDA-471(A)/2019

Dated: 14/11/2019

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Ref.: 1028/ITDA-471(A)/2019

Dated: 14/11/2019

Tender Notice No. 1

Moody's lowers GDP forecast to 5.6 per cent

IANS ■ MUMBAI

After cutting India's sovereign ratings recently, Moody's Investor Services on Thursday also cut India's growth forecast to 5.6 per cent for the calendar year 2019 for reasons of subdued consumer demand, along with sluggish liquidity supply.

The US ratings multinational revised downwards its growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent in 2019, from 7.4 per cent in 2018.

"We expect economic activity to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively, but the pace to remain lower than in the recent past," Moody's said in Global Macro Outlook 2020-21.

"India's economic growth has decelerated since mid-2018, with real GDP growth slipping from nearly 8 per cent to 5 per cent in the second quarter of 2019 and joblessness rising."

The current slowdown in consumption demand has "cooled" notably, the ratings agency said.

Besides, the agency noted the government's measures like the cut in the corporate tax rate, bank recapitalisation, support for the auto sector and plans for infrastructure spending, among others, to arrest the growth slowdown.

However, none of these measures directly address the widespread weakness in consumption demand, which has

been the chief driver of the economy," Moody's Outlook report said.

On monetary policy, the ratings agency said that more rate cuts are "likely" on the back of benign domestic inflationary pressures and subdued oil prices.

However, transmission of lending rates continues to be hindered by the "credit squeeze" caused by disruption in the non-bank financial sector, it said.

"While our baseline forecasts assume that economic momentum will pick up, there are risks to the downside. Slow employment growth is weighing on consumption," the Outlook report said.

"The interest rate cutting cycle is not adequately being transmitted, which is hampering investment as companies' borrowing costs remain elevated."

Last week, Moody's had changed the outlook on India's sovereign ratings to negative from stable and affirmed the Baa2 foreign-currency and local currency long-term issuer ratings.

Moody's had also affirmed India's Baa2 local-currency senior unsecured rating and its P-2 other short-term local-currency rating.

India's credit rating at Baa2 is the second lowest investment rating and Moody's has warned that India could be heading towards a debt trap and recessionary phase.

Deadline for filing GST annual returns extended; forms simplified

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to taxpayers, the Government on Thursday extended the due dates for filing GST annual returns for 2017-18 to December 31 and for the financial year 2018-19, to March 31 next year.

The dates for filing the reconciliation statement has also been extended accordingly.

In another relief, it has also decided to simplify the two GST forms by making various fields of these forms as optional, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a statement.

The Government has decided today (Thursday) to extend the due dates of filing of Form GSTR-9 (Annual Return) and Form GSTR-9C (Reconciliation Statement) for 2017-18 to December 31, 2019 and for 2018-19 to March 2020," it said.

The earlier deadline for filing of GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C for 2017-18 was November 30, 2019, while that

for 2018-19 was December 31, 2019. Notifications regarding the extension of the dates have been issued.

The CBIC in the revenue department has also notified the amendments regarding the simplification of the annual return and reconciliation statement forms.

A reconciliation statement allows taxpayers to not provide split of input tax credit availed on inputs, input services and capital goods for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

CBIC added it is expected that with the simplifications in the two forms and the extension of deadlines, "all the GST taxpayers would be able to file their annual returns along with reconciliation statement in time".

Various representations regarding challenges faced by taxpayers in filing of GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C were received on which by the Government has "acted in a very responsive manner", the CBIC statement added.

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Various representations regarding challenges faced by taxpayers in filing of GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C were received on which by the Government has "acted in a very responsive manner", the CBIC statement added.

This amendment has been issued to allow people who have used Aadhaar KYC to open bank account and want to give an address different from the address in Aadhaar as current address on a self-declaration basis. "The amended PMLR applies only to Aadhaar KYC purposes for opening of bank account and not for the change of Address in Aadhaar card.

Govt eases norms for opening bank account for migrants with Aadhaar KYC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has eased KYC norms for migrants to open bank account by allowing them to self-declare local address as sufficient proof of residence in case it is different from one mentioned in Aadhaar document.

Migrants face difficulties in having proof of residence as address on Aadhaar is different from their current location.

The Department of Revenue on Thursday said its notification is with regard to easing of Aadhaar KYC use for opening of the bank account for the convenience of people who often migrate from place to place for jobs or any other reason.

The changes were made by amending the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, as per a gazette notification issued on Wednesday.

This amendment has been issued to allow people who have used Aadhaar KYC to open bank account and want to give an address different from the address in Aadhaar as current address on a self-declaration basis. "The amended PMLR applies only to Aadhaar KYC purposes for opening of bank account and not for the change of Address in Aadhaar card.

Bharti Airtel posts staggering ₹23,045 crore net loss in Q2 after AGR provisioning

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Thursday posted a staggering ₹23,045 crore net loss for the second quarter ended September 30, due to provisioning of ₹28,450 crore in the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling on statutory dues.

The Sunil Mittal-led company said the apex court judgement — which had upheld government's way of calculating revenue of telcos (on which statutory liabilities like licence fee and spectrum usage charges are computed) — has "significant financial implication for the company". Last

month, Bharti Airtel had postponed the release of its full Q2 earnings to November citing the uncertainty in the sector in the wake of the court ruling on definition of telecom revenues. Airtel's colossal net loss for just-ended September quarter was on account of exceptional charge pertaining to provisioning of ₹28,450 crore towards the AGR dues, that included principle of ₹6,164 crore, interest of ₹12,219 crore, penalty of ₹3,760 crore, and interest on penalty of ₹6,307 crore.

Announcing its Q2 earnings scorecard, Airtel said its consolidated net loss before exceptional items (the one-time charge) for the quarter was ₹1,123 crore, and that the net Loss (after exceptional items) was ₹23,045 crore.

AGR hit: Vodafone Idea Q2 loss at ₹50,921 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hit hard by the unpaid statutory dues, telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Thursday posted a colossal ₹50,921 crore loss for the second quarter ended September 30, and said it is in the process of filing a review petition on the adjusted gross revenue matter.

This is the highest ever quarterly loss posted by any Indian company in recent memory.

Vodafone Idea said its ability to continue as going con-

cern is dependent on obtaining relief from the government and positive outcome of the proposed legal remedy.

The SC order on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) matter "has significant financial implications for the industry", VIL said in a statement. Its total loss stood at ₹50,921 crore in September quarter, against ₹4,874 crore loss in the year-ago period.

Its revenue rose 42 per cent to ₹11,146.4 crore during the second quarter this year.

The company has estimat-

businesses in calculating the annual AGR of telecom companies, a share of which is paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer.

As per latest estimates by the telecom department, Bharti Airtel faces a liability of around ₹62,187 crore (including share of Tata Group of companies and Telenor India), while Vodafone Idea may have to pay about ₹54,184 crore.

The remaining liability is with state-owned BSNL/MTNL and some of the shut/bankrupt telecom companies.

Raids on BMC contractors unearth

₹735-crore financial irregularities: I-T dept

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has detected alleged irregularities to the tune of ₹735 crore after it conducted searches on civil contractors who work for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the CBDT said on Thursday.

The search and survey operation was started at 44 locations in Mumbai and Surat on November 6, on entry providers and beneficiaries who have been engaged in execution of civil contracts mainly in BMC, it said.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the policy-making body for the tax department. "There were reports that certain contractors had taken entries in the form of loans among others from entry providers and also inflated expenses in the books of accounts to suppress income.

Efforts are being made to achieve the target set in the Budget, Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman P C Mody said after inauguration of the Taxpayers Lounge at Pragati Maidan here.

"During the beginning of the year, we were given the tax collection (target) of ₹13.35

Promoters' feud has 'zero impact' on IndiGo: CEO

New Delhi: Amid ongoing differences between the airline's promoters — Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia — came to fore in July after Gangwal sought market regulator Sebi's intervention to address alleged corporate governance lapses at the company.

They are promoters of InterGlobe Aviation which operates IndiGo, country's largest airline in terms of domestic market share. About feud, Dutta said as far as the airline is concerned, it was only directly involved in Related Party Transactions. PTI

General public is here by informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: Kailash Chand S/o Vishav Nath R/o F-16-B, Jain Colony, Nanesh Enclave, Barwala, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi since 30.10.2019. In this regard a DD No. 98-A dated 30.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 64 years, **Height:** 6' ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Safari Suit with khadi Jacket and Shoes in feet.

Any person having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641

Fax No.: 011-24368639

DP/767/ON/19

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

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DP/767/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Namrata Pandey, D/o Dinesh Chand Pandey, R/o Gali No. 06, Gautam Colony, Narela, Delhi, Age 18 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Fair, Long Face, Wearing Orange colour suit, skin colour jajin and red colour sandal in feet has been missing / kidnapped

from the area of PS Narela, Delhi since 01.11.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 44-A dated 02.11.19 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641

Fax No.: 011-24368639

DP/774/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Pinki W/o Sukh Lal R/o H.No. 3467, Daribapan, Pahar Ganj, Delhi

Aged-30 Years has been reported missing since 29.10.2019 vide DD

No. 79-A Dated 31.10.2019 Lodged at

Police Station Paharganj, Delhi. Her

physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **ID:** A mole on nose, **Clothing:** White blue coloured suit, orange coloured salwar, pink coloured hand bag, green coloured hawai slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Paharganj, Delhi at

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

FAX No.: 011-24368639

Sd/-

Tel.: 011-23520787, 23524746, Mob.: 8750870427

DP/672/CD/19

SHO

Injury-time goal saves India



PTI ■ DUSHANBE

India escaped with a 1-1 draw after an injury-time goal saved them the blushes against lower-ranked Afghanistan in their FIFA World Cup Qualifier match here on Thursday.

The result meant the 106-ranked India remained winless in their qualifying campaign so far.

When the visitors seemed headed for their second defeat, substitute Seiminlen Doungel (90+3) provided India with a lifeline, outjumping his markers to head one into the far post.

Afghanistan had taken the lead through Zelfagar Nazary's strike (45+1), putting India on the backfoot.

India remained at the fourth position in Group E with three points from four

matches, while Afghanistan continued to be on the third with four points.

Starting the away game, being played in extremely cold conditions at the Central Republican Stadium, on a bright note, India conceded a goal in the first half's injury time (45+1).

Afghanistan went into lead after a fine move saw David Najem play a square ball to Zelfagar Nazary at the centre of the box, and the mid-fielder's attempt breached the Indian defence before finding the back of the net.

It wasn't really a home match for Afghanistan either, but wins here against Cambodia and Bidesh, followed by draws with Tajikistan and Jordan have given them much-needed confidence ahead of the clash against Igor Stimac's 106-ranked India.

And the 149-ranked Afghanistan car-

ried that confidence into the game on a chilly evening when the temperature dropped to nine degree celsius.

The hosts looked the better of the two sides in the first half and the goal, in the added time of first session, was not inappropriate.

On and off, Afghanistan managed to put pressure on the Indian defence manned by Mandar Rao Desai, Adil Khan, Rahul Bheke and Pritam Kotal. With their enterprise, the likes of striker Ahmad Omran and mid-fielder Faysal Shayesteh kept India on their toes, forcing Bheke and Adil to make a few clearances in the first quarter.

India looked to take on the opposition but they could not create any clear chances, and the couple of half chances in the opening minutes failed to test the Afghan custodian.

There was a change straightaway for India after the break as Stimac substituted Mandar with Farukh Choudhary.

The visitors showed urgency and looked desperate for an equaliser. They had a chance in the 58th minute but skipper Sunil Chhetri's header off a cross from right back Pritam Kotal was saved by Azizi. At the other end, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu made a diving save.

While he will be disappointed to end the match in a stalemate, Stimac's decision to bring in Doungel in place of Kotal paid dividends.

Stimac made three changes to the line-up that drew against Bangladesh last month, starting with Kotal, Brandon Fernandes and Pronay Halder in place of Anas Edathodika, Anirudh Thapa and Manvir Singh.

Henry to coach Montreal Impact

AFP ■ MONTREAL

Former Arsenal star Thierry Henry was Thursday appointed coach at MLS franchise Montreal Impact on a two-year contract as he gets a new chance of management after a disastrous spell at Monaco.

"Welcome to Montreal @ThierryHenry!" the Major League Soccer (MLS) club tweeted.

Henry, whose baptism by fire as a manager ended in his firing by French club Monaco in January, will coach Impact for a minimum of two seasons.

"Henry signed a two-year deal, with an option for 2022," the club said on its website.

Henry, 42, who helped France win the World Cup in 1998, is familiar with the MLS, having played from 2010 to 2014 with the New York Red Bulls.

He scored 51 goals and had 42 assists in 122 games with the club.

"It's an honour to coach the Montreal Impact and return to MLS," said Henry. "It's a league I know well, in which I had some very nice moments.

"I've always kept an eye on the club and now I'm here."

Henry becomes the seventh coach of the Montreal Impact in just eight years, succeeding Colombian Wilmer Cabrera, who was acting coach for two months after the dismissal in August of French coach Remi Garde after 10 months in charge.

Henry made his name as a world-class player at Arsenal where he scored 228 goals in 377 appearances, making him the English club's record goalscorer.

After winning the World Cup on home soil in 1998, he played in three further World Cups in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

He is also France's all-time leading scorer with 51 goals in 123 games, in front of Michel Platini.



Paes, top-players return for Pak tie

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday picked an unprecedented eight-member Davis Cup squad for the tie against Pakistan, including most of the top stars who refused to travel to Islamabad along with those who made themselves available irrespective of the venue.

Seasoned veteran Leander Paes returned to the Indian team after more than a year along with top players Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Sasi Kumar Mukund and Rohan Bopanna for the tie to be held at a yet-to-be-finalised neutral venue on November 29 and 30.

Nagal, Bopanna, Ramanathan and Mukund had reservations about travelling to Pakistan due to security concerns, the basis of the International Tennis Federation's decision to change the venue.

"It's a special case this time. We do not pick such a big travel party but we did not want the players who were ready to go to Pakistan, to feel left out. So we had to create a balance," Zeeshan Ali, who is on the selection panel and is also the India coach said.

In the squad announced by the All India Tennis Association (AITA) selection committee, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Saketh Myneni and Siddharth Rawat also found a place in the team. All these players were willing to travel to Islamabad when the others had refused.

AITA usually names five-member main squads along with one or two reserve players.

While the ITF is still considering the Pakistan Tennis Federation's appeal against the decision to shift the tie out of Islamabad, AITA has gone ahead with the team selection.

"We wanted the players to be mentally ready. They can make their respective schedules now. We did not want them to wait more to know if they will be picked or not. Irrespective of the venue, only these players will be a part of the tie, wherever it is played," said non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal.

"Not all of them would get to play but at least the new players will get a feel of what it is like being on the Indian Davis Cup squad. It will be a kind of experience for the new generation players like Rawat. We have to prepare the next rung," added Rajpal.

It has been learnt, that the ITF will stick with its decision to have the tie at a neutral venue. The world body is expected to announce its final decision by November 18.

In the absence of top player Prajesh Gunnaneswaran, India's singles challenge will be led by the in-form Nagal (ranked 127) and Ramanathan (190). Mukund (250) and Myneni (267) will be the back-up singles players.

Perhaps for the first time, the squad has three doubles specialists in Bopanna, Paes and Nedunchezhiyan.

Divij Sharan and Prajesh, who were part of the five-member squad, which was announced earlier when the tie was to be held on September 14 and 15 are now unavailable for personal reasons.

While Sharan is taking a two-week break after his wedding reception on November 23, Prajesh is getting married on November 28, a day before the start of the tie.

Tsitsipas reaches ATP Finals semis



Stefanos Tsitsipas celebrates winning a point against Alexander Zverev AP

AFP ■ LONDON

Stefanos Tsitsipas coasted past defending champion Alexander Zverev in straight sets to advance to the last four of the ATP Finals on Wednesday after Rafael Nadal came back from the dead to keep his title hopes alive.

The Greek tyro, 21, broke his big-serving German opponent three times in the Group Andre Agassi match to seal a 6-3, 6-2 win at London's O2 Arena.

The straightforward victory, which took Tsitsipas' head-to-head record against Zverev to 4-1, was in sharp contrast to the earlier match, in which Nadal produced an astonishing comeback to beat Daniil Medvedev.

The Spanish top seed was on the brink of defeat when facing a match point at 5-1 down in the deciding set but stormed back to win 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

"Today is one of those days that one out of 1,000 you win and it happened today," said a delighted Nadal.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion, who also beat Medvedev in the US Open final, said earning a break back in the deciding set had infused him with confidence.

Both players were under intense pressure after losing their opening round-robin matches on Monday.

6 TEAMS UNVEILED FOR ATP CUP

SYDNEY: A Grigor Dimitrov-led Bulgaria was among the final six teams announced on Thursday for the ATP Cup in Australia.

Chile, Poland, Uruguay, Moldova and Norway were the other countries to make the grade, based on the ranking of their number one singles player at the second entry deadline of November 13.

The rest of the 24-nation field was announced in Sept., although Switzerland later pulled out after Roger Federer opted to skip the tournament. The field will be split into six groups across Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

As the highest-qualifying country at the second deadline, Bulgaria replace the Swiss and join Belgium and the Andy Murray-led Great Britain in Group C in Sydney. The championship takes place from January 3-12 in the lead-up to the year's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Eight teams — with up to five players each — will emerge from the round-robin stage to compete in the knockout phase in Sydney until one is left standing with ties comprising two singles and one doubles match.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian wrestling superstar Ritu Phogat is set to make her professional mixed martial arts debut when she takes on Korea's Nam Hee Kim in an atomweight contest. The pair faced-off on Thursday at an open workout and are scheduled to meet in the One Championship ring at One: Age Of Dragons, which takes place on November 16 in Beijing, China.

Ahead of her first foray into the mixed martial arts arena, the 25-year-old details how she envisions her path unfolding in a new sport, her ultimate goal, and how she plans to accomplish the mission she has set for herself.

"No question, I want to become a mixed martial arts World Champion, and everything I'm doing



Bryan brothers to retire in 2020

AFP ■ LOS ANGELES

US men's doubles duo Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan said on Wednesday they will retire at the end of the 2020 season, bringing the curtain down on one of the most successful pairings in tennis history.

The 41-year-old twins said in a statement they planned to hang up their racquets after taking part in next year's US Open, where they made their Grand Slam championship debut in 1995.

Since that first Slam appearance, the Bryans have racked up a record 118 trophies including 16 Grand Slam doubles titles. They also won Olympic Gold at the 2012 London Games.

Bob Bryan said the duo had opted to end their 2019 season after the US Open in order to remain fresh for next year.

"We decided that it would be best to rest our minds and strengthen our bodies in preparation for 2020 which will be our final season on the ATP Tour," Bob Bryan said in a statement.

"It has truly been a magical ride," he added. "However, we want to end this great ride while we're healthy and we can still compete for titles."

At their peak, the Bryans were a formidable doubles duo, rising to No 1 in the rankings for the first time in 2003.

They spent a total of 438 weeks at the top of the rankings and ended 10 seasons as the No 1 team.

'Go back to baseball'

Ibrahimovic confirms LA Galaxy exit

AFP ■ LOS ANGELES

Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic confirmed his departure from the Los Angeles Galaxy on Wednesday, but gave no clue over his future plans or possible retirement.

The 38-year-old striker's departure from the Galaxy had been widely expected following the club's elimination from the Major League Soccer playoffs last month.

Ibrahimovic, who joined the Galaxy in the opening months of the 2018 campaign, announced the end of his Californian sojourn in a characteristically enigmatic post on Twitter.

"I came, I saw, I conquered. Thank you @lagalaxy for making me feel alive again," Ibrahimovic wrote. "To the Galaxy fans — you wanted Zlatan, I gave you Zlatan. You are welcome."

PTI ■ HONG KONG

World champion P V Sindhu exited the \$400,000 Hong Kong Open in the pre-quarterfinals but Kidambi Srikanth made the quarters for the first time in seven months after claiming a thrilling win in men's singles here on Thursday.

It was also curtains for H S Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap after they suffered contrasting losses in the second round.

World number 6 Sindhu went down 18-21, 21-11, 16-21 to world number 18 Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand in 69

minutes to continue her recent dismal run in international circuit. It was Sindhu's first loss to the Thailand player in 11 meetings.

Earlier, former world number 1 Srikanth, who slipped to the 13th spot in the latest BWF rankings this week, emerged as the only Indian survivor after notching up a 21-11, 15-21, 21-19 win over compatriot Sourabh Verma in the men's singles second round. Srikanth had last

Earlier, H S Prannoy suffered a 12-21, 19-21 loss to sixth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie in the second round.

reached the quarter-finals at the Singapore Open in April. The Gunter shuttler, who received a first-round bye from world number 1 Kento Momota of Japan, will face Olympic champion Chen Long of China next.

Earlier, H S Prannoy suffered a 12-21, 19-21 loss to sixth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie in the second round.

Former Commonwealth Games

champion Kashyap played his heart out before going down narrowly to world number 2 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 21-12, 21-23, 10-21 in a match that lasted exactly an hour.

In other results, fourth seeded Japanese pair of Arisa Higashino and Yuta Watanabe beat Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa 21-19, 21-12 in 42 minutes in the mixed doubles.

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Former Commonwealth Games

now preparing me for that," said Phogat. "I made the decision to jump into this with my full heart and will.

My goal is to become the first Indian woman to win a mixed martial arts World Championship. I believe I'm in a great position to represent my country and I want to inspire as many women as I can. It's an honor."

Phogat is already an accomplished athlete, having garnered multiple accolades throughout her competition career. She is a Commonwealth Wrestling Championships Gold Medallist, World U23 Wrestling World Championships Silver Medallist, Asian Wrestling Championships Bronze Medallist, and multiple-time Indian National Wrestling Champion.

Already a recognizable face in her home country, Phogat now enters the international arena.

She looks to make her presence known. "One of my goals is to bring honor to Indian martial arts. I think it's really important that we celebrate my country's culture and history and I really hope I can represent that well on the global stage," said Phogat. "I have big plans, but first, I have to

take care of business against an opponent who wants to spoil the party. I've prepared well for this, but this is my first time, and we'll have to see where I am after this fight."

Ritu Phogat will make her professional mixed martial arts debut tomorrow and how she performs against her opponent, Nam Hee Kim, will be a great indicator as to how far she has yet to climb the mountain until she reaches the top. Reaching the pinnacle of the sport is something she is completely focused on. For Phogat, it's only a matter of time. "I'm in no rush."



India's captain Virat Kohli, center, and teammates celebrate the dismissal of Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan, right, during the first day of first Test between India and Bangladesh in Indore

Lacked mental strength to counter pace attack: Mominul

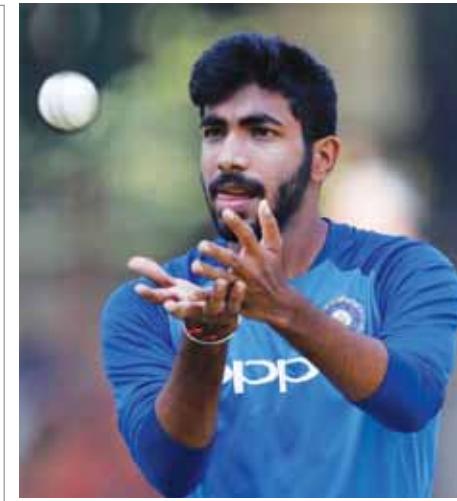
PTI ■ INDORE

Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque on Thursday admitted his team lacked the mental strength required to counter India's formidable pace attack on the first day.

Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav shared seven wickets between them to bundle visitors for 150 runs. More importantly, Bangladesh's lower-order batsmen looked scared to face the Indian pacers.

"The wicket wasn't unplayable at all or else myself or Mashfiqur (Rahim) wouldn't have scored the runs that we scored. The problem is that when you are playing the world's No 1 Test team, you have to be mentally far more stronger," Mominul said at the end of the day's play. Asked about the match situation, Mominul made it clear that it will be very difficult to save the game from here on.

"Let's be practical. They have already scored 80 plus. We are lagging far behind and it will be very difficult to save the game from this situation."



Very few world class bowlers in Test cricket now: Tendulkar

PTI ■ INDORE

A dearth of quality pace bowlers has all but put an end to the iconic duels which once added to the charm of Test cricket, said the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, who is worried about the traditional format's health.

A Sunil Gavaskar vs Andy Roberts, Dennis Lillee or Imran Khan was worth the wait during the 1970s & '80s. Similarly a Tendulkar vs Glenn McGrath or Wasim Akram used to be a connoisseur's delight.

But not anymore, feels the man, who played 200 Test matches in his illustrious 24 years in international cricket.

"Rivalries which people invariably looked forward to are no longer there because there are very few world-class fast bowlers right now. That element I am sure is missing. The quality of fast bowling can surely be better without any doubt," Tendulkar said while analysing how cricket has evolved in the past 30 years (15th November, 1989) since he made his debut.

Asked if the competitiveness, as far as Test cricket is concerned, is confined to only three countries (India, Australia and England), the maestro agreed.

"The standard of cricket has gone down which is not great news for Test cricket. The standard needs to go up and for that, I would again say that the root cause is the playing surfaces," he said.

"Sometimes you feel that every spell they bowl, something is happening or they make it happen," the off-spinner added.

He however denied that he and Ravindra Jadeja will be changing their approach because the pacers have started taking the lead.

"As a bowler, I personally never looked at it that way. It's my job to pick up a wicket and try and capitalise if the pacers don't pick a wicket then get a breakthrough."

"Having said that, I am taking nothing away from the fast bowlers. They have been exceptional, especially if you look at Umesh over the last few years since 2016 when the home season happened. He has always given us an early breakthrough. Ishant has been splendid and Shami has probably in his best rhythm in his entire career," said the man, who completed a feat of 250 Test wickets at home.

"I think Shami, Ishant and Umesh have been bowling well as a pack and if you add Bumrah to it over the last few months or a year

exactly having a great day as far as slip catching was concerned. Umesh could have got Mashfiqur early had Kohli latched on to one in the third slip."

"Ashwin had both Mashfiqur and Mahmudullah Riyad dropped by Rahane at first slip."

"It didn't cost the team much but the frustrated bowler then decided that breaching the defence was the best option as Mominul Haque (36) and Mahmudullah were dismissed due to poor judgement and shot selection respectively."

For someone, who has seen the evolution of the game from Test cricket to T20s, Tendulkar remains a purist at heart, who would never endorse an IPL performance as being good enough to merit selection in the ODI and Test team.

"I feel this year's Ashes had some of the best Test pitches in recent times. Magnificent I would say. The only time they moved to Old Trafford, you saw that Test wasn't as exciting as the ones at the Headingley, or the Lord's Test or for that matter even the one at the Oval. I thought those Test matches were exciting," he said.

For someone, who has seen the evolution of the game from Test cricket to T20s, Tendulkar remains a purist at heart, who would never endorse an IPL performance as being good enough to merit selection in the ODI and Test team.

Unless, of course, the player in question is as exceptional as Jasprit Bumrah.

GET SET GO

Ishant, Shami & Umesh combine together and blast Tigers out for 150

PTI ■ INDORE

India's pace troika was at its menacing best against an under-confident Bangladesh, helping the home team seize control of the first Test at Holkar Stadium on the opening day itself.

On one of the bounciest tracks in recent times, Bangladesh were bundled out for 150 in 58.3 overs, lasting barely two sessions and a few overs more on Thursday.

With ample time at their disposal, India ended the day at 86 for 1 in 26 overs, losing Rohit Sharma's (6) wicket to Abu Jayed.

The notable aspect during the Indian innings was Cheteshwar Pujara (46 batting) outscoring the more flamboyant Mayank Agarwal (37 batting) during their unbroken 72-run stand, leaving ominous signs for the four-man Bangladesh attack.

The first day's proceedings starkly highlighted the gulf between world's No 1 and No 9 Test sides.

Umesh Yadav (2/47 in 14.3 overs), Ishant Sharma (2/20 in 12 overs) and Mohammed Shami (3/27 in 12 overs) made life difficult for a team whose batsmen lacked both in technique and temperament.

A luckless Ravichandran Ashwin (2/43 in 16 overs), let

FASTEST TO 250 WICKETS AT HOME			
Bowler	Tests	Innings	
Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka)	42	72	
Ravichandran Ashwin (India)	42	81	
Anil Kumble (India)	43	77	
Ranga Herath (Sri Lanka)	44	82	
Dale Steyn (South Africa)	49	93	
Harbhajan Singh (India)	51	94	

MOST TEST WICKETS IN INDIA				
Bowler	M	Wkts	5WI	Best
Anil Kumble	63	350	25	10-74
Harbhajan Singh	55	265	18	8-84
Rav Ashwin	42	251	21	7-59
Kapil Dev	65	219	11	9-83
Ravindra Jadeja	32	157	7	7-4

STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

He again came in the post-tea session during which the tailenders looked scared, retreating towards square leg in fear of getting hurt.

Mohammed Shami, probably the craftiest among the contemporary Indian pacers, showed there is no one better when it comes to getting reverse swing with 50-over old SG Test ball.

Mashfiqur Rahim (43), Bangladesh's top-scorer, who led a charmed life and was dropped twice, didn't have a clue when one swung back to knock the stumps back after he was beaten by away going deliveries.

The next one by Shami swung even more as Mehidy Hasan Miraj (0) was adjudged leg-before although a DRS call could have saved him had he opted for one.

In the first session, Shami had dismissed Mohammad Mithun with conventional inswing.

Even without Jasprit Bumrah, who is nursing a stress fracture, the unit looked so formidable that it could sympathise with Bangladeshi batsmen facing their combined might.

They attacked relentlessly and it didn't matter that India weren't

down by Ajinkya Rahane in the slips cordon, also had a couple of clean-bowled dismissals in his kitty in the post-lunch session.

The three Indian pacers consistently bowled at 140 kmph, with seam, swing and bounce making life miserable for Bangladeshi batsmen.

Each of the three displayed different qualities and it was evident from the manner of dismissals.

Ishant's bowling was about disconcerting bounce from length

that had opener Shadman Islam caught behind and the occasional fuller delivery holding its line that forced Liton Das to edge one to Virat Kohli in the slips.

For Umesh, it started with brisk pace and getting it to seam into other opener Imrul Kayes and making him expect more incoming deliveries. Just when Kayes was getting used to a pattern, Umesh produced away going deliveries for the left-hander, squaring him up and the edge flew to slips.

They attacked relentlessly and it didn't matter that India weren't

Indian pace attack is one of most lethal in world cricket: Ashwin



PTI ■ INDORE

in Test cricket, I think it's one of the most lethal pace attacks going around in the world if not the best," Ashwin said at the end of play on the first day. "And I am saying that as a disclaimer, I don't want people judging me on that comment. But it's right up there and one of the best bowling attacks I have seen in recent times," he said.

"Sometimes you feel that every spell they bowl, something is happening or they make it happen," the off-spinner added.

He however denied that he and Ravindra Jadeja will be changing their approach because the pacers have started taking the lead.

"As a bowler, I personally never looked at it that way. It's my job to pick up a wicket and try and capitalise if the pacers don't pick a wicket then get a breakthrough.

"Having said that, I am taking nothing away from the fast bowlers. They have been exceptional, especially if you look at Umesh over the last few years since 2016 when the home season happened. He has always given us an early breakthrough. Ishant has been splendid and Shami has probably in his best rhythm in his entire career," said the man, who completed a feat of 250 Test wickets at home.

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Bancroft, Burns back for Pak Tests



AFP ■ SYDNEY

and Warner, but is more likely to play down the order if selected for the two Tests starting in Brisbane next week, followed by a day-night clash in Adelaide.

Burns was unlucky to be overlooked for the Ashes having scored a century in the last Test he played against Sri Lanka in February.

National selector Trevor Hohns suggested he would open with Warner, pointing out that "he has Test hundreds on the board and has combined very well with David in the past".

Harris and Khawaja miss out after failing to impress in England or in the Australia A match, which was seen as a "bat-off" for the Test slots up for grabs.

Middle-order batsman Travis Head, who was dropped for the last Ashes Test, was given another chance after young prodigy Will Pucovski, pulled out of contention citing his "mental wellbeing".

Hohns said Nester was included due to "his ability move the ball both ways, giving the team another bowling option depending on the conditions".

Australia Test squad: Tim Paine (capt), Cameron Bancroft, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marcus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner.

Test cricket returns to Pakistan

Sri Lanka confirm two-match series next month

PTI ■ LAHORE

Test cricket will return to Pakistan after more than a decade with Sri Lanka on Thursday agreeing to a two-match series in December, which will be a part of the traditional format's ongoing World Championship.

Sri Lanka played a bilateral One Day International and Twenty20 International series in Pakistan in September-October earlier this year despite 10 of its top players, including ODI captain Dimuth Karunaratne and Twenty20 skipper Lasith

Malinga, opting out due to security concerns.

The upcoming series' first Test will be played in Rawalpindi from December 11-15, while the second Test will be held in Karachi from December 19-23.

"This is a fabulous news for Pakistan cricket and its reputation of being as safe and secure as any other country in the world. We are thankful to Sri Lanka Cricket for agreeing to send their team for the longer version of the game," PCB Director (International Cricket) Zakir Khan said in a statement.

Khan said the confirmation will contribute in the PCB's efforts towards ensuring a regular resumption of international cricket in the country. Incidentally, Sri Lanka was also the last team to play Test cricket in Pakistan, back in 2009.

Sri Lanka were originally scheduled to play Tests in October and then return in December for a limited-overs series but the matches were swapped to "provide them the opportunity to assess the situation before deciding on the Test venues".

"Now that the itinerary has been confirmed, we will shift our focus on series preparations to ensure we deliver arrangements as per our very high standards," Khan said.

Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive Ashley de Silva said on an earlier visit, the SLC is comfortable and convinced that conditions are suitable and conducive for Test cricket.

TOUR SCHEDULE
December 11-15 1st Test, Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi
December 19-23 2nd Test, National Stadium, Karachi.

balls, a quickfire innings that included half a dozen sixes. This was after Delhi decided to bat at the Patel International Stadium.

Jammu and Kashmir made short of the 166-run target, racing to victory in 15.5 overs with eight wickets in hand. The flying start to the chase was provided by openers Shubham Khajuria (49 off 22) and Jatin Wadhwani (48 not out off 33) before Manzoor Dar smashed