

**WORLD 5**  
HK PROTESTERS EXPLORE  
SEWERS IN CAMPUS ESCAPE BID

**OPINION 6**  
POWER SHIFT  
IN COLOMBO

**MONEY 10**  
WILL RAISE TARIFFS IN  
NEXT FEW WEEKS: JIO

RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



CIRO IMMOBILE  
SHINES IN  
AZZURRI'S WIN  
11 SPORT



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

## CAPSULE

### OWAISI SLAMS DIDI FOR 'MINORITY EXTREMISM'

**Kolkata:** A day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee warned against "minority extremism" in an obvious attack on the AIMIM, Asaduddin Owaisi hit back on Tuesday, saying Muslims in the TMC chief's State are ranked "worst" on development indicators.

### SELFISHNESS IS BAD: BHAGWAT ON BJP-SENA

**Nagpur:** In a veiled reference to the recent BJP-Shiv Sena fallout over differences on Government formation in Maharashtra, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said that both sides will face loss if they "are going to fight over a matter". "Everyone knows that selfishness is a bad thing but very few people give up their selfishness," he added.

### 12-YEAR-OLD STOPPED ON WAY TO SABARIMALA

**Sabarimala:** A 12-year-old girl from Pudukkottai, who had come for darshan to Lord Ayyappa temple here along with her father, was not allowed to proceed to the shrine from Pamba on Tuesday morning.

### AILING NAWAZ LEAVES FOR LONDON FOR TREATMENT

**Lahore:** Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday left for London in an air ambulance to seek medical treatment for multiple diseases, days after a court here allowed him to travel abroad.

### SUPERSTARS PACT IN OFFING IN TAMIL NADU?

**Chennai:** Superstar Rajinikanth on Tuesday said he would join hands with Kamal Haasan for the welfare of people of Tamil Nadu if such a situation arose.

# House rises to Delhi pollution challenge

## MPs call for standing committee, demand integrated action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A debate on Delhi's alarming pollution level kicked off in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday on the second day of the Winter Session with Congress MP Manish Tewari suggesting a standing committee on pollution and climate change.

Trinamool Congress' (TMC) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who wore a mask during her speech in the Lok Sabha, called for a Swachh Hawa Mission. She said Delhi is staring at mass asphyxia.

Many MPs reasoned that it was unfair to blame only farmers for stubble burning, while keeping a blind eye to major polluters like industry, vehicles, civil constructions in Delhi. They criticised the Delhi Government for its failure to provide clean water.

Initiating the debate, Tewari pointed out how Beijing recovered from the hazardous pollution by curbing industrial and thermal wastes. He urged the Centre and the Delhi Government to resolve the issue with integrated actions.

Tewari said stubble burning is not a major pollutant in Delhi and adjoining areas, hence small farmers should not alone be blamed for the present situation in Delhi.

Participating in a discussion on "pollution and climate change", BJP MP from West Delhi Pravesh Verma slammed the AAP Government for passing the buck to neighbouring States where stubble burning is an annual phenomenon around this time every year.



TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh wearing a pollution mask arrives at Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI



A man rides a bike against the background of Rashtrapati Bhawan PTI

Verma also called upon the MPs to donate ₹2 crore from their Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund for setting up pollution control towers in Delhi as they spend over 200 days of the year in the city.

Pinaki Misra (BJD) too said stubble burning is not a major contributor to pollution in Delhi and the farmers should not be vilified. However, he suggested utilising stubble for bio gas to incentivise farmers against burning it. Misra urged for combined efforts of the Centre and States in curbing the rising pollution levels of water and air.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on air pollution in Delhi is scheduled to meet on Wednesday after most of its members and senior officials were absent at its last meeting. Their absence from the meeting had triggered outrage and raised questions about their seriousness in fighting the menace.

Panel's head and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal had written to the Speaker over the matter, expressing his "displeasure" at the absence of Government officials who were scheduled to brief MPs on the pollution crisis, especially in Delhi.

Verma alleged that by blaming villagers for pollution, Kejriwal was only widening the urban-rural divide.

The Speaker reminded Verma not to take the name of Kejriwal, but he went on attacking the Delhi CM.

Verma also called upon the MPs to donate ₹2 crore from their Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund for setting up pollution control towers in Delhi as they spend over 200 days of the year in the city.

Pinaki Misra (BJD) too said stubble burning is not a major contributor to pollution in Delhi and the farmers should not be vilified. However, he suggested utilising stubble for bio gas to incentivise farmers against burning it. Misra urged for combined efforts of the Centre and States in curbing the rising pollution levels of water and air.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on air pollution in Delhi is scheduled to meet on Wednesday after most of its members and senior officials were absent at its last meeting. Their absence from the meeting had triggered outrage and raised questions about their seriousness in fighting the menace.

Panel's head and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal had written to the Speaker over the matter, expressing his "displeasure" at the absence of Government officials who were scheduled to brief MPs on the pollution crisis, especially in Delhi.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on air pollution in Delhi is scheduled to meet on Wednesday after most of its members and senior officials were absent at its last meeting. Their absence from the meeting had triggered outrage and raised questions about their seriousness in fighting the menace.

Panel's head and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal had written to the Speaker over the matter, expressing his "displeasure" at the absence of Government officials who were scheduled to brief MPs on the pollution crisis, especially in Delhi.

Panel's head and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal had written to the Speaker over the matter, expressing his "displeasure" at the absence of Government officials who were scheduled to brief MPs on the pollution crisis, especially in Delhi.

Panel's head and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal had written to the Speaker over the matter, expressing his "displeasure" at the absence of Government officials who were scheduled to brief MPs on the pollution crisis, especially in Delhi.

## Air relapses into poor as wind slows down, stubble fires resume

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

After a brief breather, air quality in Delhi deteriorated again on Tuesday with overall Air Quality Index (AQI) at 249 µgm-3, mainly due to wind losing speed and resumption of farm fires in neighbouring States.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor SAFAR said as stubble transport-level winds are favourable, stubble burning is expected to account for 14 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Wednesday. It was 13 per cent on Tuesday. Kuldeep Srivastava, a senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said the maximum wind speed dropped from 18 kilometres per hour on Monday to 10 kmph on Tuesday.

Calm winds and low ventilation index are predicted for the next two days and the condition is conducive for the sudden accumulation of pollutants in the Delhi region, SAFAR said. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said on Tuesday that air quality will slip into very poor category from poor category. Particulate Matters (PM



Traffic plies on a relatively clear day in New Delhi on Tuesday AP

2.5 and PM 10) were recorded 179 and 111 respectively.

Pollutant values will escalate three folds, according to pollution monitoring agencies. PM 10 will exceed 400 and PM 2.5 will cross 250 by Wednesday.

Delhi's 13 hotspot areas are facing tough time in dealing with air pollution. Dwarka Sector 8 recorded 460 µgm-3, Greater Noida (272), and Noida (256). RK Puram, Punjabi Bagh, Anand Vihar, Mandir Marg, Mundka witnessed toxic air.

The Supreme Court-mandated anti-pollution authority, EPCA, asked Delhi-NCR to step up surveillance and enforcement to check local sources of pollution and crop burning in view of the predicted dip in air quality.

## JNU protesters booked for rioting; students demand no legal action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday filed two FIRs against the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for damaging public property, rioting and obstructing public servants from discharging their duty during the protest against the hostel fee hike. Police action came after the clash between police and students during the protest march by the protesters on Monday.

However, the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU), on Tuesday demanded that no administrative or legal action should be taken against the students protesting against the hostel fee hike.

JNUSU president Aishwarya Ghosh said they had a meeting with the Joint Secretary of the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry, GC Hosur, and requested him to ensure no administrative action was initiated against the students for the protest.

Hundreds of JNU students had swarmed the street on Monday, bringing several parts of the city to a halt. The students took out a protest march opposing the recent fee hike



JNU students who got injured in police lathicharge shout slogans during a Press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

against which an agitation has been going on for over three weeks.

Some 30 police personnel and 15 students were injured in the scuffle during the eight-hour agitation. Police said that one FIR has been registered at South West Delhi's Kishangarh police station, and another at South Delhi's Lodhi Colony police station.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), South District, a case under sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the IPC has been registered at the Lodhi Colony police station.

Continued on Page 4

## Cong dominates Rajasthan urban bodies' elections

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The ruling Congress on Tuesday secured control over 20 local government bodies out of the 49 where elections were held last week in Rajasthan, with the BJP reaching the majority mark in only six.

The Congress won 965 out of the 2,105 wards in the urban local bodies, leaving the BJP trailing at 736, according to the results declared by the state election office.

The Bahujan Samaj Party won 16 wards, the CPI(M) got three and the Nationalist Congress Party two in the elections held on Saturday, the first municipal polls since the Congress came to power in the State last December.

Altogether, 385 independents won in the polls conducted across 24 of Rajasthan's 33 districts.

The results translated into clear majority for the Congress in 20 of the 49 ULBs. The BJP crossed the halfway mark in six urban bodies and the inde-



Congress workers celebrate their victory in the municipal elections in Beawar on Tuesday PTI

pendents form the majority in 23. Both the Congress and the BJP claimed they could muster support from independents to control nine or 10 other municipalities, apart from the ones where they emerged as clear winners.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the results were as expected. "It is a matter of happiness that people have given a mandate considering the performance of the Government," he told reporters.

Continued on Page 4

## Criticism spurs V-P to order review of marshals' uniform

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following criticism by some ex-Army officers and remarks of Opposition leaders, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday ordered a review of the new military-style uniform of marshals in the House.

The uniform was restyled from traditional Indian attire comprising turbans to dark navy blue and olive green military-style outfits with caps. Naidu mentioned in the House that the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha had come out with a new dress code for marshals. However, there have been suggestions and comments by politicians and well-meaning individuals on the same, he said.

"I have decided to ask the Secretariat to revisit the same," Naidu said. On Monday, when the marshals came wearing the new uniform together with aiguillette, some members commented if "marshal law was being imposed".

Customarily, the presiding officer of the House is flanked by two marshals who march ahead of the chairman to announce the commence-



A marshal in the new uniform at Parliament during its ongoing Winter Session in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

ment of proceedings and also assist the chair in organising the desk and bringing up order papers. Marshals earlier wore safari suits during summer and Indian bandgalas during the winter along with turbans.

The turbans were viewed by some as colonial legacy, leading to review of the uniform. On Monday, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had sought to raise a point on the marshals' new uniform. "Sir, the marshals...," he began only to be interrupted by Naidu.

Ramesh, however, insisted that there has been "a very significant change" in their attire. "Okay. You always make significant point at an insignificant time," Naidu had remarked on Monday. Some former Army officers have also criticised the new uniforms for marshals, terming them illegal.

Former Indian Army chief Ved Malik too objected to the new uniform of Rajya Sabha marshals, and called it "illegal and a security hazard".

Continued on Page 4

# Rising sea threatens watery grave for Indian coastal cities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the last 50 years, sea level along the Indian coast has risen by 8.5 cm with the decade between 2003 and 2013 showing the annual average rise at a greater speed.

On an average, the sea level along the Indian coast is considered to be rising at about 1.70 mm/year, but during the last decade (2003-2013) (till the time the reading was made) it experienced a rise at a rate of 6.1 mm/year, the Centre informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Union Minister Babul Supriyo, however, said since no long-term data on land subsidence or emergence are available the rate of increase of sea level due to climate change cannot be attributed with certainty. He was responding to a

question on whether several cities will be submerged as temperatures are rising due to global warming.

"However, the coastal areas that might get inundated due to the rising sea level need to be evaluated based on their elevation above mean sea level. Since no long-term data on land subsidence or emergence are available for these locations, the rate of increase of sea level due to climate change cannot be attributed with certainty," he said.

"For example, the higher rate of sea level increase at Diamond Harbour is also due to the larger land subsidence happening there. The same may apply to Kandla, Haldia and Port Blair as well," Supriyo told the Rajya Sabha.

The Minister further said that the rising sea levels can



exacerbate the coastal inundation along the low lying areas during extreme events such as tsunami, storm surge, coastal flooding and coastal erosion.

The Government's observation comes close to the heels of statement from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres who has described climate change as the biggest threat to sustainability as he voiced deep concern over the rising level of oceans.

"The most vulnerable areas are in Japan, China, Bangladesh and India," Guterres said speaking to reporters in Bangkok after attending the ASEAN Summit.



Workers create a floating boundary to make it safe for sea bathers in Kanyakumari on Tuesday PTI

A report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) too had warned that global sea levels are set to rise by at least 1m by 2100 if carbon emissions go unchecked, submerging hundreds of cities, including Mumbai and Kolkata, and in some cases entire countries.

"Extreme sea level events that used to happen once a century will occur every year in many parts of the world by the middle of the century because of global warming," the panel has warned.

The IPCC also warned that glaciers will continue to decline around the world, losing more than a third of their mass by 2100 under worst case emissions scenarios, with some disappearing entirely. Such losses pose "unavoidable consequences for river runoff and

local hazards", and will cause problems for the billions who rely on the water for drinking supplies and irrigation.

He cited a recent report by a research center that said the level of the oceans is rising much faster than what was forecasted because of climate change. The UN chief stressed that unless nations are able to reverse this trend, because climate change for the moment is running faster than actions being taken by Governments, the research forecasted that 300 million people will be flooded by sea water in the world by 2050.

"Dramatically, the most vulnerable areas are exactly in Southeast Asia, in Japan, China, Bangladesh and India," he said adding that Thailand risks to have 10 per cent of its population in flooded areas by the sea.

# No progress in Sena-NCP-Cong Govt formation efforts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The exercise for Government formation in Maharashtra made no headway on Tuesday with the scheduled meeting between the leaders of the Congress and NCP to thrash out niggling issues called off due to the former's "pre-occupation with late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary events."

But then, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi did chair a meeting with senior party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, AK Antony and Ahmed Patel, who have been tasked to hold the discussions with the likes of Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, Ajit Pawar from the NCP.

Despite of several rounds of talks between leaders of the three parties in Mumbai and Delhi, possibility of a Sena-led Government still remains at a nascent stage. NCP president Sharad Pawar held a meeting with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in Delhi on Monday who later said if the NCP-Congress have to take a view on Government formation, they have to first discuss it between themselves.

In the meeting Congress

decided to hold another round of talks with NCP in New Delhi to finalise the draft common minimum programme (CMP) while Kharge will lead the talks along with Party General Secretary K C Venugopal and state leaders.

AICC sources said that Congress leadership was informed that NCP is pushing for the rotational arrangement for the Chief Minister post between Sena and NCP. The deliberations on power sharing will be finalised by the high-powered committee for the three parties in this week and the final stamp will be put by the leaders of all the three parties.

As per the deal negotiated till the end of Sonia-Pawar meeting, sources said Congress will rest with Speaker's post and a Deputy Chief Minister post in the Government while NCP will get post of legislative council chairman. All three parties are likely to get an equal share in the Council of Ministers.

"The parties are negotiating for portfolios and the grand old party is seeking Home and Revenue while NCP desires to sit over Finance and Cooperatives. The Ministry of Cooperatives is Maharashtra is

## Tug-of-war between BJP-Shiv Sena turns bitter

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ongoing war between the erstwhile saffron alliance partners turned most bitter on Tuesday, as the Shiv Sena likened the BJP to an ungrateful 12th century Muslim invader Muhammad Ghori, who defeated and executed legendary Hindu king Prithviraj Chauhan through foul means, and castigated the Amit Shah-led party for removing it from the NDA summarily without even issuing a notice or giving it hearing. Miffed with the BJP's announcement about its "summary removal" from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) made on the seventh death anniversary of its late chief Bal Thackeray "who founded the very NDA", the Shiv Sena demanded to know in an editorial published its mouth-piece "Saamana". "Was the meeting of NDA constituents

perceived an important portfolio," said a senior Congress leader closely monitoring the Maharashtra developments adding that Congress wants finalisation of the CMP before

called to discuss and decide on the removal of the Sena from the alliance? What was the basis for the removal of the Sena from the NDA?" "The seventh death anniversary of late Balasaheb came to be mired in politics. On a day when the nation was paying homage to the late Sena chief, the BJP perpetrated the nasty act of showing door to late Balasaheb's party from the NDA, an alliance founded by the very same leader," the "Saamana" editorial stated. Holding Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually responsible for erosion in the importance of the NDA during the last five and a half years, the "Saamana" editorial said: "Without any notice or discussion, the Shiv Sena was removed from the NDA, an entity whose existence has been diminished systematically during the last five and a half years. This is the beginning of the end of politics of arrogance and

moving forward to an official announcement.

The UPA alliance partners have deputed leaders for holding talks on a possible alliance with the Shiv Sena, a party

arbitrariness. We are saying this deliberately. The decision taken by the BJP in the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji will definitely boomerang on the party itself". Parliamentary Affairs Minister and BJP leader Prahalad Joshi, it may be recalled, had announced on Sunday that the Shiv Sena had ceased to be a part of the NDA after its move to align with the Congress and NCP to form a government in Maharashtra, and said: "So it is natural that they will be allotted seats on the opposition side in both houses". Drawing parallels between the BJP and Muhammad Ghori (1149-1206), an invader who laid foundation for Muslim rule in the country, the Sena editorial stated: "Of the total 18 small and big battles he fought with the Muslim invader, legendary Hindu king Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Mohammed Ghori 17 times. Every

Friday to be chaired by Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray.

In the last month's assembly polls, the NCP and the Congress, pre-poll allies, won 54 and 44 seats, respectively in the

time, Prithviraj Chavan spared Ghori of his life. Later Prithviraj paid heavy price for his generosity. Ghori came well prepared for the 18th battle and defeated Prithviraj. Forgetting the generosity shown to him by the Hindu king earlier, an ungrateful Ghori took Prithviraj as a prisoner and executed him". "In Maharashtra, we pardoned similar forces that indulged in betrayal and ungratefulness on several occasions in the past. The same forces are trying to stab us in the back. But the Shiv Sena will not easily spare such forces that stab Maharashtra in the back. If it realised that the Shiv Sena was aligning with the Congress, what was holding the BJP from calling a meeting of the NDA and issuing a charge-sheet against the Sena? Had the BJP been done that, things would have been established as to who is right or wrong," the editorial said.

close association with Hindutva and anti-Congressism.

Amid cautious approach by the NCP-Congress, Shiv Sena too has called a meeting of all its MLAs and senior leaders on

## Bhagwat warns BJP, Sena over break-up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As long-time allies BJP and the Shiv Sena remain unrelenting on their stance with the latter choosing to break the alliance, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday had a word of caution and advise for the two sides without naming them.

"Everyone knows that selfishness is a bad thing but very few people give up their selfishness. Everybody knows that both of them will face loss if they are going to fight over a matter," he said.

The head of the RSS to whom both the BJP and the Shiv Sena show their ideological adherence to, warned them of the adverse impact of fallout of their tug-of-war for power in Maharashtra.

Bhagwat, without naming the two former partners of the

previous alliance Government in Maharashtra, warned that "both will face loss" if they fought over any matter.

"Everyone knows that selfishness is a bad thing but very few people give up their selfishness. Take the example of the country or of individuals," Mr Bhagwat said at an event in Nagpur on Tuesday, news agency ANI quoted him as saying.

"Everybody knows that both of them will face loss if they are going to fight over a matter," he said.

The Sena's insistence of sharing Chief Ministership with the BJP had led both falling apart on the issue of Government formation in Maharashtra with former making friends with political rivals Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress in its bid to wrest power in the State.

Sena has 56 seats in its bag BJP emerged largest at 106 seats.

## CRPF writes to States, UTs on new security protocol for Gandhi family

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF has written to States and Union Territories about the new protocols for Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her family members' security and will soon seek Government nod for raising one more battalion for securing them.

But in the meantime, the Congress has given a notice to move an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha against the withdrawal of SPG cover of the Gandhi family. Describing the move as "arbitrary", the Congress in the notice said the security cover was withdrawn ignoring the existing and probable threats to the Gandhi family.

The Union Home Ministry central Government earlier this month replaced the Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover given to Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by the 'Z-plus'

category security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Officials said the paramilitary force will seek sanction from the government for procurement of specialised armoured vehicles to secure the new protectees including former prime minister Manmohan Singh besides the Gandhi family.

Informing the States and the UTs, the CRPF has articulated that the Gandhi family has been accorded an advance security liaison (ASL) protocol and this will require the "support" of their intelligence, police and administrative machinery prior to any of the five new protectees -- Sonia Gandhi, Rahul, Priyanka, Manmohan Singh and his wife Gursharan Kaur -- reaching their jurisdictions on official or personal tours.

Former PM Manmohan Singh's SPG security cover was withdrawn by the Centre in August.

As part of the ASL drill, a special CRPF team will travel at least 24 hours in advance to the location to be visited by these protectees and liaise with local authorities to sanitise the venue and isolate the areas that the VVIPs will visit.

Through the official communication, the five protectees will need to be given all administrative and police support along with route plans and travel maps.

In the Lok Sabha, the Congress on Tuesday gave a notice to move an adjournment motion against the withdrawal of Special Protection Group (SPG) cover of the Gandhi family.

Describing the move as "arbitrary", the Congress in the notice said the security cover was withdrawn ignoring the existing and probable threats to the Gandhi family. An adjournment motion is moved to stop the proceedings of the House to take up the issue raised in the motion.

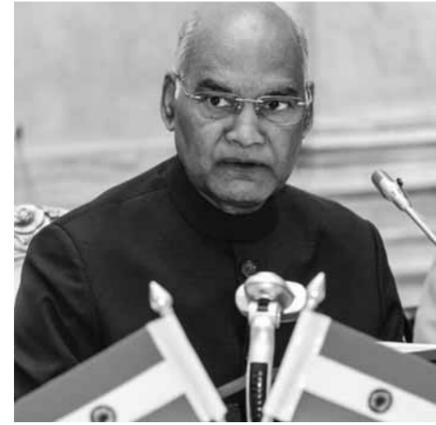
## IITs, NITs will find solutions to air pollution: Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday exuded confidence that the IITs and NITs, with their specialisations, will be able to find solutions to address the problem of air pollution as well as create sensitivity among students and researchers.

He was addressing the annual 'visitor's conference' at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, attended by directors of 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 31 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institute of Engineering Science And Technology (IIEST), Shibpur.

"This is that time of the year when the air quality of the national capital as well as of many other cities worsens beyond all norms. Many scientists and futurologists have painted doomsday scenarios. On days of smog and poor visibility in our cities, we fear the future might already be here," Kovind said. "We are facing a kind of challenge here that we have never faced before. Hydrocarbon energy changed



President Ram Nath Kovind addresses Directors of IITs, NITs and IIEST, Shibpur, during a conference at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

the face of the world in the last couple of centuries, but now it is threatening our very existence. The challenge is compounded for nations battling to bring substantial sections of populations out of poverty.

Yet, we will have to find alternatives," President Kovind said.

He expressed confidence that institutions like IITs, NITs with their various specialisations, would take care to create a sensitivity and awareness

among students and researchers towards our common future," Kovind said. "I am sure that your institutes, with your various specialisations, will find a solution and take care to create a sensitivity and awareness among students and researchers towards our common future," he added.

The conference was the part of regular interactions of the President with such institutions in his capacity as a visitor to 152 Central Universities and institutions of higher learning. The president said that after the government's efforts to improve India's ranking on the Ease of Doing Business Index, the aim is now to improve the Ease of Living for all citizens. "How can we move forward in that direction, and make life easier for all, especially those on the margins of society? Later this week, Governors of states will be here in Rashtrapati Bhawan and this will be one of the major points of deliberation in their conference. I am sure there are solutions in the area of Governance," he said.

## IN BRIEF

**'CHINA HAS INTRUDED MORE THAN 50 KM IN ARUNACHAL'**  
New Delhi: Please don't allow the next Doklam in Arunachal Pradesh as China has encroached more than 50 km of land of the State, BJP member Tapir Gao claimed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Whenever the President, PM, Defence Minister or Home Minister visits the State, objections are raised by China, he said raising the issue during Zero Hour.

**MODI PAYS TRIBUTE TO RANI LAKSHMIBAI**  
New Delhi: Describing Rani Lakshmbai as "brave and inspiring", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tributes to the warrior queen of Jhansi on her 191st birth anniversary. He said for millions of Indians, Rani Lakshmbai "personifies courage and fearlessness".

**CBI BOOKS CUSTOMS OFFICIAL FOR BRIBERY**  
New Delhi: The CBI has registered a case against a customs official for allegedly accepting a bribe to give clearance to imported goods at the Chennai Port, an official said on Tuesday. The customs official-Munusamy-works as an appraiser for the Customs Department and allegedly accepted a bribe of ₹40,000 in Chennai on Nov 12, he said.

**MARATHA QUOTA TRIAL IN SC ON JAN 22**  
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed January 22 to commence hearing a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of a Maharashtra law granting reservation for Marathas in education and jobs in the State.

**STUDENTS CELEBRATE WORLD TOILET DAY**  
New Delhi: Large number of students from schools and colleges formed a big "Human Chain" to celebrate World Toilet Day at Sulabh gram in National Capital on Tuesday. Well known Social Reformer and founder of Sulabh Sanitation Movement Padma Bhushan Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak joined hands with these children and volunteers.

## BJP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETING Ministers brief MPs on PM's foreign visits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday focused on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "successful" visits to several countries as well as his participation in events such as the UNGA and BRICS meetings, and India's refusal to join RCEP in "national interest". Modi did not attend the meet.

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal briefed BJP MPs on the issue in the first meeting of the Winter Session of Parliament and what it meant for India.

Interestingly, in the Lok Sabha BJP leader Bhartruhari Mahtab, during the day, sought to know during the zero hour as what were the gains for the country by joining BRICS vis-à-vis China who he said has favourable trade deficit and had emerged an economic power.

Jaishankar told MPs that refusal of India to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) had secured country's interests.

He spoke in detail about Modi's participation in the United National General Assembly meeting in the US in September and the "Howdy Modi" rally, attended by thou-

Refusal of India to join the RCEP had secured country's interests

sands of people of Indian origin (PIO), which was attended by US President Donald Trump. The Prime Minister's participation in the BRICS and ASEAN meetings besides his trips to Russia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Bhutan were also spotlighted, with Jaishankar telling the ruling party's lawmakers that Modi brought the

issue of terrorism to the fore and found support from most countries. The Foreign Minister mentioned the decision of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to accord their highest civilian honour on Modi.

In his briefing on India's decision to keep out of the RCEP, Goyal said it was in national interest as joining the grouping would have widened India's trade deficits with some countries and harmed its domestic industry, sources said.

Goyal said the UPA government favoured joining the RCEP but the Modi government has stood for the country's interest by keeping out of it.

## Onion output in kharif, late-kharif seasons may fall 26% to 52L tonne, says Paswan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Onion production in kharif and late-kharif seasons of 2019-20 is estimated to fall 26 per cent to 52.06 lakh tonne, putting pressure on supply and prices, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Tuesday.

The all-India average retail price of onion stood at ₹60.38 per kg on November 15, compared with ₹22.84 per kg on the same date last year.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, he said onion is a seasonal crop with harvesting period of rabi (March to June), kharif (October to December) and late-kharif (January-March). During July to

October, the supply in the market comes from stored onions from rabi season.

"During 2019-20, there was a 3-4 weeks delay in sowing as well as decline in sown area of the kharif onion because of late arrival of monsoon. Further, untimely prolonged rains in the major growing States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during the harvesting period caused damage to the standing crops in these regions," Paswan said. As a result, the Minister said the production of kharif crop was affected.

The rains during September-October also hit

transportation of crop from these producing regions to consuming centres, he said.

"This led to limited availability of kharif onions in the market and has put pressure on its prices," Paswan said.

During the current year, the production of kharif and late-kharif is estimated to be 52.06 lakh tonne, which is about 26 per cent lower than the previous year's production of 69.91 lakh tonne in the same seasons, the Minister said.

Paswan said the Government has banned onion exports and imposed stock limits to boost domestic supply and check prices.

## FROM THE PARLIAMENT

## J&K: 765 stone pelters arrested since Aug 5

Kashmir's administration had informed, a total of 34,10,219 tourists, including 12,934 foreigners, visited in last 6 months and an income of ₹25.12cr was earned

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed Lok Sabha that security forces had arrested 765 people in connection with stone pelting cases and incidents of stone pelting has declined in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370. "Since August 5, 2019 to November 15, 2019, 765 people have been arrested in 190 cases registered relating to stone pelting/law and order.

From January 1, 2019 to August 4, 2019, 361 such cases were registered," said Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, replying to a written question in the Lok Sabha.

"Investigation has revealed that various separatist organisations and activists, which are part of the Hurriyat, have been behind the incidents of stone pelting in the Kashmir valley. The NIA has chargesheeted 18 persons in terror-funding cases so far," he said.

Reddy said the Government had adopted multi-pronged policies to check the stone pelting menace and had succeeded in curbing it to the extent that a large number of troublemakers, instigators and mob mobilisers were identified and various preventive measures taken against them,

including detention under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) and preventive arrests.

Replying to another question, Reddy said the J&K administration had informed that a total of 34,10,219 tourists, including 12,934 foreigners, visited J&K in the last six months and an income of ₹25.12 crore was earned through tourism during this period. The Minister said after the abrogation of Article 370, initially, attendance of students was thin in the schools of J&K, which gradually picked up and at present, stood at 99.7 per cent during the ongoing examination.

On a question related to use of pellet guns since August 5, the Minister said pellet guns were used with abundant caution, only to deal with severe law-and-order problems to

avoid civilian casualties.

Regarding Left Wing Extremism, the Minister said violence dropped by 43 per cent between May 2014 and April 2019 compared to the five years before that, the Centre said on Tuesday, and disclosed that only 10 districts accounted for two-third of the incidents. Reddy said that the steadfast implementation of policy has resulted in consistent decline in violence and in the geographical spread shrinking.

"Only 10 districts account for 2/3rd of Left Wing Extremism violence. The LWE related incidents of violence between May-2014 to April-2019 have been 43 per cent lesser while compared with the preceding five years period," he said in response to a written question.

## Birla warns members over sloganeering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday warned that he will be forced to take action against members protesting in the Well as Congress and other Opposition parties, including DMK and TMC, indulged in sloganeering.

The Speaker also took note of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's absence from the House and said he had wanted to give a chance to the former Congress president during Question Hour as the latter's name being listed for a question on "PM Gram Sadak Yojna" in Kerala.

From the word go, Lok Sabha again witnessed, for the second-day, scenes of sloganeering with Congress-led opposition trooping in the well of the house, shouting against the Modi-Government. This followed Congress,

DMK and TMC seeking to raise their respective issues during the question hour but were disallowed by the Speaker. Birla, however, did permitted them to speak soon after the question hour which was forced by Congress in the loud din created by the opposition MPs.

There were around 20 MPs from the Congress who had collected in the well of the house shouting "Tanashahi nahin chalegi". Besides the Congress, members from the National Conference were also in the Well.

Birla repeatedly requested the protesting members to go back to their seats as the questions were about farmers' issues. He asked Congress and DMK MPs to speak on the farmers issue which was being taken up in the house.

As the protests continued and seemed coming closer to his chair, an indignant Speaker warned that action would be taken against members and he may even name them.

"There might have been precedents of protesting in the Well. From today onwards, no (member) will protest in the Well. If not, I will be forced to take action," he said. At one point of time, the Speaker also said that he would give a chance for protesting members to ask supplementaries if they go back to their respective seats.

The members continued with their noisy protests until the commencement of the zero hour when they spoke on their respective issues including police action against JNU students, and thereafter staged a walk-out. Congress members sought to raise various issues, including the withdrawal of SPG

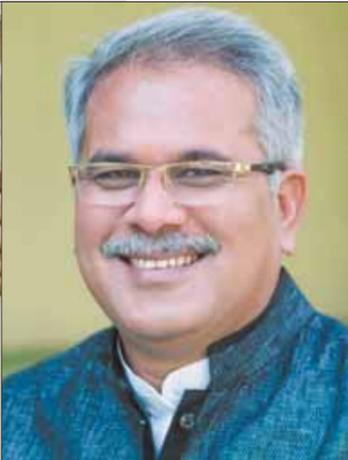
security cover of party president Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Speaker took note of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's absence from the Lok Sabha saying he had wanted to give a chance to the former Congress president during Question Hour.

"His (Rahul Gandhi's) question was listed for the Question Hour and I wanted to give him a chance had he been present," Birla remarked when K Suresh, Congress MP from Kerala, got up to speak during Zero Hour from Rahul's seat. The speaker asked Suresh to move to his designated seat and continue. As per the Lok Sabha schedule, question number 28 was listed against the name of Rahul.

The question pertained to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for Kerala.

# Baghel seeks PM Modi's help to procure paddy at ₹2500 per quintal



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has once again written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him for procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh at ₹2500 per quintal and inclusion of 32 lakh metric tons of rice from Chhattisgarh into central pool.

Chief Minister stated in his letter that every year, a large quantity of paddy is procured

Decentralized Procurement Scheme in Chhattisgarh state for state's requirement and central pool.

"I have written letters to you dated 05/07/2019, 25/10/2019 and 30/10/2019, requesting hike in minimum support price of paddy to ₹2500 quintal and procurement of 32 lakh metric tons of rice from Chhattisgarh for central pool," the letter read.

The letter added, "this year also, the process of paddy procurement is about to begin, to financially

empower the farmers of Chhattisgarh.

But Government of India's Food Ministry informed on October 24 that Government of India would not procure rice/paddy for central pool from the states that provide bonus on minimum support price fixed by Government of India. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that payment of proper value of their yield has resulted in prosperity and accelerated development in rural areas. Chhattisgarh remained untouched by the

recession across the state in the fields of construction, automobiles etc. This also indicates that hike in minimum support price has positive effects on financial condition of farmers and also boosts overall economy."

Chief Minister mentioned about the several attempts made by him to meet Prime Minister Modi personally but he has not been provided an appointment till date.

Chief Minister stated that following the suggestions received from PM office, he

met Union Agriculture Minister on November 14.

"Besides, I met Union Food Minister again on November 14 and made aforementioned request. But till date, Government of India has not reconsidered its decision regarding procurement" Baghel was quoted in the official press statement.

Baghel stated in the letter that Chhattisgarh is known as 'rice bowl'. "Government of India's decision may have adverse effects on procurement along with

other long-term negative impacts. In the context, I had a detailed discussion with all the MPs, all the political parties and various farmers' organizations on November 5. During the discussion, individuals, political parties and farmers organizations had unanimously supported procurement of paddy at ₹2500 per quintal. It is sad that none of the representatives from Bharatiya Janata Party participated in this discussion."

Chief Minister further said that in this situation, I request you again to kindly issue necessary directive-instructions for procurement of paddy at ₹2500 per quintal in Chhattisgarh and to accept 32 lakh metric tons of paddy from Chhattisgarh for central pool.

"If under any circumstances, Government of India does not increase the support price, then conditions of para-1 of Procurement MoU should be slackened, as it was done in year 2017 and 2018, so that state government may provide proper value of farmers' yield at its own expense. I request you to kindly provide appointment for meeting as soon as possible to address this extremely important financial issue of national interest, stated" said Baghel in the letter.

## 'Urban bodies' to go for polls in Dec'



STAFF REPORTER ■ AMBIKAPUR

State Election Commissioner Thakur Ram Singh on Tuesday said that the election for urban bodies in the state will be held next month.

Talking to media persons here, he said the Commission had already chalked out a schedule for the same and the process for the elections would begin this month.

Singh was here in Surguja headquarters Ambikapur to review the preparations for the polls.

The meeting also reviewed the preparations for security arrangements during the upcoming urban bodies elections. Followed by urban bodies' elections, polls for a three-tier panchayat bodies would be held in January, informed Singh.

## Three Naxals arrested in Bijapur

BIJAPUR: Three Naxals, including a woman, were arrested from a field in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, a senior police official said.

The three naxals identified as Podiyam Nagesh (26), Kadi Chandaiyya (45) and Madvi Mase (22). The arrests were made by a team of the CRPF and local police near Polampalli village under Basaguda police station limits.

"They were involved in Naxal incidents, including loot and murder. They have confessed to being part of the outlawed movement," a local senior police official informed.

## Ethanol plant to be set up in Bemetara district: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ BEMETARA

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced to set up an ethanol plant in Bemetara district, upgrade Nandghat sub tehsil to tehsil and Bimbhori as sub tehsil along with dedicating developmental works to the tune of ₹98 crore in Bemetara district on Tuesday.

Addressing a public gathering at Basic School Ground, Bemetara, Chief Minister assured the farmers that paddy will be procured at ₹2500 per quintal and Centre has been urged to procure paddy as



earlier. While speaking on the occasion, Home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said systematic development of Bemetara district will be

done and a four-lane road will be constructed.

He also spoke on as how state culture is being conserved and promoted and assured people of providing all assistance in developing tourists' spots in district.

Agriculture minister Ravindra Choubey urged people to harvest water to recharge ground water by building structures on rivulets.

Chief Minister gave away different materials based on various schemes for women and children, e-rickshaw, sewing machines, battery run tri-cycle and others.

## RERA makes web portal more transparent

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Making a major overhaul of its web portal, Chhattisgarh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (CGRERA) had made arrangements that from now onwards anyone could be able to see the details furnished by promoters and builders for their particular projects.

Official source informing about the changes in RERA website said that the details furnished by the builders related to sale, hypothecation and remaining houses for sale could now be visible to all.

The website would also have details of investment on projects in all the big cities across the state.

There would be quarterly



update in the records of the project and authorized chartered account- ant would make necessary timely revision on it, sources claimed.

## Quality roads parameters of economic devpt: Baghel



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday laid a foundation stone for road projects amounting ₹1983 crore at a function in state capital. Construction and

up-gradation of 479 kilometers of roads across the state would be carried out with assistance of Asian Development Bank.

Speaking on this occasion, Baghel termed excellent roads an indicator of economic

development of any state. With construction of roads under the project the villages and small towns would also get connectivity, he said.

The roads projects include renovation work of Bilaspur-Korba road and an adminis-

trative sanction of ₹30 crore has been made for this purpose, he added.

Regarding pending highway projects the Chief Minister informed that he had held talks with Union Road Transport and Highway Minister who had assured of speeding up the pending road works. Baghel further stressed on timely completion of projects apart from maintaining quality in construction work.

PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu speaking on this occasion stressed on the need of strengthening infrastructure for development of state.

The road projects for which foundation were laid include Tikarpara Raipur-Sejbahar-Semra-Bhakhara-Dhantari road worth ₹287.44 crore and road construction worth 148.76 crore in Gariaband starting from Panduka-Jatmai-Ghatarani-Gaidabri-Madeli-Mudagaon and a project worth ₹157.37 crore in Rajnandgaon district.



Chhattisgarh's Chief Secretary RP Mandal addressing employees of state secretariat on Tuesday in Nava Raipur which is described the first ever such interaction by any chief secretary of the state till date. Mandal advised the staff to be punctual and disciplined.

Pioneer Photo

# Ease process for visiting Kartarpur, say Punjab leaders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As the much looked-for Kartarpur Corridor continued to witness low footfall of pilgrims even after 10 days of its opening, the political leaders in Punjab are seeking easing of the process to visit the Gurudwara at the other side of the border from both Indian and Pakistani Governments.

Punjab Cabinet Minister and senior Congress leader Sukhbir Singh Randhawa on Tuesday demanded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal intervention urging him to ease the process for visiting Sri Kartarpur Sahib.

At the same time, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Badal urged Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to implement his "passport waiver announcement" besides removing the 20 dollars service fee condition.

Randhawa said that the "complex" process to visit Gurudwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal district of West Punjab in Pakistan is the biggest impediment for the Nanak Naam Leva Sangat, and it should be eased keeping in view their sentiments.

He appealed to the Prime Minister to intervene personally in the matter and issue

orders for making the process simplified to enable the sangat to visit Gurudwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib.

The Minister also demanded the waiving of conditions pertaining to the police verification and applying in advance. The condition of passport must also be lifted and the issue needs to be taken up with the Pakistan Government, he added.

"After the news of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeting regarding waiving the passport condition got out, the confusion has increased for the sangat as when they began to fill the online forms, they

encounter the column asking for passport details," he pointed out while appealing to the Prime Minister to direct the Union Home Ministry to do away with the passport details column.

"If the condition is still in force, then take up the issue with Pakistani counterpart," he said adding that most of the pilgrims belongs to the advanced age groups who don't have passports but they have a desire to visit Gurudwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib.

"The Home Ministry has imposed unnecessary conditions such as verification etc on the pilgrims applying for visit-

ing Gurudwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib, whereas the Indians going to Pakistan via Wagah and other countries don't have to encounter such issues," he pointed out.

**SUKHBJIR URGES IMRAN KHAN TO IMPLEMENT PASSPORT WAIVER ANNOUNCEMENT, REMOVE \$20 SERVICE FEE CONDITION**

SAD president Sukhbir Badal on Tuesday asked Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to waive the requirement of passport identification to access the Kartarpur Corridor besides asking him to do away

with the 20 dollar service fee being levied on pilgrims.

"Though the Pakistan Prime Minister had announced that a passport would not be needed to gain access to the Kartarpur Corridor by Indian pilgrims and that any valid identity would suffice, the Pakistan army had clarified later that entry would be given on the basis of a passport based identity only," he said.

Sukhbir asked Khan to instruct Pak Government officials to accept any valid identity except passports from the devotees. "Majority of people in the rural areas do not have passports. Moreover, making a

passport for this visit alone amounts to an additional expenditure of around Rs 2,000. Most of the devotees plan to travel in family groups and this means an average family would have to spend at least Rs 8,000 on preparation of passports besides additional expenditure on reaching Dera Baba Nanak," he said.

He added that if the 20 dollars service charge is also taken into account, an average family of four would have to spend around Rs 15,000 to visit Sri Kartarpur Sahib which is beyond the reach of under privileged sections of society. Sukhbir said that even

presently, passport was not needed except for identification purposes as no visa was being issued for the visit to Kartarpur Sahib. He also urged the Pak PM to waive off 20 dollars service fee being charged from pilgrims going to Sri Kartarpur Sahib through the Corridor. "The service fee is unjustified as it is against the basic tenets of Sikhism which stipulated that there should not be any obstacle in the way of 'darshan' of 'Guru ka ghar'. Removal of this fee would be in keeping with the spirit behind establishment of the Corridor to allow 'khule darshan deedar' of the last abode of Sri Guru Nanak Dev," he said.

## Google removes '2020 Sikh Referendum' app from Play Store

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

According to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's demand, IT giant Google has removed the secessionist, "anti-India" mobile application '2020 Sikh Referendum' from its Play Store with immediate effect.

"This app is not available any more on Google Play Store for mobile users in India," said a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's office.

The Chief Minister, who had also urged the Central Government to persuade Google in the matter, had asked the state Director General of Police (DGP) to coordinate with central security agencies to tackle the threat resulting from the launch of the app, created by ICETECH.

The app had asked the general public to register themselves to vote in the 'Punjab Referendum 2020 Khalistan'. A website with the address of

www.yes2khalistan.org was also launched on the same lines for the same purpose.

During analysis of the said application and the website in the DITAC Lab, Punjab, it was found that the data of voters registered through the app was also linked and stored in the web server of the website, www.yes2khalistan.org, created and handled by 'Sikhs For Justice' (SFJ), an Association banned by the Indian Government.

Based on these findings, the Cyber Crime Centre of Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, had moved to get the App removed from the Google Play Store and the website blocked for usage in India.

Subsequently, on November 8, 2019, a notice under Section 79 (3) B of Information Technology Act was sent to the Google Legal Cell for immediate removal of the mobile application from the

Google Play Store.

After obtaining approval from the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), a request letter was sent to Cyber Law Division, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, for blocking the mobile application from Google Play Store and the website, under Rule 9 (Blocking of Information in case of Emergency) of Blocking Rule (IT Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access of information by public) Rules, 2009.

On November 9, 2019, IGP Crime Nageshwar Rao and in-charge State Cyber-cum-DITAC Lab raised the issue with the Legal Cell of Google India, which was convinced that the Google platform was abused for committing illegal and anti-national activities by banned association 'Sikhs For Justice', followed by their decision to remove the app from their Play Store.

## Haryana Govt mulls allowing Ram Rahim-Honeypreet meeting

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The ruling BJP in Haryana seems to be inclined to favour Honeypreet Insan, an accused in the Panchkula violence case, to meet jailed Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who was convicted in August 2017 for raping two of his disciples.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Tuesday said that if law permits, Honeypreet can meet Dera chief Ram Rahim.

While talking to the mediapersons after reviewing the Police Department functioning in his first meeting after assuming charge, Vij said that the government has asked the police to re-examine the issue.

"The government is taking legal opinion on the application of Honeypreet to meet Ram Rahim and if there is no issue, she can meet him," Vij said, adding however, no decision has been taken on the issue so far.

"If there is positive report, we will allow them to meet very shortly," the Home Minister added.

Honeypreet, whose original



name is Priyanka Taneja, was released from Ambala jail on November 6 after she got bail from Panchkula court. Her bail came days after the trial court dropped sedition charges against Honeypreet and 35 other accused.

It is learnt that after being released from the jail, Honeypreet reached Sirsa based in Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters

and since then she has made several attempts to meet her foster father Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

Sources said that the meeting between Ram Rahim and Honeypreet could create law and order problem in the state.

On the issue of law and order situation, Anil Vij said, "All the aspects including law and order are being looked into minutely. Law and order

situation will not be allowed to deteriorate at any cost. Every person has the equal right to meet the convict and the law can't stop anyone from meeting any person. The law will be applied same for Honeypreet."

Notably, the self-styled godman Ram Rahim, who has a huge following in this region, had earlier sought a parole of 42 days for tending the sprawling

fields in his sect's headquarters in Sirsa town, but was declined owing to law and order problem with his release.

A special CBI court in Panchkula had in January also sentenced him and three others to life imprisonment for the murder of a journalist over 16 years ago. The 51-year-old is currently lodged in the high-security Sunaria jail in Rohtak.

## ECI holds training on Booth App for BLOs

### Webcasting of 25% booths

PNS ■ RANCHI

A three-member team of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday visited Jamshedpur to conduct an orientation workshop at XISS auditorium for block level officers on the use of Booth App.

While addressing the block level officials Deputy Election Commissioner Sudeep Jain said that a large share of the credit for successfully conducting elections in India goes to the BLOs.

"You have an important role of making voters aware and ensuring that they cast their votes. There are polling booths in India which have only one voter in the list. This shows the importance of every vote," said Jain. Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand, Vinay Kumar Choubey congratulated the BLOs for adding a large number of women and young voters to the electoral roll. He said



Deputy Election Commissioner Sudeep Jain, CEO Jharkhand Vinay Kumar Choubey, Election Commission Secretary Arvind Anand along with senior officials releases voters awareness calendar during a workshop in Jamshedpur on Tuesday

that the Booth App will be used in 10 Assembly constituencies spread across nine districts during the elections here. Praising the voters' awareness jingle released by East Singhbhum district administration, Choubey said that it would be linked to the

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program of the state. Through the Booth App, voters will be able to get real-time status of their polling booth and time their visit accordingly in order to avoid waiting in queue. The BLOs will also be able to

use the App and know the real-time status of voter turnout in a particular polling station. The App was used in pilot projects during the Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Haryana elections.

Booth app will be used in 49-Jamshedpur West and 48-Jamshedpur East Assembly Constituencies in this district.

Meanwhile, officials from the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Ranchi on Tuesday said that the polling process in at least 25 per cent of polling stations in all the districts will be webcasted. Deputy Secretary in CEO's office, Shabbir Ahmad said that all necessary arrangements are being made for live streaming of voting related activities inside the polling stations. On the polling day, the office of the CEO and dedicated control rooms in all the districts will monitor live webcasting at polling stations.

The control rooms, he added, will have a nodal officer and technical assistant. Timely and quick fixes for any error during live monitoring of webcasting will be ensured by the control rooms. For this, a police officer with a wireless set will also be deployed in the control room.

The flow of live streaming will be tested two days in advance in order to ensure zero lapses in the process on the day of polling. Elections for the 81 assembly constituencies in Jharkhand will begin on November 30 and end on December 20.

## DALIT YOUTH KILLING Probe role of medical officer, says Health Minister Balbir

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Taking strong cognizance of the allegations on medical officer for dereliction of duty in providing timely treatment to Jagmail Singh who subsequently died at PGIMER, Chandigarh, Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu on Tuesday directed the Principal Secretary (Health) Anurag Aggarwal to probe the matter and submit comprehensive report in three days.

As per media reports, Jagmail Singh was initially taken to the government hospital and the medical officer on duty did not discharge his duty properly and did not file the MLR (medico-legal report), said the official spokesperson of the Health Department. Spokesperson added that the media reports had levelled serious allegation on the part of medical officer on duty which became one of

the reasons for Jagmail Singh's death. Sidhu, taking strong notice of this case, asked the Principal Secretary (Health) to inquire the role of medical officer on duty and submit report to him in three days.

**National and state SC panels to conduct joint probe**

Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes (PSCSC) on Tuesday formed a two-member team comprising Commission members Gian Chand Diwali and Poonam Kangra to enquire the killing of the dalit youth. They would probe the issue jointly with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and submit its report to the Commission.

PSCSC chairperson Tejinder Kaur said that the Commission had taken suo-motu of this serious issue on the basis of news reports published on November 15 and sought a comprehensive report from Sangrur SSP.

## Cong dominates Rajasthan...

From Page 1

Apart from 20 urban bodies which went to the Congress, it claimed it is in a position to form the boards in about 10 more with the help of independent candidates.

"This is a resounding victory of the Congress in the urban local bodies election. Out of 49, the Congress will form boards in about 30 municipalities," Deputy Chief Minister and Pradesh Congress Committee president Sachin Pilot said.

"Our leaders and workers worked tirelessly for the last seven months and its result is that people have reposed their faith in the Congress," he said. He said BJP leader believed that their party has strong roots in urban areas. "But now that myth has been broken," he added.

BJP State president Satish Poonia said his party would control nine ULBs in addition to the six where it scored a majority. "This is not a major victory of the Congress. We are in a position to form boards in about 15 municipalities, including six where we have got a clear majority," Poonia said.

In Jhunjhunu district's Pilani nagar palika, independent candidates won 30 of the 35 wards. The 49 urban local bodies include three municipal corporations, 18 nagar parishads and 28 nagar palikas. Fourteen candidates were already elected unopposed. Altogether 71.53 per cent of the registered voters exercised their franchise. There were 7,942 contestants, including 2,832 women. Elections to the posts of chairmen and deputy chairmen of the local bodies will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Criticism spurs V-P to order review of...

From Page 1

Malik, who was the Indian Army chief during the Kargil conflict, took to social media to raise concerns over the new look of the Rajya Sabha marshals.

Tagging Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his tweet, Malik said he hoped that the Defence Minister would "take early action [sic]".

**IDFC First Bank Limited**  
(Erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chennai-600031.  
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

**Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from erstwhile Capital First Limited, (amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to erstwhile Capital First Limited, (amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	16246177	Loan for Purchase of Commercial Property	1. Shyam Service Station 2. Pawan Kumar Joshi 3. Prakash Joshi 4. Pramod Joshi	31-Oct-19	Rs. 11540381.86/-	KH. No. 124/34, P.H. No. 100, Village Rawabhata, Raipur, Chattisgarh-492001.
2	13591588	Home Loan	1. Bhima Chhatra 2. Usha Chhatra	02-Nov-19	Rs. 1461994.75/-	Plot No. 13, KH. No.256/2 Part, Ph. No. 02, Ward No. 17 Panchsheel Nagar Ward, Gram - Charoda, Tehsil - Patan, District -Durg,Chhattisgarh-491001.
3	8522638	Home Finance HL	1. Altaf Hussain 2. Satya Sahu	02-Nov-19	Rs. 3291181.17/-	KH No. 387/15 PH No. 114, Village Tikrapara, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to erstwhile Capital First Limited, (amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to erstwhile Capital First Limited, (amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
IDFC First Bank Limited  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

Date : 20.11.2019  
Place : Chhattisgarh

# JNU protesters...

From Page 1

"IPC sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 151 (knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons after it has been commanded to disperse), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act were also added to the FIR," said the DCP.

Opposition members in Lok Sabha on Tuesday described as "suppression of voice" the alleged baton-charge by police on JNU students demanding total rollback of hostel fee hike.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Saugata Roy (TMC), TN Prathapan (Cong) and Danish Ali (BSP)

accused the Government of using force to suppress the voice of students.

Meanwhile, the JNUSU, which has been leading the agitation against massive hostel fee hike for three weeks, said the strike would not be called off until their demands were met.

The students' union alleged that the Registrar of the University refused to meet the members of the HRD Ministry-appointed panel for mediating between the agitating students and the administration and recommending ways to restore the normal functioning of the University.

"We have got to know that the registrar refused to meet the HRD Ministry-appointed panel to mediate between us and the University. See their high-handedness. When they can refuse to entertain Government representatives, how can they be expected to

talk to us," Ghosh said.

Earlier on Monday morning, demanding complete rollback of the proposed hostel fee hike, hundreds of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) carrying placards and chanting slogans, marched towards Parliament on the first day of the Winter Session.

Section-144 was imposed outside the JNU campus ahead of the protest. Delhi Police personnel and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) stopped the students on the Baba Gangnath Marg, around 600 metres from the North gate of the University but the students jumped over the barricades.

Initially on Monday afternoon, the barricades outside JNU's gates were removed and the students were allowed to march towards Parliament but were again stopped on road outside the Safdarjung Tomb near Jor Bagh. The

students sat on the road which leads to long traffic snarls on Aurobindo Marg and it soon spread to other arterial roads as the cascading impact was felt till C-hexagon, the Indian Gate roundabout.

The police detained around 100 protestors, including JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, secretary Satish Chandra Yadav and former JNUSU president N Sai Balaji.

The marching students were finally prevented from moving further outside the Safdarjung Tomb, where, they alleged, the police baton-charged them, an allegation which was denied lock stock and barrel for the Delhi Police top brass.

Earlier, an FIR was registered against unidentified persons on Saturday last, over an incident of "defacement" of the JNU's administration block and the same is being investigated, said a police officer.

# China says only it can rule on Hong Kong constitution

AFP ■ BEIJING

China insisted on Tuesday it alone held the authority to

rule on constitutional matters in Hong Kong, as it condemned a decision by the city's high court to overturn a ban on

face masks worn by pro-democracy protesters. The statement raised hackles among activists in Hong

Kong after months of violent protests over concerns that Beijing is chipping away at the autonomy of the financial hub.



Injured protesters huddle under blankets as they walk at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong on Tuesday. AP

# Protesters explore sewers in HK campus escape bid

Hong Kong: Arms covered in cling film and torches in hand as they drop into the sewers, clusters of pro-democracy protesters still inside a Hong Kong campus are plotting increasingly ingenious — and desperate — ways to escape a police siege.

Among the detritus of a scorched and graffiti-sprayed concourse at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, several plastic covers — some with torches placed above them — betray extraordinary underground escape plans.

Protesters have removed metal manholes, some making exploratory forays into the fetid tunnels, following rumours of successful infiltra-

tions from a campus ringed for three days by baton-wielding police determined to arrest them.

Pockets of protesters, some with thick bandages wrapped around their knees in anticipation of a long crawl to freedom, knot the holes discussing an unlikely — and highly dangerous — breakout.

AFP reporters saw one group on their stomachs practising crawling. Another group hugged each other in consolation after apparently agreeing not to take the route down into the tunnels.

"The people outside can't help us," a protester told local television as he prepared to descend into a sewer. "So what

can we do?" One protester, gas mask on, and cling film wrapped around his arms, carried a torch as he descended with his backpack down the metal rungs into the subterranean gloom. AFP

## GLOBE TROTTER

**ONE DEAD IN S KOREAN FISHING BOAT BLAZE**  
Seoul: One fisherman was killed and 11 others reported missing after their boat caught fire off South Korea's southern coast, authorities said on Tuesday. The coast guard said the accident happened west of Jeju island.

**14 TALIBAN MILITANTS KILLED IN AF AIR STRIKE**  
Kunduz (Afghanistan): At least 14 Taliban militants, including a militants' divisional commander, were killed in an air strike carried out by Afghan Air Force in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province, police said.

**TALIBAN RELEASES TWO WESTERN HOSTAGES IN AF**  
Kandahar: The Taliban released two Western hostages in Afghanistan on Tuesday, handing them over to US forces more than three years after they were abducted in Kabul, insurgent sources and police told AFP.

**3 KILLED IN OKLAHOMA WALMART SHOOTING**  
Houma: Three people, including the suspected gunman, were killed in a shooting outside a Walmart store in Duncan, midwestern US state of Oklahoma, Police said.

# US gravely concerned by deepening political unrest in HK, says Pompeo

Washington: The US is gravely concerned by the deepening political unrest and violence in Hong Kong, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said, urging the city's government to address public concerns and China to honour its promises

of liberties. Pompeo's remarks came amid a dramatic escalation in unrest, with Hong Kong police threatening to fire live bullets if demonstrators did not stop using weapons in the latest anti-government protests. PTI

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI  
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001  
SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE

R. C. No. 406/2015

ICICI BANK VS MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993

CD#1 Mr. Harish Kumar Goswami, H/No. 410/0, Punjab Line Railway Colony, Ghaziabad-200001.  
Also At: Mr. Harish Kumar Goswami, House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Village Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001.  
CD#2 Ms. Asha Devi Goswami, H/No. 410/0, Punjab Line Railway Colony Ghaziabad-200001.  
Also At: Ms. Asha Devi Goswami, House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Village Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001

Whereas as per Recovery Certificate No. 406/2015 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II mentioning a sum of Rs.11,15,124/- (Rs. Eleven Lacs Fifteen Thousand One Hundred And Twenty Four Only), CDS are jointly and / or severally liable to pay the amount of Rs. 11,01,124/- (Rs. Eleven Lacs One Thousand One Hundred And Twenty Four Only) alongwith future interest @9.75% p.a. from the date of filing of the OA, i.e. 05.01.2015 until recovery with cost.

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.  
3. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.banksauctions.com on 18.12.2019 between 03:00 p.m. to 04:00 p.m. with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 12 noon, if required.

4. The sale shall be of the property of the CD(s) above-mentioned as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

5. The property shall be put up for the sale as specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale will also be stopped, if before auction is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

6. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

7. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions:  
7.1 The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis statement or omission in this proclamation.

7.2 The reserve price below which the properties shall not be sold and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) are as under:

Description of property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	9,23,000/-	92,300/-

7.3 The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price, alongwith documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof, etc., and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, latest by 16.12.2019 before 4.00 PM in the Office of the Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 18.12.2019. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

7.4 The bidder(s) shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only).  
7.5 The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.

7.6 The Successful/highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015 by next bank working day i.e. by 04.00 PM with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

7.7 The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

7.8 In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

8. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".  
9. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found Unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

### SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property Other partur bearing on its nature and value
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	Not known	Not known	Not known

Given under my hand and seal on 26.10.2019.

(Awinesh Chandra)  
Recovery Officer-II,  
DRT-II, Delhi

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI  
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

RC 406/2015

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE  
ICICI BANK VS MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI

Dated: 26.10.2019

As per my order dated 26.10.2019, the under mentioned properties will be sold by public auction sale on 18.12.2019 in the said Recovery Certificate. The auction sale will be "online e-Auctioning" through website www.banksauctions.com

Date and Time of Auction: 18.12.2019 between 03.00 pm and 04.00 pm (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	9,23,000/-	92,300/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" through website portal: www.banksauctions.com.  
2. The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/c R.C. No. 406/2015". The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 16.12.2019 before 4.00 PM. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.

3. The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc., should be super-scribed "RC No. 406/2015".  
4. The property is being sold on "as is where is basis".  
5. The bidders are advised to go through the portal www.banksauctions.com for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Videcom Tower, Handewalan Extn. Delhi. Mobile no. 9650957770. Email ID: mohit.chadhaa@icicibank.com.

6. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015, Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@cindia.com and support@banksauctions.com.  
7. The interested bidders may avail online training on e-auction, after deposit of EMD from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015, Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@cindia.com and support@banksauctions.com.

8. Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line auction.  
9. The prospective buyer may inspect the site on 09.12.2019 and 10.12.2019 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM.  
10. The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by 16.12.2019 in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 18.12.2019. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

11. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)  
12. The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.  
13. The Successful/highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015 by next bank working day i.e. by 04.00 PM with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

14. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015, the balance 75% on the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses at the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.  
15. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dasti suced post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat ut drum in its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal  
16. Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in vernacular language, having adequately wide circulation in the area.  
17. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs of the publication be filed before next date of hearing.  
18. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.

Matter be listed on 29.11.2019 in filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of - auction.

(Awinesh Chandra)  
Recovery Officer-II,  
DRT-II, Delhi

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI  
R. C. No. 406/2015 / ICICI BANK VS MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI

Item No.10

Dated Present: 26.10.2019  
Present: Sh. Anuj Kumar, Proxy counsel for Sh. Gautam Singhal, Counsel for the CH Bank  
Proxy counsel for the CH Bank submitted that the sale 09.09.2019 has not been published as the officer of the CH Bank Sh. Mukesh Sharma has been transferred and Sh. Mohit Chadhaa has taken his charge. He requested to issue a sale proclamation notice after incorporation of the name of the Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager (Mobile No. 9650957770). Request allowed.  
Direction  
1. Let the property bearing House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001 be put on sale through E-auction on earlier reserve price and sale proclamation qua the same be issued.  
2. CH Bank is directed to serve the same through all prescribed modes and file service report on or before the next date of herring. The CH Bank is also directed to serve sale proclamation notice upon the concerned e-auction service provider well in time.  
3. The detailed order of E-auction be seen on the separate order sheet.  
4. CH Bank is also directed to file on affidavit memo of cost giving details of all expenses incurred in connection with the auction including publication of advertisement after completion of auction proceedings.  
Let a copy of this order be given dasti to the CH Bank for compliance.  
Let this matter be listed on 29.11.2019

(Awinesh Chandra)  
Recovery Officer-II,  
DRT-II, Delhi

# Subpoena requesting Trump's financial records temporarily blocked

Washington: US Chief Justice John Roberts said that the Supreme Court has issued a temporary stay of a federal appeals court ruling that granted a House Committee access to eight years of President Donald Trump's financial records from his accounting firm.

The ruling was set to go into effect on Wednesday. The subpoena from the House Oversight and Reform Committee will be unenforceable while the Supreme Court decides whether to take up the case, reports Xinhua news agency.

The House panel said on Monday in a letter to the Supreme Court that it would agree to the temporary stay to allow the justices to weigh in.

Trump's legal team on November 15 had asked the Supreme Court to put a hold on the panel's subpoena, arguing that if the lower court rulings are allowed to stand, any committee of Congress could subpoena any personal information it wants from a President. IANS

# In new pro-Israel shift, US no longer calls settlements illegal

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States no longer believes that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories are illegal, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on Monday, in the latest pro-Israel shift by Washington.

The statement puts the United States at odds with virtually all countries as well as UN Security Council resolutions and was hailed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a close ally of President Donald Trump who is days away from potentially losing office.

"After carefully studying all sides of the legal debate," Pompeo told reporters, the United States has concluded that "the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not, per se, inconsistent with international law."

"Calling the establishment of civilian settlements inconsistent with international law

hasn't worked. It hasn't advanced the cause of peace," Pompeo said.

Pompeo said that the United States was not necessarily considering the settlements legal either but instead would defer to the judgment of Israeli courts.

The Palestinian Authority — which has refused negotiations through the Trump administration, which it considers biased — denounced the latest decision.

Washington is "not qualified or authorized to cancel the resolutions of international law, and has no right to grant legality to any Israeli settlement," Palestinian presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeinah said in a statement.

But Netanyahu said that the US shift "rights a historical wrong" for the 600,000 Israeli settlers who live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem among around 2.9 million Palestinians.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client Dina Nath, S/o Shri Shankar Lal, R/O: House No.-59, Vign Garden Extension, North Block, Road-17, New Delhi-59, has ejected his elder son sansi varma, age about 26 years and the wife of sansi varma Smt. Shilpi, age about 29 years, from his properties due to dirty behavior toward my client Sh. Dhanraj (Mother & Father of Sansi Varma), Sansi Varma Smt. Shilpi wants to capture/occupy the movable and immovable property of the family father and mother.  
If any person has made any transaction with Sansi Varma Smt. Shilpi, the family father and mother will not be responsible for any transactions and/or any act. No person can claim from family father and mother about the transactions or act of Sansi Varma & Smt. Shilpi.  
Any act of Sansi Varma & Smt. Shilpi, only Sansi Varma Smt. Shilpi will be responsible for any act of Sansi Varma Smt. Shilpi.  
This Notice is published on behalf of my client Dhanraj to inform and warn the general public not to make any transaction with Sansi Varma Smt. Shilpi. If any person does this that only person and Sansi Varma Smt. Shilpi shall be responsible.  
Manoranjan Sharma (Advocate)  
No. 9853790497

## LOST & FOUND

This is to state that we, Mr. Divesh Mehta and Mr. Nitesh Mehta S/O Late Shri Niamat Rai Mehta residents of Flat No. 45-A, Ground Floor, Block-C2, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035 have lost the original allotment cum demand letter, possession letter, site possession slip and water & electric NOC at INA Market, New Delhi, for above mentioned flat. The FIR (LR No: 1012908/2109) has been lodged with the SHO, Crime Branch, Delhi dated 03-05-2019. Any unauthorized use of the above mentioned original papers would be illegal and would attract legal consequences. If documents are found please return to Mr. Divesh Mehta or Mr. Nitesh Mehta at their above mentioned address and contact us on +91-9811154793.

# Sharif leaves for London in air ambulance

Lahore: Ailing former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday left for London from here in an air ambulance for further treatment. He was accompanied by his brother, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif and other personnel, including his personal physician Adnan Khan, reports Dawn news.

The air ambulance, which arrived from Doha on Tuesday morning, is equipped with an intensive care unit and an operation theatre, with a team of doctors on board. IANS

# Rajapaksa seeks resignation of PM Wickremesinghe

Colombo: Sri Lanka's former strongman President Mahinda Rajapaksa has sought the resignation of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe after his younger brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the President, asserting that governance will improve if the President and the Cabinet are from the same party. Addressing the media after a religious ceremony organised for his 74th birthday on Monday, the Opposition Leader in Parliament said it would be more effective to have a Government where the President and the Cabinet are from one party. PTI

# No talks until US drops hostile policy: N Korea

IANS ■ PYONGYANG

A senior North Korean official has put forward new conditions for talks with the US, saying Washington should give up its hostile policy before coming to the negotiation table with Pyongyang.

"The US always calls for negotiation for denuclearization, but there is no room to say

about the negotiation before the complete and irrevocable withdrawal of its hostile policy toward the DPRK, the root cause of the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula," the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported on Tuesday citing Kim Yong Chol, chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, as saying on Monday night.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Ms. Harvinder Kaur Gareha, W/o Late Sh. Mohan Singh Gareha, R/o S-378, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, has instructed me to get published in you esteemed column the following legal notice:-  
I hereby inform that the property bearing no. S-378, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 is an immovable built up property owned by Mahan Singh Gareha who has left for his heavenly abode on 26/04/2019. The said property is subject matter of litigation in the court of law among the legal heirs. Anyone who deals in the said property individually with any single legal heir or without the consent of all legal heirs shall be doing so at his/her, their own risk and consequences.  
Chamber No. D-319, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032  
Enr. No. D-962/2900  
Mobile No. 9717359900

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This my client Gita Chopra W/o Shri Amit Chopra R/O R/U-430, G.F., Pitampura Delhi-110034, has (lost/misplaced her original Sale Deed in respect of flat no.430,G.F.,Block-RU,Pitampura,Delhi-110034. And to publish the misplacement of said sale deed in news papers on her behalf.  
DINESH DUJA Advocate  
Delhi High Court  
Enr. No. D/834/91; Moo. 9810322720  
Place Delhi; Dated: 20.11.2019

## Student uprising

The JNU fee hike could be reasonably negotiated but using force on students means undoing what we teach them to do



Student movements have had transformative and revolutionary power in world history, from 13th century Paris to the climate activism of Greta Thunberg. That's how our societal and education systems have raised our young to be, question the status quo if it is unjust, create a liberal order, chase passions and ideals that are yet uncorrupted by politics and do so with a "can do" spirit that has not yet been bartered away to compromise. That's why students have overturned regimes

across the world, because all they need is a generational contiguity to override everything else and generate a populist swell. At home, the Nirbhaya and Jessica Lal vigils, Dalit or gay rights would not have changed outcomes had the students not taken the lead. And they have all begun as non-violent, peaceful sit-ins and marches till retaliation was forced by State repression. However, one must cite the college students versus Government protests in Iran of 1999 during which Ayatollah Khamenei had to instruct the police to restrain itself even if it meant that students burnt his posters or tore them apart. This was remarkable in a regime intolerant of any kind of alternative discourse or dissent but Khamenei was aware that student activism had freed itself from State fear and politics and in the long-term could be a challenge if not accommodated. Suppression would only beget harsher rejection and counter-reaction. Therefore, such pragmatism should have also dawned on authorities in New Delhi before they used the police to literally beat up protesting JNU students wanting to march to Parliament and be heard on a surprise fee hike. Cracking down on them mercilessly has not only emboldened them further but shown up the Modi Government as a bulldozer of what JNU stands for, an institution of excellence and learning that attempts classlessness in thought and action, encourages free and radical thinking and a convergence of ideas fearlessly. The ostensible row over a fee hike has taken a back seat due to such mishandling. The Modi Government has clearly overlooked the practicality of raising fees and used it as a ruse to suppress what it really wants, take over and crush a seat of Left-leaning liberalism, one that its proponents dismiss as a despicable clan called "JNU type." Particularly, malign a university that bears the name of India's first Prime Minister. The Government is making a classic mistake of resorting to symbolism. Negotiations could have taken care of much of the problem. But the suddenness of the fee hike was clearly meant to provoke students and make them look like perennial trouble-makers who needed to be taught a lesson. The students' angst over the almost 300 per cent hike is understandable as it's astronomical and insensitive, instead of being graded and phased out as all transitions to a new protocol should be. For long, JNU has been offering succour to the poorest of families, who could not afford a respectable education for their children due to the hefty fees charged by other eminent institutions. It is also a fact that JNU had been operating under a differential fee regime compared to its counterparts. A room rent of just ₹20 per month for a single-seater or ₹10 per month for a double seater, that, too without any utility or service charge, is a dream in the heart of Delhi. This is the reason why students prolonged their stay at the hostels, enrolling in course after course while working part-time. Old students overstaying led to a chronic hostel shortage for newcomers. In this sense, it is welcome that the varsity has finally woken up to the dangers of big subsidies. Yet it must be accepted that a steep hike, coming after 19 years, is an injustice when not reasonably executed. No consultations were made with the stakeholders or the management council to arrive at a common ground. The partial rollback, again swiftly ordered, was cosmetic, according to students. And clamping them down with police action frankly gives more credence to their story of persecution than issues that matter.

Going by the recent past, students have won — those at Jadavpur University forced their Vice-Chancellor to resign, FTII students challenged the appointment of chairman Gajendra Chauhan and women students across the country began the Pinjra Tod movement when Jamia Millia Islamia cancelled late nights for its girl hostellers. The Government may want to compartmentalise every part of our public life, saffronising education being a big part of it. Even if we were to follow the spirit of Vedanta truly as it wants, then we would realise that "each man is the power. There is no king. I see everybody equally the same." That's why Professor Firoz Khan of Banaras Hindu University may be a celebrated Sanskritist, who received awards in his subject, but is now considered untouchable.

## Hong Kong crisis

Protests here have intensified and most citizens are in support of the young activists. Beijing is in a quandary



When the People's Republic of China (PRC) took over the administration of Hong Kong in 1997, it laid to rest a painful chapter of colonialism on the Chinese mainland. The UK had sought and won certain rights for the citizens of Hong Kong. The Chinese Government had promised "One country, two systems" for the city-state, which still maintained its judicial, economic and cultural identity. It even competes at global sporting meets independent of the PRC. Initially, the system worked well. Officials in Beijing had a tough

time grasping the concepts of free speech and expression in Hong Kong. They realised that the city and its vibrant stock markets and access to the Western capital allowed huge fund inflows into the PRC. Indeed, the PRC's massive growth in the decade following Hong Kong's return was fuelled by money that was routed through the city. However, things have taken a dark turn here under China's new strongman Xi Jinping, who wants the "Sinification" of the city to progress much faster than the promised 50 years. Instead of Hong Kong hoping that some of its free and open culture will be imbibed by China, Xi wants it to be under his thumb. He wanted to achieve this by essentially subverting Hong Kong's unique judicial system to that of China. Easy, peasy he must have thought, but he had not accounted for the citizens, particularly the students. They were loathe to give up the freedoms they have become accustomed to. Even under the heavy hand of the Hong Kong police, who used some of the latest facial recognition technology, the students have continued to resist. Xi's predicament has worsened because of Hong Kong's vibrant and free media, making the city's crisis a public relations nightmare for Xi and his minions.

Letting the students have their way would be akin to admitting defeat by Xi. However, he should learn that compromise is sometimes the best policy as is keeping one's promises, no matter how much one may not like them. Hong Kongers are proud to be citizens of the PRC as well but they were promised two systems and they want that much and no further. The sight of teargas shells being lobbed at students will not serve Xi well in the long run and might even make his economic diplomacy goals such as the rehabilitation of Huawei and selling the Belt and Road Initiative much more difficult.

# Power shift in Colombo

Sri Lanka's new President Gotabaya has vowed to maintain neutral but friendly relations with foreign powers. He must be judged by his deeds, not words



ASHOK K MEHTA

Gotabaya (Gota) Rajapaksa's decisive victory in the presidential election was not entirely surprising though it has shocked the liberals in Colombo, becoming the most ethnically polarised verdict. Gota has shown that presidential elections can be won without the ethnic minority vote. Ever since the Mahinda Rajapaksa regime was voted out of power in 2015 and following the passage of the 19th Amendment, Gota's choice was natural as 19A had ruled out a third term for the President and raised the bar for age to 35 years, thus rendering Mahinda and his son Namal Rajapaksa ineligible for contesting the presidential election.

For an Army Colonel, Gota's decade as the Defence Secretary to elder brother and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa facilitated the straightening of many wrinkles in defence and national security, though many of his Army colleagues and friends had turned adversaries. By the time Gota became a presidential hopeful, he was accused of corruption, human rights violations during the war, "white van" disappearances, murder of the editor of a newspaper and linkages to a Buddhist extremist group targeting Muslims. But his image as a war hero endured.

Gota won exclusively on the plank of national security. The catastrophic Easter Sunday bombings by radical Islamists linked to Islamic State (IS) were the result of infinite bungling by an incumbent Government already charged with lackadaisical performance. The clamour for return of the Rajapaksas, who had ushered in a decade of peace, began to pick up. Gota sensed his moment. He blamed the Government for dismantling the intelligence apparatus he had established across the country for surveillance and early warning. The bombings were a clear systemic failure.

As President, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, Defence Minister or whichever portfolio he assigns to himself, Gota's first task will be to ginger up the intelligence network and reinstate the intelligence grid and to eliminate the residual sleeper cells of the IS linked to radicalised Muslims in Sri Lanka. The reorganisation of higher defence management, which had become esoteric under his predecessor, is bound to be revamped. The post-Easter Sunday appointments of the chief of national intelligence, Inspector General of Police and Defence Secretary, who report directly to the President, will be reviewed.

Gen Shantha Kottegoda, whose term as Army Commander was prematurely terminated in mid-2000 to accommodate Gen Sarath Fonseka, is current Defence Secretary. The extended term of Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Ravi Wijegunaratne, a war hero who had to go to jail, ends next month and he may get an extension. Army Chief, Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, another war hero



whose appointment in August attracted Western criticism on account of alleged human rights violations, will certainly get an extension beyond December.

As pledged, Gota will likely arrange the release from jail of military intelligence officials under trial. Similarly, he will end speculation over any domestic or international investigation about alleged war excesses and also close the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution dated January 30, 2015, co-sponsored with the US — which has already quit the council — on post-war transitional justice and reconciliation. Most of the military is jubilant about Gota's return. So excited was the Army that it reportedly endorsed Gota's presidential candidature in a newspaper advertisement.

Simultaneous with alterations in defence and security architecture, Gota will use his executive and persuasive powers to change the Government and make Mahinda the Prime Minister. This can happen in two ways: First by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and his Cabinet resigning in the aftermath of his party's electoral defeat. Ministers aligned with the presidential loser Sajith Premadasa have already resigned and have urged

Wickremesinghe to quit, who said he will consider. A snap election could follow.

Second, according to the 19th Amendment, the President can dismiss the Government four-and-a-half years into its term, which is sometime in February 2020 to pave the way for a new Parliament by August 2020.

Either way, Mahinda will now certainly be the next Prime Minister. And as he recently told a Tamil newspaper: "PM is the real power." The last and only time two brothers have been President and Prime Minister together was a decade ago in Poland with twins — the Kaczynskis. By abolishing the 19th Amendment with a two-thirds majority, the Rajapaksas and the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) may rule, preferably by taking minorities along, till kingdom come.

Gota must also attend to the declining economy crippled by the IS-linked terrorist attacks. Soon after the war, the economy was zipping at eight per cent growth. The central bank bonds scam under the Wickremesinghe Government was the proverbial last straw that broke the people's confidence in the Government.

Multi-lateral financial agencies are uniformly predicting GDP slipping below the

International Monetary Fund's (IMF) growth forecast of 3.5 per cent for 2019.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has warned of a Greece-like crisis unless deep structural reforms are implemented. Colombo's total indebtedness to Beijing is unknown but is estimated at 60 per cent of all foreign borrowings. Mahinda had given very generous concessions to China, resulting in both Hambantota and the Colombo Port City projects being leased to Chinese companies for 99 years. China and Sri Lanka decided last month to establish an international financial centre — to rival India's planned international financial centre in Gandhinagar — halfway between Dubai and Singapore. Notwithstanding its viability, the financial centre will give China another foothold in Sri Lanka.

Where does the landmark regime change in Sri Lanka leave India given that it was instrumental in dislodging Mahinda in 2015? This time around, India's non-interference is impeccable. With the Rajapaksa redux, it is easy to paint doomsday scenarios. The Rajapaksa's indebtedness to Beijing started during the war when New Delhi rejected several requests from Colombo for

military hardware to fight the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). It was China and Pakistan, who bailed them out. Upon which India had mocked Lanka for approaching these countries when it was willing to supply only non-lethal stores in deference to domestic political compulsions in Tamil Nadu. The strategic cost of India's hedging lingers though that constraint is gone. Gota famously described New Delhi's non-interference in the war as "management" of India. China's ingress in Sri Lanka predated Rajapaksas. Hambantota was offered twice to India. The rest is history.

It will be unwise to go by the track record of a feisty wartime defence secretary, who as part of the famed *troika* with brother Basil and Secretary to President Lalith Weeraratne, dealt with an intransigent India. Now President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who has said he will be "neutral but friendly" in foreign relations, must be judged by his deeds not words. Like Nepal, geography and history militate against Sri Lanka being hostile to India.

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

## SOUNDBITE

I am sure that IITs and NITs, with their specialisations will be able to find solutions to address the air pollution problem.



President — Ram Nath Kovind

I want to strike a balance between films and web. I haven't given much thought about working more on streaming platforms.



Actor — Emraan Hashmi

The US is gravely concerned about deepening unrest and violence in Hong Kong. The Government must take clear steps to address public concern.



US Secretary of State — Mike Pompeo

Everyone knows that selfishness is a bad thing but very few people give up their selfishness. Take the example of the country or of individuals.



RSS chief — Mohan Bhagwat

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What a U-turn?

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Dealing with a new Lanka" (November 19). In 2015, voters seemingly *en masse* voted to defeat a supposedly corrupt Rajapaksa regime, which was blamed for many negatives, including nepotism of the highest degree. This, with utter disregard to the fact that it was the very same leader, who along with the defence guidance of his own brother, had been responsible for the defeat of the most feared terrorist organisation.

Five years on, people apparently sought the very people to salvage the country from the abyss it is said to find itself in. Sri Lankans feel that Gotabaya Rajapaksa is their saviour and they pinned new hopes from the new President.

Jayatheertha SA  
Hyderabad

### Tread with care

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Dealing with a new Lanka" (November 19). India's relations with neighbouring countries have

### A whiff of Assam movement

The Asom Songrami Mancha, a platform of civil society leaders and activists, has threatened the BJP that it will launch a massive stir if it goes ahead with the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament. It has strictly warned the Centre of a great movement bigger than the 1980s Assam students' agitation. The Bill proposes to grant citizenship to refugees from minority communities like Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians. Muslims have been excluded from the scheme of things. This goes against the basic principles of "secularism" as enshrined in the Constitution, particularly Articles 14 and 15, which guarantee equality before the law and forbid discrimination on grounds of religion.

Indigenous people in the State are apprehensive and vociferous about granting citizenship to such a huge number of migrant refugees because this may alter the State's demography. It is also a fact that India has always welcomed and given asylum to all those who have been persecuted. But considering the number of refugees and migrants will be huge, it will send the already slowing economy into a tailspin. If the BJP is still adamant, the Union Government must rehabilitate the migrants in other States, too. The All Assam Students Union (AASU)-led



agitation was a mass movement against the influx of foreigners, especially from neighbouring Bangladesh. It started in 1979 and ended with signing of the 1985 Assam Accord. The Union Government must take stock of the situation and discern the consequences of their zeal to legislate the Citizenship Bill instead of acting hastily. It must refrain from introducing the Citizenship Amendment Bill as it is bound to heap untold miseries on the people.

TK Nandanani  
Chennai

always remained wanting. One can understand the thorny historical issues with those in the landlocked arc of the Northwest to the Northeast, the gateway of our invaders. There was no reason for the recurrent indifferent ties with Sri Lanka.

We were naive to be over involved in the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operation. This peace-keeping exercise not only alienated our own Tamil sentiment but also earned the displeasure of the Sinhalese. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

paid the ultimate price. Things may look better today. But in the election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the Sri Lankan President, we have a proponent of majoritarianism, much like our own present dispensation and, thus, they could vibrate well.

That said, the dormant Tamilian schism, both at home and in Sri Lanka, may well find cause for resurgence. This is where we need to tread with care lest we repeat history.

R Narayanan  
Navi Mumbai

### Troubling times ahead

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Dealing with a new Lanka" (November 19). The election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the Sri Lankan President will have serious repercussions back home. It is the political shift that is a cause of worry. If Mahinda Rajapaksa becomes the Prime Minister, the Tamil and Muslim populations over there will suffer the most.

But it will be better for the Rajapaksa brothers to focus on issues plaguing the country, most importantly the economy. India, too, needs to pay close attention to the developments in the island nation and protect the interests of the Tamil population there.

Shivansh  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Being systematic has its benefits

Putting in money regularly through SIPs rather than trying to time a lump sum investment can help one become a more disciplined investor



HIMA BINDU KOTA

A Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) is an investment option offered by mutual funds to people where they can put in small amounts periodically instead of lump sums. They can do this by directly debiting a fixed amount of money from their bank accounts and investing in a specific mutual fund and allocating several units according to the current Net Asset Value (NAV). The frequency of investment could be anywhere from weekly, to monthly or quarterly.

There is no fixed period of investment in a SIP and it could range from as small as six months to forever. However, the shorter the investment period in equity mutual fund SIPs, the higher the potential gain. However, this is not without a higher risk. Research shows that there is a 16 per cent chance of losing more than 20 per cent in an equity mutual fund over a six-month horizon, whereas, there is a 90 per cent chance of positive returns in an average equity fund SIP of three years or more, making long-term investments more desirable.

Although most investors associate SIPs with equity mutual funds, investments into debt SIPs can be as effective. One of the fundamental principles of investing is to make money work as soon as possible. An investment needs time to grow, so the longer the money is in the market, the more chance one has of achieving one's goals. An SIP is an option for small investors who want to take advantage of investing for a longer-term but cannot put in a large amount or a lump sum. Surprisingly, sometimes making regular and small investments in the form of SIP can work in the favour of small investors, because of a concept known as "Rupee Cost Averaging."

Rupee Cost Averaging is an approach in which a person invests a fixed amount of money at regular intervals. This, in turn, ensures that they buy more shares when the prices are low and less when they are high. Let's take an example. Suppose Ram has a lump sum of ₹10,000 that he wants to invest in a particular stock or fund, valued at ₹100. He has two options: First, he can invest the full ₹10,000 in one go, buying 100 shares, at ₹100 each. But by doing this Ram is fully exposed to the movements of the market and the value of his investment will rise and fall in line with any share price changes. His second option is to invest his money gradually and Ram may choose to invest ₹1,000 a month over 10 months. If the stock price stays the same, he will be able to buy 10 scrips each month at ₹100.

However, since share prices fluctuate frequently, regular investments by Ram will increase his buying power when the share price falls and he ends up buying more stocks and vice versa. With a drop in the share price to ₹90, he can buy 11 shares, whereas if it rises to ₹110, Ram will end up with nine.

Hence, by regular, small and pre-determined value of investments, Ram would be in a position to buy more shares when the price falls, thereby bringing down the average cost of purchase. When the stock price recovers to ₹100 in the last month, Ram's original investment would be worth ₹10,300. This means Ram would be ₹300 richer by investing regularly, compared to a lump sum investment in the first month by buying 100 shares.

However, there is a flip side to it as well. Ram could also lose money if the share price moves up and he ends up purchasing at a higher price for most of the months. However, we all know that stock markets rarely move in a straight line and price fluctuations are the norm rather than an exception.

By systematic investments over some time, one can invest across a range of prices and effectively end up paying the average price over a fixed period, which can help smooth out market volatility. Trying to buy an asset when it is considered cheap, which is known as market timing, is tricky even for the most experienced investors. Just because a share has already fallen steeply in value, doesn't mean it won't drop further. Because of many market forces at play, nobody can predict perfectly how and when the price would change.

The decision to invest should be based upon market conditions and putting in money regularly through SIPs rather than trying to time a lump sum investment, can help one become a more disciplined investor and earn better returns in the long run. SIPs help in hedging the risk of getting the market timing wrong. They are also a good option for people with a regular income who want to allocate a fixed amount for mutual funds every month. Further, the choice of mutual funds should be based on one's risk appetite and investment objective.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL MUST NOMINATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO TEST DELHI WATER SAMPLES AGAIN. WE CHOOSE PRAMOD TIWARI AND J ROYCHOWDHURY FROM BIS.**

— CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER  
 RAM VILAS PASWAN



**WE CAN GET WATER TESTED BY ANY INDEPENDENT AGENCY. STRANGELY, THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS REPORT BELIES THAT OF JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY.**

— AAP MP  
 SANJAY SINGH

# A man-made crisis

Authorities were aware of the impending environmental hazard but instead of a well thought out long-term strategy to tackle air pollution, our approach appears to be a classic case of ad-hocism



KK PAUL

The London smog of November 1952 is considered to be the worst-ever such case of environmental hazard which led to the death of a few thousand people. Winston Churchill, who was the Prime Minister at that time, himself suffered a bronchial attack due to the toxic air. Even though the Clean Air Act came up only in 1956, stringent action had been initiated by the local authorities well before that, bringing in a dramatic improvement in the state of the environment in the city.

Back home, even though the National Green Tribunal (NGT), in the case of Ganga Lalwani vs Union of India (2015), had made burning of crop stubble a penal offence and additionally, formulated a National Policy for Management of Crop Residue, the result of the enforcement effort has been rather half-hearted and its dismal and disastrous results are being experienced by all of us in the form of a health emergency being declared in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). According to medical experts, air pollution in Delhi-NCR is no longer just a health risk, it has become a hazard. Everyone in Delhi, particularly asthma patients, infants, children and the elderly are affected by this pollution. It doesn't matter whether a person is a smoker or not, the toxic air people are breathing in is equivalent to smoking 15 to 20 cigarettes a day.

Except for the States of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, where some seriousness has been shown in combating air pollution, the enforcement of the NGT's orders and follow-up on the policy in some of the other States, particularly in Punjab and to some extent in Haryana, has been very poor.

However, according to an affidavit filed by the Central Government in the Supreme Court (SC), stubble burning has gone up by seven per cent in Punjab and gone down by 17 per cent in Haryana. In order to address this problem, a new Central scheme, "Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi," was approved in 2018.

This provided for subsidising machinery required for in-situ management of the biomass, for which a sum of ₹1,151.80 crore has been allocated for the period of 2018-2023. Out of this provision, Punjab has got the largest share. The objective of the scheme was to procure agricultural machinery and equipment for in-situ management of crop residue, create farm machinery banks and conduct multi-media awareness campaigns.

Delhi, leading the NCR with a combination of adverse factors, has already broken the world record for Air Quality Index (AQI), making the headlines bold and telling. But perhaps waking up will take some time. There is no dearth of authorities who are, and were aware of the impending environmental hazard, but instead of a well thought out long-term strategy or some short-term relief our approach appears to be a classic case of ad-hocism. For instance, it is now known that the burning of stubble is respon-



sible for about 37 per cent of the pollution, which is more or less of a seasonal nature. For the remaining, it is understood that two-wheelers, whose number in Delhi alone is 88 lakh, happen to be the source of about 33 per cent of the pollutants, while four-wheelers, whose number is about 35 lakh are responsible for just about 15 per cent of it.

In these circumstances, forcing some four-wheelers to be off the roads is bound to have just a marginal impact.

On the other hand, as is well known, the two-stroke two-wheelers and three-wheelers emit a far more hazardous mixture of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, some of which like benzene are known to be carcinogenic, but their numbers continue to increase.

In respect of automobile emissions, complete combustion within the engine is essential to reduce the extent of pollutants. The four-stroke engine is cleaner because it burns pure petrol; the two-stroke engine, on the other hand, burns a combination of lubricating oil and petrol and a fair amount of the oil is emitted as unburnt vapour.

Some 94 per cent of the two- and three-wheelers in India are powered by two-stroke engines that are simple and compact in design, cheap and easy to maintain. But the conventionally-designed two-stroke engines produce high levels of hydrocarbons in exhaust emissions — 5,500 parts per million (ppm), compared to 850 ppm from four-stroke engines. According to a research at the Indian Institute of Petroleum at Dehradun, four-stroke engine-powered motor cycles have been observed to emit just one-sixth to one-tenth of the hydrocarbons emitted by two-stroke engines. In addition, their fuel economy is better by 20 to 50 per cent. However, manufacturers prefer two-stroke engines because they are more powerful and

**EXCEPT FOR THE STATES OF ODISHA, ANDHRA PRADESH AND TAMIL NADU, WHERE SOME SERIOUSNESS HAS BEEN SHOWN IN COMBATING AIR POLLUTION, THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE NGT'S ORDERS AND FOLLOW-UP ON THE POLICY IN SOME OF THE OTHER STATES, PARTICULARLY IN PUNJAB AND TO SOME EXTENT IN HARYANA, HAS BEEN VERY POOR**

have greater pick-up. In the long run, electricity-powered two-wheelers could be a suitable alternative. The latest figures available for usage of public transport in Delhi indicate that the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Delhi Metro carry just 12 and 10 per cent respectively of the entire commuter traffic.

This is an extremely low proportion and obviously leading to a much greater usage of highly polluting two-wheelers. Obviously, we have to create conditions for encouraging greater ridership on public transport. At the same time we must ensure a larger number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel stations so as to reduce the waiting time, since mostly these cater to public transport vehicles or taxis.

Last year a group of industries had conducted a pilot project in two districts of Punjab covering an area of 16,000 acres of farm land, where 25,000 tonnes of rice straw were processed and converted into fibre-based cellulosic products. The details of the project need to be analysed to enlarge its scope.

The apex court has pulled up the Government of India as well as the Delhi Government for "passing the buck" even as Delhi and nearby areas face a public health emergency due to the severe air pollution.

Further, the Centre has been asked to call environmental experts including those from the Indian Institutes of Technology so that their views on the current situation could be taken into account for suitable directives. It can thus be easily observed that a rational public policy based on scientific inputs needs to be operationalised while ensuring its stringent implementation and monitoring.

(The author is a former Governor and a Senior Advisor at the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation)

# What lies ahead for Sri Lankan Tamils?

The new President, known as 'terminator' for his role in wiping out the LTTE a decade ago, has faced lawsuits in Lanka and in the US over allegations of staged killings of Tamil separatists, critics and journalists during the civil war



KALYANI SHANKAR

Sri Lankan People's Front candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa, younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, has now taken over as the country's President. A retired Lieutenant-Colonel, who presided over the country's Defence Ministry for a decade during his brother's tenure (2005-2014), Gotabaya swept the polls in the Sinhala-majority districts, while his main opponent Ranasinghe Premadasa, garnered most of the votes from the Tamil-dominated north and east of the country.

Gotabaya's victory would mean the return of the powerful Rajapaksa family as he is expected to appoint his brother Mahinda as the Prime

Minister, sooner than later.

The new Sri Lankan President, known as "terminator" for his role in wiping out the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) a decade ago, has faced lawsuits in Sri Lanka and in the United States (US) over allegations of staged killings of Tamil separatists, critics and journalists during the civil war.

In a fascinating interview with this journalist in 2014, Gotabaya revealed many things, including how he then government finished off the LTTE. Giving a graphic description of what happened in the last days of the LTTE War IV, (the name given to the fourth phase of the armed conflict between the Sri Lankan military and the separatists), he pointed out that the biggest advantage was that his brother had full trust in him and the then Army chief Sarath Fonseka. Mahinda had the political will to neutralise the LTTE.

Second, the leadership agreed with the defence assessment that a large-scale expansion was needed within a very short period. "We briefed the President. It was not an easy thing to achieve. You need to recruit people, train them and also

equip them. But, we did it," he said. Giving more details, Gotabaya said that the President also created a core group to cut down red tape.

"From our side it was Basil Rajapaksa, Lalith Chandrakumar Weeratunga, who was the President's Permanent Secretary and me. From the Indian side it was their National Security Advisor MK Narayanan, Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon and Defence Secretary VJ Singh, who were in the loop. We coordinated everything. We went to India and they came to Sri Lanka. And we discussed everything, even the operational plan and intelligence inputs."

Gotabaya also exposed the double face of the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, who put tremendous pressure on the Manmohan Singh Government to stop the war on the LTTE, while the ruling DMK adopted a strategy of run-



ning with the hare and hunting with the hound.

Shivshankar Menon in his book, titled *Choices: Inside the making of India's Foreign Policy*, confirms that New Delhi was in "intense" and "constant" touch with Colombo.

"I vividly remember the atmosphere of the crisis during that period and repeated visits from and to Colombo in the first five months of 2009," Menon notes in his book, adding that by mid-January 2009, the Sri Lankan Army and leadership were convinced that they had the measure of the LTTE and the victory would be theirs. As a strategy, the Sri Lankan Army strongly occupied the north and the south so that the Tigers were kept away and were stopped from procuring military supplies.

As for the last phase of the Eelam War IV, Gotabaya noted, that even at the last minute

Thiruvankadam Velupillai Prabhakaran, the founder and leader of the LTTE, broke from the line and went into the small island with his bodyguards.

"Kandasamy Pathmanabha, a Sri Lankan Tamil rebel, founder of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front and the LTTE's financier, spoke to Prabhakaran in January 2009 over the phone asking him to escape. We intercepted the conversation. Prabhakaran refused to hide at that time. Two weeks before the war ended KP spoke to him again and asked him to escape. The LTTE Tiger again refused," he said.

Gotabaya pointed out that, "Do you think that such a person will come out holding his hands up and surrender?" The then Army chief Sarath Fonseka, in an interview to this journalist also observed that the strategy was to take on the LTTE in the jungles. "By May 17, 2009 the troops cornered the LTTE within an area of 400x400 metres. That night when they tried to escape they were prevented from doing so, by all three lines of defence put up by the Army.

"On the night of May 18, the top LTTE leadership divided itself into three groups. They attacked the Army's forward defence line along the Nandikadal lagoon and did manage to break through. Jayam, Pottu Amman and Soosai led these three groups. Prabhakaran and his closest groups thought they would manage to escape but in reality all these LTTE fighters (around 250) had got trapped between the Army's first and second line of defence. "After fierce fighting that night, almost the entire leadership of the LTTE was eliminated in that area. "We discovered Prabhakaran's body on the morning of May 19. I got the news of his death around 11 AM. I got a phone call from the Commander who gave me the information. Looking back, I was confident. I said I would finish the LTTE in three years and I did it in two years and nine months," Fonseka said.

Those were different times but today it is a time for peace and as President how will Gotabaya deal with the Tamil minorities in Lanka now? The fact that the Tamils did not vote for him reveals their apprehensions.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**THE WORLD IS WATCHING CHINA**

Since 1989, when it crushed the pro-reform protests that began in Tiananmen Square and witnessed the beginning of the end for the Soviet Union, Beijing has calculated that bloody suppression should be avoided if possible — but not by offering concessions. It will angrily dismiss any criticism, as it has that from Britain. Ignored or not, foreign leaders have a duty to remind China that they are watching the action in Hong Kong.

(The Guardian editorial)

# Mamata, Owaisi call each other RSS agent

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after Mamata Banerjee charged the BJP and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimen for conspiring to lure the Hindu and Muslim population of Bengal into political extremism, war of words intensified between two sides with AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi charging the Chief Minister with playing a host to the saffron outfit in the State while the Trinamool Congress hitting back by insisting that Hyderabad party was a paid agent of the RSS.

Slamming Banerjee, the AIMIM chief and one of the most noticeable minority faces in the country tweeted, "if Didi (read Mamata Banerjee) is worried about a bunch of us from Hyderabad then she should tell how BJP won 18/42 seats from Bengal."

By displacing the Left Front as the main Opposition party in Bengal the BJP wrestled 18 out of 42 seats in this year's parliamentary elections. The TMC won 22 and the Congress bagged two seats. What was more in at least three other seats the margin of victory for the Trinamool was between five thousand and fifty thousand.

Telling reporters that Banerjee owed an explanation on the rise of the BJP in Bengal Owaisi on Tuesday said, the Chief Minister's nervous comments on the presence of AIMIM in her State was itself an admission in favour of his party's growing prowess her backyard.

"By making allegations against me you (Banerjee) are



Slamming Mamata, the AIMIM chief and one of the most noticeable minority faces in the country tweeted, "if Didi (read Mamata Banerjee) is worried about a bunch of us from Hyderabad then she should tell how BJP won 18/42 seats from Bengal."

Hitting back at Owaisi for his "outrageous statement against Mamata didi who is like a mother of crores of people," a senior Trinamool leader and Minister from South Kolkata on Tuesday said "those who are thinking of taking place of Mamata Banerjee in Bengal are living in a fools' paradise"

giving the message to Muslims of Bengal that AIMIM has become a formidable force in the State," Owaisi added, "Mamata Banerjee is showcasing her fear and frustration by making such comments."

Addressing a meeting in North Bengal town of Coochbehar bordering Assam the Chief Minister had on Monday made veiled reference to Owaisi and his party saying that there was a party from Hyderabad which was

hand-in-glove with the BJP and was in its payroll.

She said a trap was being laid down by some Hindu and minority parties (from Hyderabad) "who are taking money from the BJP to spread extremist ideas in Bengal."

She said, "there is a political party which is trying to make inroads in Bengal by fanning a communal divide. Just like there are some extremists in Hindus, same with minorities. They take money from BJP. They stay in Hyderabad. They don't stay here. They come here and say I'll give you protection. Don't fall into this trap of my minority brothers."

Hitting back at Owaisi for his "outrageous statement against Mamata didi who is like a mother of crores of people," a senior Trinamool leader and Minister from South Kolkata on Tuesday said "those who are thinking of taking place of Mamata Banerjee in Bengal are living in a fools' paradise. Both the Hindus and Muslims worship her and a rank outsider, who is a filthy rich person not having broken bread with a poor man is dreaming to making inroads in this State. The people will not let him cross Dum Dum Airport."

# JD(S) leader: All chances of our party backing BJP Govt if it falls short of numbers

BENGALURU

Senior JD(S) leader Basavaraj Horatti on Tuesday reaffirmed that there are "all chances" that his party may support the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP Government, if it falls short of numbers after the December 5 bypoll results.

The MLC who met the Chief Minister felt that MLAs across political parties do not want mid-term polls.

"Kumaraswamy and Deve Gowda have said they will not let the Government collapse. On the basis of their statement I have said in case the BJP falls short of numbers there are all chances that JD(S) may support until his three and half year term ends, I still stand by it," Horatti said.

He said, no MLA from the three political parties -- the BJP, the Congress and JDS -- are ready to pull down the government as no one wants mid-term polls.

"Let any government be in power, our MLA post should remain for remaining three-

and-half years, is the feeling among MLAs..." he added.

In what is being perceived as JD(S) softening of stand on the BJP, JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda -- not wanting mid-term polls in Karnataka -- had said he wants the government to complete its term as it would give him time to build his party. His son and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy too had recently said JD(S) would not try to dislodge the government.

Fifteen out of 17 assembly constituencies represented by disqualified Congress-JD(S) legislators, whose resignation and absence from trust vote had led to the collapse of the Kumaraswamy-led coalition government and paved way for BJP to come to power in July, will go to bypolls on December 5.

The BJP that has fielded disqualified MLAs as its candidates in 13 constituencies, will need to win at least six of those 15 seats to remain in power. PTI

# Dec 5 K'taka bypoll crucial to BSY-led minority Govt

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

December 5 bypolls to fifteen constituencies in Karnataka are a litmus test to Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa who is heading a minority Government in the State. This election is also crucial for Leader of the Opposition of the Congress, Siddaramaiah who is facing internal and external rebellion.

Both the politicians are betting high stake in proving a point need no explanation. For the lingayat strongman Yediyurappa, he has to prove to the high command that he is indispensable in Karnataka politics and also consolidate himself to face political heat within the party. For Siddaramaiah, who is leading the Congress, being an outsider has to consolidate himself against the weakened high command.

Monday being the last day for filing of nominations, a total of 248 candidates including those belonging to the



Congress, JD(S) and ruling BJP have filed their nominations for December 5 bypolls to 15 Assembly constituencies who have filed nominations till Monday, 56 are from National parties, 17 from State parties, 47 from registered unrecognized parties, and 128 are independents. While the highest 28 candidates have filed their nomination from Shivajinagar constituency, followed by Hoskote with 27 candidates; Krishnarajpet has least- 8 candidates have filed their nominations.

Karnataka witnessed a high political drama and the bypolls was necessitated after the resignation and absence of 17

Congress-JD(S) legislators, which led to the collapse of H D Kumaraswamy headed coalition government of JDs and the Congress and paved way for BJP to come to power. Seventeen legislators were subsequently disqualified by the then Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, however the Supreme Court that heard MLAs' petition challenging the disqualification, last week allowed them to contest the by-elections.

All of them have joined the saffron party and now 13 of them are contesting the bypolls setting the stage for their re-entry into the poll fray.

Bypolls to 15 of 17 seats represented by disqualified MLAs -- 14 of the Congress and three belonging to the JDS -- will be held on December five. Bypolls in the remaining two segments -- Maski and R R Nagar -- have not been declared due to the ongoing election-related cases in court. The strength of the assembly will be 222, post the bypolls.

# Madras HC verdict in temple land case soon

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court is all set to pronounce verdict on the August 30 order issued by the Tamil Nadu Government to facilitate the sale and transfer of missing lands owned by the temples in the State administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department.

A Bench consisting of Justices M Sathyanarayanan and N Seshasayee completed on Monday the hearing of petition filed by TR Ramesh, president, Temple Worshippers Society, questioning the legality of the order which empowers the Government to issue pattas to the encroachers of the temple lands for a nominal amount.

More than 50,000 acres of prime land valued at thousands of crore rupees and owned by the temples under the HRCE Department has been missing for long. In February 2018, Justice R Mahadevan of the Madras High Court had asked



the HRCE Department to trace the missing lands and update the details in the website of the department.

But the Government and the HRCE Department remained unperturbed by the court verdict and came out with an order to bypass the February 2018 verdict.

The lands were donated to the temple for their upkeep and also for ensuring the welfare of the devotees coming under the jurisdiction of the

temple land could be sold to the government and which could not be when all temple lands were actually private properties that have been given away by their owners for the benefit of temples and now belong to the deities of the temples concerned.

"The HECE Department was created to protect the temple lands and not to seal them away," said the judges.

Ramesh said that the whole episode speaks about "criminal dereliction of duties and responsibilities by the staff of the HRCE Department". There exists a criminal axis between the HRCE staff and encroachers which we could confront the court," said Ramesh. This is the eagerly awaited verdict by the temple worshippers and is equal in importance to the Ram Janmabhoomi case, he said.

The Madras High Court is

hearing a number of petitions related to the misappropriation of temple properties by individuals in connivance with the officials of the HRCE officials. Jebamani Mohanraj, a former CBI official has filed a case in the MHC in December 2018 challenging the move by the trustees of the centuries old Agastheeswarar Temple at Nungambakkam in Chennai to sell the entire temple property to a private group.

The famous Kapaleeswarar Temple in the city is also in a controversy as the trustees are trying to sell off the leased land of the temple to private individuals. The Madras High Court is hearing this case too.

Ramesh told this newspaper that if the observations made by the court in the Government Order case are any indication, chances are that the officials of the HRCE Department are in for trouble for their failure in maintaining the data associated with the properties owned by the temple. PTI

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055  
 Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakkil Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara 390 007  
 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
 [See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**  
 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Himanshu Khattar (Borrower) Diya Bakshi (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029807	Flat No. C-4/ 122, 12th Floor, Aravali Heights, Dharuhera, Dwarakadhish, Rewari, Haryana Area- 1555 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 6018626/- (as on November 08, 2019).	Rs. 28,80,000/- Rs. 2,88,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 10:00 AM Onwards
2.	Dinesh Kumar Sukumaran (Borrower) Garima Sachdeva (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002010573	Flat No B4/122 12th Floor, Sector- 24 Aravali Heights, Dharuhera, Rewari Area- 1590 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 60,41,230/- (as on November 07, 2019).	Rs. 29,50,000/- Rs. 2,95,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 10:30 AM Onwards
3.	Praveen Kumar Pintu (Borrower) Joyita Ghosh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002019451	Flat No. B-2/114 11th Floor Block- B2 Dwarakadhish Aravali Heights Sector- 24 Dharuhera, Rewari Haryana 123401, Area- 1608 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 57,77,167/- (as on November 07, 2019).	Rs. 29,80,000/- Rs. 2,98,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Somya Jain (Borrower) LBNOD00002007549	Flat No. C-3/125, Aravali Heights, Dharuhera Dwarakadhish, Rewari, Haryana, Area-1555 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 57,74,361/- (as on November 08, 2019).	Rs. 36,00,000/- Rs. 3,60,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 11:30 AM Onwards
5.	Anupm Agrawal (Borrower) Shashi Bala Agarwal (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00001994300	Flat No. C-3/121 12th Floor Aravali Heights Dwarakadhish Dharuhera Rewari C3 Block Sector- 24 Haryana- 123401, Area- 1548 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 55,73,570/- (as on November 08, 2019).	Rs. 28,70,000/- Rs. 2,87,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 12:00 Noon Onwards
6.	Shashi Kant Prasad (Borrower) Malti Prasad (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00001995795	Flat No. D-1/127 12th Floor Aravali Heights Sector- 24 D-1 Block Dharuhera Rewari Haryana 123401, Area- 1233 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 49,68,654/- (as on November 07, 2019).	Rs. 22,70,000/- Rs. 2,27,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 12:30 PM Onwards
7.	Aakaar Singh Bhatia (Borrower) Prikshit Singh (Co Borrowers) LBGU00001971765	Flat No. D-1/16 First Floor Aravali Heights Sector 24 D-1 Block Dharuhera Rewari Haryana 123401, Area- 1200 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 50,03,146/- (as on November 07, 2019).	Rs. 22,20,000/- Rs. 2,22,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 01:00 PM Onwards
8.	Dharmendra Kumar (Borrower) Sumita Singh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029333	Flat No. C4/ 121, 12th Floor, Sector 24, Aravali Heights, Rewari, Area- 1548Sq. Ft.	Rs. 55,20,932/- (as on November 07, 2019).	Rs. 28,70,000/- Rs. 2,87,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 01:30 PM Onwards
9.	Dharmendra Kumar (Borrower) Sumita Singh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002030018	Flat No. D-5/134, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Dharuhera, Haryana, Area- 1207Sq. Ft.	Rs. 49,42,125/- (as on November 08, 2019).	Rs. 28,00,000/- Rs. 2,80,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 02:00 PM Onwards
10.	Mange Ram Jain (Borrower) Anamika Jain (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002011506	Flat No. D- 2/134, 13TH Floor Aravali Heights Sector- 24 Block Dharuhera Rewari, Haryana Area - 1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 44,16,897/- (as on November 07, 2019).	Rs. 22,40,000/- Rs. 2,24,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 02:30 PM Onwards
11.	Mange Ram Jain (Borrower) Anamika Jain (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029715	Flat No. D-2/ 131, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Dharuhera, Haryana, Rewari 123401, Area- 1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 43,09,266/- (as on November 8, 2019).	Rs. 28,00,000/- Rs. 2,80,000/-	November 23, 2019 From 12 Noon to 3:00 PM	December 12, 2019 From 03:00 PM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link "https://eauctions.samil.in") of our auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. The Mortgages/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 11, 2019, before 5:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or to our marketing agent Shriram Automall India Ltd at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 or on before December 11, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657549734 / 7304904154/8657476284 or Shriram Automall India Ltd on 9910453434. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: November 20, 2019  
 Place: Delhi/NCR

Sd/-  
 Authorised Officer  
 ICICI Bank Limited

# Avoid comments on Guv-Mamata Govt verbal spats: BJP to Bengal unit

KOLKATA

The West Bengal BJP unit has been asked by its Central leadership to refrain from getting into the frequent verbal spats between the State Government and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, a senior party leader said.

There is a general perception that the Governor and the saffron party "complement" each other through their statements, he said.

A verbal directive in this regard has been communicated to the State leadership from the top echelons of the party, the senior BJP leader said.

"We have been asked by our Central leadership to refrain from commenting on the war of words between the state Government and the governor. Henceforth, none of our state

leaders will make any comment on the verbal spat," he said.

According to party sources, the move is aimed to allay charges that the BJP is using the governor to "pinprick" the state Government.

"Whenever there has been a verbal spat between the state Government and Raj Bhawan, for obvious reasons, we have spoken in favour of the governor, be it the present governor Jagdeep Dhankhar or his predecessor K N Tripathi," he said.

The tussle between Dhankhar and the TMC Government reached Parliament on Monday when its Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy raised the issue of the governor "exceeding his brief and trying to run a parallel administration" in the State. PTI

# SC Ayodhya case verdict by no means complete justice, says MIM chief

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday claimed that the Supreme Court's verdict on the Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhoomi land dispute was by no means "complete justice" that the powers under Article 142 are required to be used for.

Article 142 of the Constitution deals with the apex court's power to exercise its jurisdiction and pass order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.

"The Supreme Court's judgement in the Babri Masjid title suit is by no means the complete justice that the powers under Article 142 are required to be used for. It is at best incomplete justice or at worst complete injustice, he tweeted.

Owaisi was responding to media reports on the Ayodhya verdict and whether judicial discretion and the resultant directions guarantee complete justice.

The SC, in its verdict in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi title case on November 9, 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. The five-judge Constitution bench also directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board in Ayodhya to build a mosque. PTI

# Rajini: Ready to join hands with Kamal if situation arises

CHENNAI

Superstar Rajinikanth on Tuesday said he would join hands with actor-turned politician Kamal Haasan for the welfare of people of Tamil Nadu if such a situation arose.

Rajinikanth, who has announced he would launch his political party to contest the State Assembly elections due in 2021, was responding to questions from reporters on Haasan's remarks earlier on Tuesday that he (the latter) would join hands with him for Tamil Nadu's welfare. "If a situation arises wherein me and Kamal have to join hands for the welfare of people of Tamil Nadu, we will surely come together," Rajinikanth said in a brief interaction with media at the airport here.

While backing Rajinikanth's comments on Chief Minister K Palaniswami which have drawn the ire of ruling AIADMK, Haasan said he would "travel together" with his contemporary for Tamil Nadu's welfare.

However, Haasan gave no indications of the two aligning politically. PTI

**OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED**  
 CIN : L28219HR1988PLC030347  
 Regd. Office: Plot No. 17, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District - Mewat, Haryana -122103, India  
 E-mail : investor.relations@okplay.in, Website: www.okplay.co.in

**EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019**  
 (Rs. in Lacs)

Sl No	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended		Half-Year ended		Year ended		Quarter Ended		Half-Year ended		Year ended	
		30.09.2019	30.06.2019	30.09.2018	30.06.2018	30.09.2018	31.03.2019	30.09.2019	30.06.2019	30.09.2018	30.09.2019	30.09.2018	31.03.2019
1	Total Revenue from operations	1,112.41	2,946.50	2,695.17	4,058.91	5,610.27	12,316.40	1,530.28	3,461.65	3,803.87	4,991.93	7,468.12	15,771.90
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	(160.00)	65.76	62.91	(94.24)	140.09	1,032.27	(171.96)	186.25	207.84	14.29	378.09	1665.09
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(165.24)	67.49	26.84	(97.75)	72.29	778.85	(177.20)	187.98	171.77	10.78	310.29	1410.12
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(151.35)	53.60	21.68	(97.75)	58.38	294.58	(158.30)	149.35	138.69	(8.95)	250.01	624.81
5	Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss) for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	(151.35)	53.60	21.68	(97.75)	58.38	294.88	(158.30)	149.35	138.69	(8.95)	250.01	625.11
6	Equity Share Capital	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81
7	Other Equity (Reserves excluding revaluation reserve)						4,264.27						389.72
8	Earning per share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)												
	(a) Basic (in Rs.)	(0.79)	0.28	0.11	(0.51)	0.30	1.54	(0.83)	0.78	0.72	(0.05)	1.30	3.26
	(b) Diluted (in Rs.)	(0.79)	0.28	0.10	(0.51)	0.28	1.54	(0.83)	0.78	0.66	(0.05)	1.19	3.26

**NOTES:**  
 1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.okplay.co.in).  
 2 The above standalone and consolidated financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

for OK Play India Limited  
 Sd/-  
 Rajan Handa  
 Managing Director  
 (DIN 00194590)

Place : New Delhi  
 Date : 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

LORD AYYAPPA TEMPLE

# Over 30K offer prayers, 12-yr-old girl barred

PTI ■ SABARIMALA (KER)

Around 32,000 devotees offered prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala on Tuesday, even as police prevented a 12-year-old girl from Pudukcherry to proceed to the hill shrine from Pamba.

While two women in the barred age group of 10-50 years were stopped by police on Monday from visiting the shrine, on Saturday, when the temple opened, at least 10 young women from Andhra Pradesh were sent back.

Approximately 32,000 devotees offered worship on Tuesday, Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) sources said.

There was a dip in the arrival of pilgrims against the heavy rush seen since November 16 evening, when the shrine was opened.

There was heavy rain in the afternoon, causing difficulties to the pilgrims.

Unmindful of the heavy

showers, policemen standing on the 18 holy steps, helped the devotees climb and offer prayers.

A total of 9.6 lakh devotees have made virtual Q booking for darshan till 10 am this morning, sources said.

The 12-year-old had come with her father to offer prayers at the shrine.

The age of the girl, with "irrumudikettu" (offerings to Lord Ayyappa) had been shown as 10 in the virtual Q booking.

When women police personnel checked her Aadhaar card it was found that she was 12-years-old following which they did not allow her to proceed further from Pamba to the temple complex, police said.

After those accompanying the child were informed about the current situation in Sabarimala, her father and other relatives proceeded to the temple.

Supporting the shrine's tra-



The Pamba base camp is at the foothills of Sabarimala, about 5 km from the shrine. The Ayyappa temple had opened on November 16 evening for the two-month long Mandala-Makaravillaku puja.

A UDF delegation, which visited Pamba and Nilackal

base camps on Tuesday to have a first hand experience of the facilities for the pilgrims, said they were inadequate.

The delegation led by Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan and P J Joseph said parking facilities were not enough and the LDF government had failed to provide enough facilities for pilgrims.

Radhakrishnan said the arrival of devotees may be increase, but facilities like toilets and drinking water were lacking at the base camps.

During the two-month long pilgrimage season, the Kerala Water Authority has decided to provide 130 lakh litres of water daily.

While at Pamba 60 lakh litres would be distributed 70 lakh litres would be supplied at Sannidhanam, a KWA press release said.

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

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

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court had referred to a larger bench the matter related to entry of women into the hill temple and other issues related to various faiths.

# Vehicle parking will not be permitted on roadside from Nilackal to Pamba: HC

PTI ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High court on Tuesday made it clear that vehicle parking shall not be allowed on the roadside from Nilackal to Pamba during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season as the Government informed that light vehicles of 12-seater capacity will ferry devotees till Pamba.

A division bench of Justices C T Ravikumar and N Nagesh said the police can take appropriate action against unauthorised parking.

The State Government informed the court that 12-seater capacity light vehicles can take passengers till Pamba, which is five km from the shrine, and they have to return to Nilackal for parking.

The court also permitted the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation to employ 1386 drivers temporarily from the Public Service Commission list during the Sabarimala season.

The order was issued on an application filed by KSRTC seeking permission to appoint experienced drivers for 504 buses during the season.

The court permitted KSRTC to employ drivers from PSC list from November 16, 2019 to January 31, 2020.



# 16 farmers held in Mathura for stubble burning

Mathura (UP): Sixteen farmers have been arrested for allegedly burning stubble and 10 lekhpals suspended for dereliction of duty in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district, officials said on Tuesday.

District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said a total fine of ₹ 13.05 lakh is being realized from the guilty farmers through talsil.

While 300 cases of stubble burning have been identified, two lekhpals (revenue officer) have been suspended for failing to prevent the farmers from burning their crop residue, the DM told reporters.

He said the lekhpals were responsible for preventing stubble burning but they failed in their mission, resulting in punitive action against them.

The district magistrate said farmers were given full opportunity for preventing stubble burning.

Through 'Kisan Pathashala', they were not only apprised of hazardous effects of stubble burning, but also tutored on alternative use of stubble, Mishra added.

He said, these 'pathashalas' have helped reduce stubble burning cases.

While last year 1,046 cases of stubble burning were identified using satellite images, the number has gone down to 459 so far this year, he said.

# Manipur: 18-hour strike against CAB cripples life

Imphal: Normal life was crippled in Manipur on Tuesday in an 18-hour shutdown called to protest against the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) which is likely to be introduced in the ongoing winter session of Parliament.

The shutdown was called jointly by Manipur People Against Citizenship Amendment Bill (MANPAC) and North East Forum for Indigenous People (NEFIP) and there was no report of any untoward incident during the strike, which ended at 6 pm Tuesday, the police said.

Official sources said all business establishments, shops, vendors, hotels, motels, entertainment houses and oil depots were closed in response to the call for the shutdown. No educational institutions functioned during the bandh, the sources said.

Attendance in Government offices was thin despite the strict orders of the State chief secretary

to Government employees and education institutions to carry out normal duties or face action.

Inter-State and inter-district buses did not play. Taxis and autorickshaws too kept off the road.

Manipur police arrested MANPAC convenor Yumnachha Dilipkumar along with three other associates from Manipur's Imphal West district during the bandh.

Police also arrested three women leaders of Khwairamban Keithel, the biggest women market of the country which had remained closed during the day.

The North East has been on the boil against the proposed CAB, which the people fear will create a huge demographic imbalance as millions of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh reside in the area.

# New State coordinator yet to join, NRC Authority headless for over a week

Guwahati: Newly appointed NRC State Coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma, who is embroiled in a row over his alleged social media posts criticising the update work of the National Register of Citizens, has not joined office, official sources said on Tuesday.

Sarma, an Assam Civil Service officer, was appointed on November 9 as the NRC State Coordinator in place of Prateek Hajela who was released from his duties two days later.

The office of the NRC Authority is headless for more than a week. "The new State Coordinator has not joined yet. We have not received any official communication regarding his date of joining," an official at the NRC Authority told PTI.

Sources said Sarma has not stepped into the office of the NRC Authority here after his new appointment. He had earlier served as its executive director from 2013 to 2016.

"We are clueless about when he will join. We have come to know from media reports that he is on a month-long leave," the official said.

Repeated calls to the Commissioner of the Personnel Department which is responsible for appointments of government officials, remained unanswered.

At present, NRC Authority Executive Director Chandana Mahanta is the in-charge of the NRC Authority and looking after the day-to-day affairs since Hajela, the previous State Coordinator, was released.

Hajela, an IAS officer, was transferred to his home state Madhya Pradesh following a direction from the Supreme Court which supervised the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Published on August 31, the updated final NRC, which validates bonafide Indian citizens of Assam, has left out over 19 lakh applicants.

# Pak in no way friend of J&K people, it has only brought destruction: Police chief

Srinagar/Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir police chief Dilbag Singh on Tuesday asserted that Pakistan is in no way a friend of the people of the Union territory and said the neighbouring country has only brought death and destruction to them.

He also said Pakistan's proxy war against India is not over yet and the police force will continue fighting the enemy to ensure the nation's safety.

Singh made the remarks in an official statement after a visit to Handwara town of Kupwara district and Ganderbal district.

During his visit, the director general of police (DGP) reviewed the law and order situation in different areas, inter-

acted with the respective jurisdictional officers and also addressed 'darbars' of police personnel.

"Pakistan is in no way a friend of the people of Jammu & Kashmir as it has brought death and destruction, and disrupted the peace and order here," Singh said.

The proxy war that Pakistan is waging against India is not over yet and "we will continue our fight to defeat the enemy for the security and integrity of our nation," he said.

He also called on officers and jawans to foil the "wicked acts or designs" of elements inimical to the peace and prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir.

# Drass shivers at minus 11.5° as mercury dips in J&K, Ladakh



Jammu: Drass emerged as the coldest place in Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, recording a low of minus 11.5 degrees Celsius, as the mercury dipped in most parts of the two Union Territories on Tuesday, a Meteorological (MeT) department spokesman said.

The weatherman has predicted light to moderate rain or snow in plains and moderate snow over higher reaches of the two Union Territories on Thursday and Friday with possibility of temporary disruption of traffic on Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar-Leh highways.

Drass town, popularly known as 'the gateway to Ladakh', recorded a minimum of minus 11.5 degrees Celsius, making it the coldest recorded place in the region, the spokesman said.

He said Leh town of Ladakh continue to freeze at a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, while Kargil town recorded a night temperature of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius.

# Several schools reopen in Srinagar, life inching towards normalcy in Kashmir

Srinagar: Several schools reopened here on Tuesday after remaining closed for over three months due to the unannounced shutdown following the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 provisions, even as life was inching towards normalcy in Kashmir, officials said.

The move by several private schools to resume classes came as public transport has started to ply in the Valley and life was fast returning to normalcy, they said.

The managements have

decided to open the schools from 10 am to 1 pm and students have been asked to come without wearing the uniform, the officials said.

The city and most areas elsewhere in the valley saw a significant improvement in the movement of public transport on Monday. The officials said the intra-district as well as the inter-district connectivity has improved significantly.

Auto-rickshaws and inter-district cabs have been plying for a while now, but in the last few days, the movement of

intra-district cabs across the valley has also increased, they added.

The officials said the private transport was plying unhindered. On Sunday, the rail service from Srinagar to Banihal also resumed.

The train service in the valley was suspended due to security reasons on August 3 — days before the Centre abrogated the Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the State into two Union territories.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Name of work: Removal of existing defective MS panel door and manufacturing, supply, fixing, testing & commissioning of SS grade 304 Switch Board Cabinet door for LHB type STB/Raj AC Coaches.

Tender No.: 30-Elect-9T-Chg-2019-20

Approx. cost of the works in (Rs.): Rs. 31,87,500/-

Cost of tender form: Rs. 3,540/-

Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi

Earnest Money: Rs. 63,800/-

Period of completion of work: 05 Months

Last date & time of submission of tender: 12.12.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs.

And opening of tender: 12.12.2019 at 15.01 Hrs.

Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3695/19

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CENTRAL)-I, NEAR UGR & BPS**  
**RAMLILA GROUND JLN MARG, NEW DELHI-110002.**

Short PRESS NIT NO. 47 (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Date of release of tender on e-procurement solution	Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing and laying of 500 mm dia DWC pipe from 3551 Kutub Road to T-Point Idgah Road Kasabpura Ward under EE (Central)-I, AC-22. (Re-invite)	₹ 26,96,496.00	18/11/2019 03.00 PM onwards	28/11/2019 upto 3:00 PM

Tender ID: 2019\_DJB\_184064\_2

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 541/2019-20

Sd/- EE (Central)-I

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

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

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://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	33 /GM/(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	₹ 44.08
		M/o Misc other maintenance work (M/o Misc. work for Remodeling Phase-I Sector-18), Noida.	
	2	32 /GM/(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	₹ 31.34
		M/o Road C/O C.C. road from Flat No. 734 to 799 of ward or ward No. 12A, Sector-37), Noida.	
	3	27 /GM/(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	₹ 53.94
		M/o Drain (Providing placing of precast slab of balance area of Main drain No. 2 in front of H.No. B-169 to 183, Sector-19), Noida.	
B	4	05 /GM/(R)/SM(WC-4)/E.T./2019-20	₹ 52.53
		Other Maintenance work (P/F Grill work on Central verge between Sector-62-63 at road No. 6), Noida.	

Which can be uploaded by Date: 05.12.2019 upto 05:00 PM.  
Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 06.12.2019 at 11:00 AM.

General Manager (R), Noida

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K**  
Phone No: 0194246201/246202/246203/246204/246205/246206  
Website: www.police.gov.in, E-mail: phq@police.gov.in

**Tender Extension Notice**

Due to administrative and technical reasons NIT No. 59 of 2019 dated 30.07.2019 floated to procure Mobile Command Centers is extended as follows:-

i) Last date for online tender submission = 23.11.2019

ii) Online opening of technical bids = 25.11.2019

Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-Procurement Portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

No. DRP/4-099619 56: (Rajasth Land/UPPS AG: Provisional) Transport) Dated: 18.11.2019 For Director General of Police, J&K, Jammu

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Name of work and its location: 30-ELECT-16-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with: i) Provision of new construction of first floor RPF barrack, RPF office at PF No. 3-4 station and scout & guide complex bhoad side GZB. ii) Improvement and up raising of Gulchar and Duhar halt platform. iii) Work to be executed in flash Butt welding plant Maerut Cantt.

Approx cost of the works in Rs. 34.83 lacs

Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Earnest Money: Rs. 69700.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 16.12.19, 15.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender: 16.12.19, 15.00 Hrs

Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3701/2019

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-28-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with i) Renovation of dialysis, male/female changing room, ultrasound room, x-ray registration room at Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi. ii) Providing oxygen & vacuum pipe line with accessories in almost all beds at NRDH in the section of SSE/W/T under ADENE-III. Approx cost of the works in: Rs 13.64 lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 27300.00. Date & time of submission of tender: 16.12.2019, 15.00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 16.12.2019, 15.00 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 3700/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

**JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIV-I, JPDC, GANDHI NAGAR, JAMMU  
PHONE NO : 0191-2458521, e-mail : eemred2@gmail.com

e-NIT No.: 122 of 2019 **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER** Dated: 13-11-2019

For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) Supply Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Double Ckt 11 KV Line on Rabbit Conductor for Bifurcation of 11 KV feeders Old Arnia, & Sai II at Bishnah area under Language projects sanctioned by JKIDFC on turn key basis are hereby invited from Self Help Groups/ A Class Electrical Contractors of J&K having Valid Registration Certificate for the year 2019-20 and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document.

S.No.1, Name of Work :- Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Single Ckt 11 KV Line for Bifurcation of 11 KV feeders of Old Arnia, & Sai II at Bishnah area on turn key basis

Cost of document (in Rs.) :- 1000/-, Earnest Money (in Rs.) :- 80000/-, Estd. Cost :- Rs 40.00 lacs, Date & Time of Downloading of Bidding Documents :- 14.11.2019 from 1700 hrs, Last Date of e-bid Submission :- 29.11.2019 (up to 1600 Hrs), Time and Date of Opening of tender :- 30.11.2019 (at 1400 Hrs)

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully, Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Electric Division-I JPDC, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu

No. DIP/J-9289-19  
Dated: 18-10-2019

**DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED**  
(An undertaking Govt. of NCT of Delhi)  
CIN - U40103DL2005GO14529 Shakti Sadan, Kirti Road, New Delhi-110002 website - www.dtl.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING e-tender**

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites tender for the following work:

Tender No. T19P090451: Turnkey Package for following Augmentation works:-

(a) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 02 Nos. 66 kV bays along with equipments and associated Civil works at 220/66 kV Sub-Station Ghaziipur, New Delhi.

(b) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 02 Nos. 66 kV bays along with equipments and associated Civil works at 220/66 kV Sub-Station Wazirabad, New Delhi

(c) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 02 Nos. 66 kV bays along with equipments and associated Civil works at 220/66 kV Sub-Station Santa Vihar, New Delhi and

(d) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Equipments of Loading of Tertiary winding of 400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA Auto Power Transformer along with associated Civil works at existing 400 kV Sub-Station Bavana and Bannaui.

Last date & time for receipt of e-tender: 13.12.2019 at 10:30 am.

For further details please logon Delhi Govt website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> (Tender ID No.2019\_DTL\_183454\_1 and DTL website [www.dtl.gov.in](http://www.dtl.gov.in) (Unique No. DTL-7006-191119)

All Corrigendum/Addendum/Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tender would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
OA No. 1457/18 Date: 11.10.2019

STATE BANK OF INDIA APPLICANT  
SH. ANIL SINGH & ORS. Versus RESPONDENT

To, DEFENDANT  
2, M/s Idea Builder Pvt. Ltd., C-294, 1st Floor, Near Park Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95 Also At: C-10, Ramprasha, Ghaziabad, UP Also At: Kharsa No. 958, Red Apple Residency National Highway-58, Near KDP Circle Ranjnapur Extension, Ghaziabad, UP  
3. Sh. Akshay Kumar, C-294, 1st Floor, Near Park Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95 Also At: R/o House No. 10, Block-C, Ramprasha, Ghaziabad, UP-201011  
4. Sh. Tarun Kumar, C-294, 1st Floor, Near Park Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95 Also At: R/o 12SI Bhandari Bagh, Dohradun-248001 UltraKhand

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.36,41,578/- (Rupee Thirty Six Lakh Fourty One Thousand Five Hundred And Seventy Eight Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 26.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal  
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

# Will raise tariffs in next few weeks: Jio

**New Delhi:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio on Tuesday said it will increase mobile phone call and data charges in the next few weeks in compliance with rules, as it followed similar announcements by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea on tariff hike.



Jio, which had stormed the telecom sector with free voice calls and dirt cheap data, had for the first time last month decided to charge phone calls by its users to rival phone networks to compensate for interconnect usage charges.

In a statement on Tuesday, Jio said that the telecom regulator TRAI is likely to initiate consultation process for revision in telecom tariffs.

The company underlined its commitment to bringing the 40 crore 2G customers to experience and participate fully in the Digital India eco-system, and pledged its full support to providing the best quality and experience to all its customers.

"Like other operators, we will also work with the Government and comply with

the regulatory regime to strengthen the industry to benefit Indian consumers and take measures including appropriate increase in tariffs in next few weeks in a manner that does not adversely impact data consumption or growth in digital adoption, and sustains investments," Jio said.

The company did not divulge the extent of price hike in the offering.

"Despite the staggering growth in data-consumption and 4G coverage across the country, there are still over 40 crore Indian consumers who have not benefited from the advent of the latest technologies. We believe that the ambitious objectives of the 'Digital India' mission can be achieved only if India is made '2G-mukh' in the shortest time-

frame possible," Jio said.

The Government and the sector regulator TRAI should mandate this through policy, it added.

"This requires continued investment at an industry level. The whole industry needs to come up the curve and raise standards to meet the aspirations of Indian citizens and fulfill the nation's digital agenda," the statement added.

The operator - known for its aggressive stance on pricing since it launched services in 2016 - said it is committed to bringing the 40 crore 2G customers to experience and participate fully in the Digital India eco-system.

The company said it will continuously innovate in the digital eco-system to provide affordable services and products to Indian consumers.

"Jio is committed to always being regulatory compliant, and work with the industry to keep the telecom sector a vibrant part of the Indian economy and a vital engine for our country's growth," it said. **PTI**

# Trai to wait for telcos to report revised pricing

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The telecom regulator will wait for operators to report their new tariffs to the authority before taking a view on whether the revised pricing is within the regulatory framework, according to a TRAI source. Confronted with intense competition and unprecedented statutory dues, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea on Monday announced a hike in mobile phone call and data charges from December saying the increase was warranted for viability of their business. The two, however, did not quantify the increase in rates but said that the hike will be effective beginning next month.

A senior TRAI official told PTI that the regulator will wait and watch to see the finer details of the announcement. "Let them report the tariffs, and we will see. Also, the tariffs are under forbearance," the official said. Another official said that as

things stand now there is no move to initiate any consultation on floor price. On Monday evening, Vodafone Idea, in a statement, announced plans to raise tariffs for the first time in 3 years only to be followed by a similarly-worded statement minutes later from Airtel. Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, the two large telecom operators, last week had reported a combined loss of ₹74,000 crore for the second quarter ended September 2019, mainly on account of statutory dues arising from the recent Supreme Court order on adjusted gross revenue (AGR).

The apex court has upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual AGR of telecom companies, a share of which has to be paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer. The ruling over statutory liabilities had prompted a rush for provisioning by telecom companies.

# No intention to revise fiscal deficit target: Govt

**New Delhi:** The Government on Tuesday categorically stated that it does not intend to revise its fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for the current financial year notwithstanding slowdown in economic activities.

"No sir," Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha to a query if the Government intends to revise fiscal deficit in view of the economic slowdown.

The Minister further said

expenditure of various Ministries and departments of the Government is as per the estimates approved by Parliament.

In the first half of the financial year, 53.4 per cent of Budget Estimates was spent by various ministries and departments.

Thakur also listed out the steps taken by the Government to boost economic activities.

The real GDP growth slowed to an over six-year low of 5 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year.

Replying to another question, Singh said non-performing assets of banks, after reaching a peak of ₹10,36,187 crore as on March 31, 2018, have declined ₹97,996 crore to ₹9,38,191 crore as on June 30, 2019.

Banks have also "effected record recovery" of ₹4,27,115 crore over the last four financial years and the first quarter of the current financial year, including recovery of ₹1,56,702 crore during the financial year 2018-19. **PTI**

# ₹ recovers 13 paise to end at 71.71 against \$

**Mumbai:** The rupee recovered from initial losses to settle higher by 13 paise at 71.71 against the US currency on Tuesday, propped up softening crude oil prices and gains in domestic equity markets.

Forex traders said the rupee consolidated in a narrow range following lack of cues on the domestic as well as the global front. During the day, the domestic unit fluctuated between a high of 71.68 and a low of 72.

"The Indian rupee opened lower at 71.97 a dollar, tacking cues from most Asian currencies as a lack of progress in US-China trade talks had an impact on risk appetite. However, the rupee recovered from day's low amid stronger domestic equity and lower crude oil prices," said VK Sharma, Head - PCG & Capital Market Strategy, HDFC securities. **PTI**

# Was cheated by scam-hit PMC: RBI to Bombay HC

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In a candid admission that the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank had taken it for a ride, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday informed the Bombay High Court that the PMC Bank had submitted "fraudulently manipulated data" to it for sample checks.

In a detailed affidavit filed before a HC bench of Justices Satyanjan Dharmadhikari and Riyaz Chagla, the RBI stated: "Since transaction testing is not done in the RBI inspection, and the bank submitted fraudulently manipulated data to RBI for sample checks, the sample of accounts picked for inspection did not contain undisclosed HDIL related accounts. The disclosed HDIL related accounts were seen and majority of them were assessed as NPAs"

In an affidavit filed before the high court, Rajlaxmi Sethi, Assistant General Manager,

Department of Co-operative Bank Supervision, RBI, stated: "Further, non-monitoring of end use of funds despite instructions to this effect contained in the Master Circulars on Advances and conflict of interest of Shri Waryam Singh as Chairman of PMC bank and as a former director of HDIL group was also commented upon in the report along with the attempt by the bank to show disclosed accounts of HDIL group as standard by sanction of new loans to close/regularise the old NPA accounts in non-adherence to RBI Master Circular (MC) dated July 1, 2015 on IRAC norms."

"The bank had also sanctioned mortgage overdraft limits to a wholly owned group company of HDIL while the present Chairman (then director) of the bank was one of the Directors in the company. This was a violation of para 5.1 of the then RBI Master Circulars on Board of Directors dated July 1,

2010 and July 2, 2012," the RBI stated, in its inspection report that has been made part of its affidavit filed before the high court.

"Waryam Singh chaired the Board meeting to ratify the approval of the mortgage overdraft, in which he was directly interested in non adherence to para 2.3 (b) (ii) of RBI Master Circular on Board of Directors - UCBs, requiring non-participation by the Directors concerned Board discussion, if a proposal in which they are directly or indirectly interested, comes up for discussion/to disclose their interest, well in advance, to the Board of the bank," the affidavit stated.

"The Inspection team had also established the relationship between the Chairman of the bank and HDIL promoters, which might have acted as the primary consideration for sanction of credit facilities and resulted in their utilisation to payoff one-time settlement dues with

other lenders," the affidavit stated.

The high court is hearing a PIL seeking the removal of restrictions on the withdrawal amount from PMC Bank came up for hearing. The HC bench heard the matter and scheduled the next hearing of the case for December 4.

The RBI's affidavit before the high court should be seen in the context of a finding during the ongoing investigations that the PMC Bank's exposure to the HDIL group was nearly 73 per cent of its total loan book size of Rs 8,880 crore as of September 19, 2019.

The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai police, which is investigating the case, suspects a nexus between some of the accused and realty group HDIL, whose mammoth loan defaults are said to have caused a liquidity crisis at the bank, leading to appointment of administrator and restrictions on withdrawal of funds. **PTI**

# Yes Bank posts lower net profit for FY19 due to NPA divergence

**New Delhi:** Yes Bank on Tuesday reported a lower net profit of ₹1,084.03 crore for 2018-19 compared to ₹1,720.28 crore announced earlier due to higher non-performing assets assessed by the Reserve Bank.

The divergence in net non-performing assets (NPAs) of the bank — the difference in bad loans reported by the bank and the assessment done by the RBI — stood at ₹2,299 crore for 2018-19, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The private sector lender had reported a net profit of ₹1,720.28 crore in 2018-19. "The adjusted (notional) net profit after tax for the year ended March 31, 2019 after taking into account the divergence in provisioning was at ₹1,084.03 crore," it said.

The divergence in provisioning was at ₹978 crore. Additionally, the bank said that it intends to convene a meeting of its board of directors by the end of this month to finalise its capital raise.

Market regulator Sebi has put in place tighter disclosure norms, directing all listed banks to disclose any divergence in bad loan provisioning within 24 hours of receiving RBI's risk assessment report, rather than waiting to publish the details in their annual financial statements. **PTI**

# Tata Steel confirms job cuts of up to 3,000 across European operations

**London:** Tata Steel has confirmed cuts of up to 3,000 jobs across its European operations as part of a wider restructuring and cost-cutting strategy to counter stagnant steel demand in Europe and global overcapacity.

The Indian steel giant said it plans to lower employment costs with the "estimated reduction" in employee numbers, about two-thirds of which are expected to be office-based white-collar roles — a majority expected at its Netherlands unit.

"The information shared with the European Works Council select committee lays out the case for change, explains our transformation programme and gives a first overview of the organisational impact," a company statement said.

"A transformation is needed to mitigate the current struc-

tural and cyclical headwinds and create the foundation for the company's future success. Stagnant EU steel demand and global overcapacity have been compounded by trade conflicts which have turned the European market into a dumping ground for the world's excess steel capacity," it noted.

Through its proposed transformation programme, Tata Steel Europe said it is initially targeting a positive cash flow by the end of its financial year ending March 2021. It is also aiming for an EBITDA margin of around 10 per cent throughout the market cycle. "We intend to align on our approach and the process going forward and engage with various stakeholders to develop the proposed decisions and ensure compliance with all European and national obligations. **PTI**

## BUSINESS CORNER

### INSOLVENCY CASES: CREDAI GZB RAISES CONCERN

**Ghaziabad:** CREDAI Ghaziabad on Tuesday raised its concern over the increasing number of insolvency cases against the developers as till date more than 1,000 cases have been filed under insolvency since June 2018 against real estate companies. The agency was of the view that the insolvency law is being implemented in a wrong way and steps should be taken to stop misuse of the law, which is being used to arm twist developers and causing delays in the delivery of projects. Highlighting the matter, the industry association has written to the Prime Minister's office demanding that the consent of 2/3rd of allottees of a real estate project should be required to trigger IBC proceedings against a promoter. In July 2019, the Government had shown intent that it would amend the 2016 insolvency law, a signature reform of PM Narendra Modi's first term. The legislation was getting mired in frustrating legal delays and bizarre judgments, threatening to scare off global investors.



### BHARTI AXA LAUNCHES 'LET THEM SHINE' DRIVE

**Mumbai/New Delhi:** Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, launched a video campaign 'Let Them Shine' to celebrate the dreams of the country's shining stars on this Children's Day.



### DAKSH VARMA TO ENTHRAL VISITORS WITH MUSICAL BAND

The frenetic 14 days of India International Trade Fair (Nov 14-27, 2019) at Pragati Maidan attracts visitors due to its business dimension as well as vibrant cultural hue. This year, the fair marks the State Day Celebration with mesmerising performances of some artists and magicians. In these music programmes, vocalist Mr. Daksh Verma of the "Swar Engine" Musical Band will perform his songs along with Mr. Tarun, Tusshar, Bhanu on Guitars and Jassi on drums. Visitors can enjoy the programme on 22nd November 2019 from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm at Hamsadhvani Theatre, near Hall 7 Pragati Maidan.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Lal Bahadur Chadara S/o Pari Chadara R/o H.No.3286, Mahindra Park, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, Delhi. Age-26 years, Height-5'6"** Face-Round, Complexion-Sallow, Wearing- Black Colour Shirt-Black Colour Pant and Blue Colour Cap & Black Colour Chappal in his feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S Rani Bagh, Delhi since dated 02.09.2019. In this regard a vide DD No. 26-A Dated 03.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO  
P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-27015329  
870870225

DP/2860/OD/19

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female, Age: 45 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'2", Face: Oval, was wearing Black colour T-Shirt & Black Colour Legging, was found unconscious in front of Gate No. 4, emergency building of S.J. Hospital. She was declared brought dead by the doctors. In this regard a DD No. 24A, dated 28.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjng Enclave, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO  
P.S. Safdarjng Enclave, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-24106345, 24106346

DP/7152/SW/19

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : About 40 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Build: Normal, wearing white liner shirt, grey colour pant and brown colour sandle in feet, was found unconscious on 17.11.2019 opp. J-14/44, Street No. 44, Beadonpura, Karol Bagh, Delhi. He was admitted in RML Hospital, where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 22-A dated 17.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of RML Hospital, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-28726870, 28721115

DP/6745/CD/19

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM						
SR NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/ BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH.	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE/ TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX. IN Rs.)	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited	Empanelment of firms for design, manufacture, supply & installation of Super efficient Split Inverter Air Conditioners of 1.5 tonne capacity with ISEER 5.4 or above as per Nigam's specifications with 1 year of complete equipment and 3 years of compressor warranty to be used for New Installations/ replacement of 3 star or below rated ACs installed in State of Haryana.	Start Time: 15-11-2019 at 17:00 Hrs. Last Date: 09-12-2019 Upto 13:00 Hrs.	280.0 Cr./ EMD- 2 000 Lacs	Uhbvn.org.in, etenders.hry.nic.in	cemm@uhbvn.org.in 9057199013

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the public that Mrs Shashi Swastava is the owner of Duplex Flat No. 8514, on First & Second Floor, Pocket-9, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, "the said property" on the basis of Conveyance deed dated 31.03.2010 registration no. 4490, has Intimidated Original Affidavit letter, Possession letter, Agreement dated 02.01.1995 all wills, last page of conveyance deed containing registration particulars, with respect of the said property. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

**For Kumar & Associates (Advocate & Consultants)**  
200, Second Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moli Nagar, New Delhi-15 Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 78 of 2019-20

For and on behalf of President of India, Executive Engineer, PHE Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms for the below mentioned work:-  
S. No. 1. Name of Work :- Replacement of major components of 167 HP VT pumpset of 1.80 Lakh GPH x 34.5 M head at unit-I & III of Intake-II Siltree under Launching project LUP2347.  
Name of Location :- PHE Mech. Division North Jammu  
Cost of document / tender fee (in Rs.) :- 500/-  
Earnest money - 02% of quoted rates  
Validity of Rates :- 180 days  
Bid validity :- 180 days  
Position of funds :- Demanded  
Date of Publishing :- 15-11-2019 02.00 pm.  
1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jitenders.gov.in> from 15-11-2019 (02.00 pm) to 29-11-2019 (02.00 pm).  
2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jitenders.gov.in> from 15-11-2019 (02.00 pm) to 29-11-2019 (02.00 pm).  
Sd/- Executive Engineer  
PHE Mech. Division North Jammu

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one Lady namely **Rani W/o Vinod Kumar R/o Indra Aawas, Village Nahari, Sonipat, Haryana, has been missing/kidnapped since 22.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 49-A dated 25.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped Lady is as under :-**

Name : Rani, Husband's Name : Vinod Kumar, Age : 35 yrs., Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : Blue Colour Suit & Red Colour Laggi and Black Colour Shoes in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO  
P.S., Narela, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-27282350  
27285839

DP/765/ON/19

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Sunil Kumar, S/o Lt. Ganesh Kumar R/o Pandit Enclave, Gali No.03, Mukundpur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 213/12 u/s 380/411/34 IPC, P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sunil Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sunil Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sunil Kumar of **FIR No. 213/12 u/s 380/411/34 IPC, P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** is required to appear before the court on or before the said complaint on or before **23.12.2019**.

By Order,  
Ms. Richa Sharma  
Metropolitan Magistrate (North)  
Room No.306, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/780/ON/19 - (Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Rihan, S/o Abdula Rahman R/o H.No. 49, J-Block, Near Seemapuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 495/15 u/s 354-D/506 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person Rihan, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rihan, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Rihan, Under **FIR No. 495/15 u/s 354-D/506 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi**, is required to appear before the court on or before **24.12.2019**.

By order  
Ms. Deepti Dvsh  
Ld MM-01, Room No. 55  
Karkardooma Courts,  
Shahdara, Delhi

DP/7449/NE/19

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male namely **Raju, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: 40 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: Approx 5', Built: Thin, Face: Long**, was wearing Blue colour T-Shirt & Grey colour Pant, was found at Gali No. 6, Sat Nagar, Ravi Dass Marg, Karol Bagh, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 12A, dated 31.10.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in MAMC mortuary for 72 Hours. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO  
P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-25751048, 25725652

DP/6741/CD/19

# Azzurri hit 9 past Armenia

Mancini's side maintain perfect record with 9-1 rout; Danes, Swiss through to Euro 2020



Ciro Immobile (11) hugs Nicolò Zaniolo after Lazio striker scores his second goal against Armenia



Christian Eriksen celebrates with teammates after Denmark qualifies for Euro 2020

AFP ■ PALERMO

Denmark and Switzerland secured spots at Euro 2020 at the expense of the Republic of Ireland on Monday as Roberto Mancini's Italy completed a perfect qualifying campaign by scoring nine. Ireland needed to beat Denmark in Dublin to clinch qualification for next year's 24-team European Championship finals, but Matt Doherty's late header was only enough to earn Mick McCarthy's men a 1-1 draw at the Aviva Stadium.

A closely-fought contest, low on technical quality, swung the visitors' way when the unmarked Martin Braithwaite stuck out a boot to divert a Henrik Dalsgaard cross into the net on 73 minutes.

However, Ireland scored a late equaliser to draw 1-1 in Copenhagen in June and they repeated the feat here as Wolverhampton Wanderers right-back Doherty headed in an Enda Stevens cross with five minutes left. Needing to win, the home side

then threw everything at their opponents in the dying moments, but Denmark held on to clinch second place in Group D behind Switzerland. "We had opportunities but I am not going to criticise the lads," McCarthy told *Sky Sports*. "They have been brilliant. We lost one game out of eight. I am very proud of them. We can beat anyone in the play-offs."

The Danes, European champions in 1992, can now look forward to playing at home during the finals, with Copenhagen one of the 12 host cities chosen for the tournament.

Switzerland secured top spot with a 6-1 away win against minnows Gibraltar as Cedric Itten scored twice. Skipper and Arsenal outcast Granit Xhaka netted their final goal.

Italy had already wrapped up qualification from Group J but they saved their best for last, making it 10 wins from 10 by hammering Armenia 9-1 in Palermo with seven different scorers.

Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile and Nicolò Zaniolo both scored braces, while Nicolò Barella and Alessio Romagnoli found the net before Chelsea midfielder Jorginho converted a penalty.

Riccardo Orsolini came off the bench to score on his Italy debut and Federico Chiesa finished off the scoring after Edgar Babayan had pulled one back for Armenia.

It was an 11th straight win in all for Mancini's side, with Italy scoring nine times in a game for the first time since beating the USA 9-0 at the London Olympics in 1948.

"We had the right approach to the game and you don't score nine goals by chance," Mancini purred.

"We need to improve various aspects of the game but for me it will be really difficult to leave some people at home when I select the squad for the finals. They would all deserve to be there."

Having wrapped up a historic first qualification for a major tournament three days earlier, Finland lost 2-1 to Greece in Athens despite Norwich City striker Teemu Pukki giving them a first-half lead with his 10th goal in eight international games.

Bosnia and Herzegovina finish fourth in the group despite a 3-0 win in Liechtenstein, but they will have another chance to qualify via the play-offs next March.

## LAST GAME FOR MORENO

Meanwhile, Group F winners Spain rounded out their qualifying campaign with a 5-0 destruction of Romania at a barely half-full Metropolitan Stadium in Madrid.

Gerard Moreno scored twice after Napoli midfielder Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring. Adrian Rus put through his own net in first-half stoppage time and Real Sociedad striker Mikel Oyarzabal wrapped up the win amid reports the match was Robert Moreno's last as coach.

Having already qualified as runners-up in the same group, Sweden defeated the Faroe Islands 3-0, while Norway, who go into the play-offs, won 2-1 in Malta.

The final automatic qualifying berth will be decided after Wales host Hungary with the winner going through from Group E, while a draw in Cardiff could allow Slovakia to pip both of them by beating Azerbaijan.



Spain coach Luis Enrique in a file picture

# Enrique returns as La Roja boss

AFP ■ MADRID

Luis Enrique will return as coach of Spain and replace Robert Moreno ahead of Euro 2020, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on Tuesday.

Moreno took charge in June after Luis Enrique had resigned to take care of his daughter Xana, who died in August of bone cancer.

"Today we can confirm Luis Enrique returns to his position of work," RFEF president Luis Rubiales said in a press conference at the national team's training base in Las Rozas.

Rubiales said Luis Enrique has a contract until the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and that it will be up to him whether Moreno is offered a chance to resume his previous role as assistant coach.

The pair were close friends and also worked together at Barcelona, Celta Vigo and Roma but Moreno appears upset at the manner of his departure.

"Luis Enrique stepped down because of the worst possible thing that can happen to a father," Rubiales said. "He has always been the leader of our project and he has a contract until (the) World Cup in Qatar."

Luis Enrique was appointed Spain's coach after the 2018 World Cup and his readiness to return will be welcomed, after the death of his nine-year-old daughter three months ago.

But the RFEF's handling of the change has

been clumsy, with reports emerging before Spain's 5-0 win over Romania on Monday that he would not lead the team at next year's finals.

Moreno did not appear for his post-match press conference and reportedly left the players' dressing room in tears.

Rubiales said Moreno also chose not to show up for a meeting with the RFEF on Tuesday.

"We had a meeting set up with Robert Moreno at 10am this morning," Rubiales said.

"But he did not come, only his two lawyers," Moreno said in September he would be "the first and most delighted to step aside" if Luis Enrique decided he wanted to come back but he may have hoped for more transparency around the decision.

Rubiales rejected accusations of dishonesty, insisting he spoke to Luis Enrique in October and then again on Monday, having learned he was ready to return through Moreno.

"It was clear that as soon as Luis Enrique felt strong enough to return, the door would be open for him," Rubiales said. "I have been honest about that. Nobody can feel tricked."

Rubiales added: "We thank Robert Moreno for his work, he did a very good job, and we are very happy with what he did."

"But I repeat that Robert Moreno told us that he had spoken to Luis Enrique, who told him he wanted to return. We found out Luis Enrique wanted to come back through Moreno."

# Pep's agent rules out Munich return



Former Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola during team's training session in Allianz Arena

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola's agent has ruled out a return to Bayern Munich at least until the Spaniard's contract expires at Manchester City in 2021, according to reports.

The German champions are currently looking for a new head coach following the sacking of Niko Kovac after a 5-1 thrashing at Eintracht Frankfurt at the start of the month.

Caretaker boss Hansi Flick will remain in charge at least until Christmas when the Bundesliga goes into recess but the Germans are already on the lookout for a possible high profile replacement.

"Pep is content and very happy in Manchester. His contract is until June 2021," Guardiola's agent Josep Maria Orobitg told German daily *Bild* on Wednesday, having also been quoted by websites *SPOX* and *Goal*.

"Guardiola always fulfils his contracts. "I haven't spoken with anyone in Germany about him — neither with intermediaries nor club bosses."

"Pep has good memories of Munich and still has friends there, but at the moment he has shown no interest in returning to Germany as a coach."

"That is something that is just as impossible at the moment as it was last summer with Juventus."

"I deny all rumours." Guardiola won the German league and cup double in his final season at Bayern in 2016 having lifted the Bundesliga title in each of his three seasons at the Munich club, who he joined in 2013.

Ajax coach Erik ten Hag and Paris Saint-Germain's Thomas Tuchel have been linked to Bayern, but both have made it clear they will not leave their respective clubs this season.

AFP ■ TEL AVIV

Lionel Messi scored a late penalty as Argentina drew 2-2 with Uruguay in a friendly held in Israel on Monday, with the Jewish state considering the match a victory.

The game pitted Messi against his Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez, and it looked as though the Uruguayan had gotten the better of him as he scored one goal and set up another to give his team a 2-1 lead going into injury time.

But a ball into the box was handled by a Uruguayan defender, and Messi calmly slotted the resulting penalty home to ensure an engaging friendly ended all square.

The 32-year-old had earlier teed up Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero to make it 1-1, after Edinson Cavani

# Barca boys star in 2-2 draw



Lionel Messi attempts to score via free kick against Uruguay

had opened the scoring. Suarez scored a free-kick from outside the box to give his side the lead before Messi's late intervention.

The game had been dubbed by organisers as an important moment for Israel, following the cancellation of another Argentina match a year earlier after pressure from pro-Palestinian campaigners.

On the pitch at times it felt like the Messi show, with the crowd chanting his name and every mazy run greeted by vociferous cheering.

While not at his electric best, he showed moments of quality — slaloming past defenders and forcing Uruguay goalkeeper Martin

Campana into a number of smart saves.

The match comes after the cancellation of a pre-World Cup friendly fixture between Argentina and Israel in June 2018 after boycott calls.

That match had been due to be played in Jerusalem, sparking Palestinian anger and criticism of Argentina online.

Israel considers Jerusalem its "indivisible" capital, while Palestinians claim the eastern part of the city — occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed — as the capital of their future state.

Monday's game was held in the Israeli commercial capital Tel Aviv.

# Henry ready for Montreal challenge

AFP ■ MONTREAL

Newly-appointed Montreal Impact boss Thierry Henry vowed to learn from the mistakes of his disastrous reign at Monaco on Monday but called for patience as he attempts to revive the fortunes of the struggling Major League Soccer outfit.

Speaking at his first press conference since his appointment by Montreal last week, the 42-year-old former France and Arsenal superstar insisted he is ready for the challenge despite his troubled tenure with Ligue 1 side Monaco.

Henry was sacked by Monaco in January after only 100 days in charge as the team nosedived into the relegation zone following his appointment, with just five wins in 20 matches.

"For me, the way I put it is always [either] you win or you learn, and I learned a lot there," Henry said of his spell at Monaco. "It's about coming back, always. You have to get up and be in front of what happens. The only mistake that you can make is not learning from what happened."

Henry, who was also an assistant coach to Belgium during the country's 2018 World Cup campaign, where they finished third, said his experiences were part of his evolution as a manager.

"You have to start somewhere," he said of his time with Belgium and Monaco.

"I learned a lot about myself. It's about fighting. This isn't just my story but the story of everyone in life. Everyone falls. It's about how you get up."

The Impact's sporting director Olivier Renard said Henry beat out several candidates under consideration for the Montreal position. After meeting Henry in mid-October, it



Thierry Henry during press conference

was decided then that he should take on the job of rebuilding the foundering franchise, he said.

Henry, who spent four years in MLS with the New York Red Bulls at the tailend of his playing career, meanwhile urged Montreal's fans to be patient, saying success won't come overnight.

"We have a fresh start and we're going to move forward to rebuild the team," Henry told reporters.

"We know the direction we want to go, but you can't build a new team in two months, or three months or even a year," he said. "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, and it will require patience."

"We also need to win back the support of fans. I think this is very important because fans and the city, the community need to feel a connection to the team. It's up to us to bring them back on our side."

# Russia beat Croatia in Davis Cup opener

AFP ■ MADRID

Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev helped Russia open the inaugural Davis Cup Finals with a 3-0 victory over defending champions Croatia in Madrid on Monday.

World number 17 Khachanov clinched the point for Russia by fighting back to beat Croatian number one Borna Coric 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, after Rublev had earlier seen off Borna Gojo 6-3, 6-3.

"When you're playing not only for yourself, but for your country, you have to fight harder," said Khachanov.

Russia, who are without US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev due to exhaustion, can wrap up a place in the quarter-finals with victory over Rafael Nadal's Spain in their second Group B tie on Tuesday.

The 18 nations have been split into six groups of three at the Caja Magica, with the pool winners and two best runners-up to play in the last eight of the first edition of the revamped tournament.

The teams face off in two best-of-three-set singles matches and one doubles rubber in each tie.

Khachanov and Rublev completed the clean sweep later on Monday with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 doubles win over Ivan Dodig and Nikola Pietrangeli.

## CANADA DOWN ITALY

Canada claimed a 2-1 victory over well-fancied Italy to strike first in Group E.

World number 12 Fabio Fognini slumped to a 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 defeat by Vasek Pospisil, ranked 150th, before rising star Denis Shapovalov edged out Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/5). "I'm really happy to get the win

against a player like Matteo who has had such a good season," said Shapovalov. "I always love representing my country... It's not often you get to play as a team, so it's amazing."

Italy, who won their only Davis Cup title in 1976, were the favourites in Group F with Fognini and Berrettini both having enjoyed excellent seasons.

The 20-year-old Shapovalov saved three set points before snatching the first set in a tie-break, only for Berrettini to level the match in a second-set breaker.

A clash without a single break of serve, was decided by another tie-break, with Shapovalov reeling off the last three points to win after two hours and 52 minutes on court.

Berrettini and Fognini boosted Italy's hopes of making the quarters with a hard-fought doubles success over Shapovalov and Pospisil, winning 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Canada take on the United States on Tuesday, with Italy facing the Americans the following day.

Belgium made a victorious start in Group D with back-to-back singles wins against Colombia.

The South Americans are playing at the top level of Davis Cup tennis for the first time, having never played in the old World Group.

Steve Darcis saw off Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-2, before world number 11 David Goffin had to battle back from a set down to avoid a shock against 194th-ranked



France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga plays against Japan's Yasutaka Uchiyama during their Davis Cup match in Madrid on Tuesday

# Wrist spinners difficult to pick with Pink ball: Harbhajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

At the floodlit Eden Gardens, wrist spinners landing the pink ball with scrambled seam will be far more difficult to pick than finger spinners, feels senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

India will be playing its much-awaited first Day/Night Test against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens from Saturday and there is a lot of curiosity regarding how the pink ball would behave.

"Wrist spinners will have one advantage if you see because it's going to be very difficult to pick the seam (with black stitches) of pink ball," Harbhajan told PTI during an interaction.

India has a wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav but Harbhajan didn't want to talk on selection matters.

"Well, that's the team management's call and I can't comment. But then Bangladesh need to play the Indian pacers on the seamer friendly track before spinners are fully operational," he said, referring to their performance against Mohd Shami and Co. In the first Test.

"And also between 3.30 and 4.30 pm, the time of sunset in Kolkata where seamers are known to do maximum damage. But yes we need to figure out more about spinners if we want to play more D/N Tests in future."

He reminded how Kuldeep turned out to be lethal during the 2016 Duleep Trophy, played with the pink ball.

"If you remember Duleep Trophy, no one could effectively read Kuldeep from his wrists. Leg spinners got lot of wickets during that edition," Harbhajan said.

He explained why wrist spinners are more effective.

"When a finger spinner bowls, the ball is released with seam so that there is turn and bounce. When you are bowling the googly, the seam will be scrambled and very difficult to pick," he explained.

However, someone like a Muttiah Muralitharan might just be very effective.

"But there are exceptions like Muttiah Muralitharan, who could have been a killer with the pink ball despite being a finger spinner



Ravichandran Ashwin, center without cap, celebrates with teammates the dismissal of Bangladesh's Liton Das during the third day of first Test between India and Bangladesh in Indore

AP

because unlike other finger spinners, both his off break and doosra were released with scrambled seam," said one of India's greatest spinners.

However, the pink SG in general will be a challenge for the spinners with the extra lacquer that will be applied to keep its colour intact under lights.

"More lacquer means that you will not have a good grip on the ball, especially finger spinners. And the ball starts skidding from the hand."

He then went on to explain the fundamental difference between bowling with white ball and pink ball when the dew sets in.

"A lot of people think that the ball will be like a slippery soap bar as it happens with white ball in D/N games. It's not the same. The white ball becomes slippery because the white lacquer goes off the skin of the ball gets wet.

"With extra lacquer, pink ball's skin won't get wet but the stitches will be very soggy. And therein lies problem with finger spinners.

**When a finger spinner bowls, the ball is released with seam so that there is turn and bounce. When you are bowling the googly, the seam will be scrambled and very difficult to pick**

Also the format of the game makes it difficult.

"In 50 overs or 20 over cricket, whenever the ball gets wet, you can just alter the length a bit and let the batsmen play on backfoot getting those singles.

"But in a Test match, you will not have a field setting like that. You have to pitch it up. Now landing six deliveries on one spot while trying to grip a wet seam can be a challenge because trying the ODI length will be easy meat for batsmen."

For spinners to be more effective, they have to play more games at the domestic level.

"If BCCI creates a window so that all top national players are available for a couple of specific rounds in Ranji Trophy, then you can learn more.

"Even Duleep can go back to pink ball but only if stars play. With no disrespect to any player, if top players don't play here, the purpose is lost and no advantage gained while playing next pink Test," he concluded.

# Nur-Sultan to host Ind-Pak Davis Cup tie

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dismissing Pakistan's review appeal, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Tuesday announced Kazakhstan's capital Nur-Sultan as the neutral venue for the upcoming Davis Cup tie between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) had filed an appeal contesting the ITF Davis Cup Committee's November 4 decision to shift the November 29-30 tie to a neutral venue.

PTF had argued that if Indian pilgrims can visit Pakistan without any security threat, why can't the Indian team play matches in Islamabad, but the Independent Tribunal of the world governing body kept the games at a neutral venue.

"The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) appealed the Davis Cup Committee decision to move the tie from Islamabad. The appeal was dismissed by an independent tribunal on Monday 18 November," ITF said in a statement.

"Further to the decision of the PTF not to nominate a neutral venue, in accordance with Davis Cup regulations, the Davis Cup Committee has voted in favour of the tie being hosted by the ITF on neutral ground at the National Tennis Centre in Nur-Sultan (previously Astana), Kazakhstan on 29-30 November," the statement added.

The matches will be played on indoor courts since extreme cold conditions there won't allow them to be staged outside.

"Playing indoors suits our players. It will work in our favour, not that our players can't play on grass but they a lot more comfortable on hard courts. The weather conditions are harsh and though we are playing indoors, it still affects the body," India coach Zeeshan Ali said.

"The quality of tennis is better playing indoors because factors like sun and wind do not affect the matches." The tie was scheduled to be held in Islamabad in September but was pushed to November 29-30 after India expressed concerns about the safety of their players due to diplomatic tensions between the two nations.

# Shami alters length to keep batsmen guessing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India speedster Mohammed Shami said altering length to keep the batsmen guessing would be key when India take on Bangladesh in their maiden Pink-ball Test.

Shami, who has been in terrific form, returned with the figures of 3/27 and 4/31 in the first Test at Indore to achieve his career-best ranking, said he intends on keeping things simple for the historic Test.

"What one thing bowlers should do is keep an eye on the wicket and how is it behaving, so what I do is as the pitch gets slower I keep pushing myself and when I notice that the batsman is uncomfortable I go over the top... So the length has to keep changing," Shami said on *Nerolac Cricket Live* on Star Sports.

Meanwhile, former India cap-



Shami

tain Sunil Gavaskar cautioned Mayank Agarwal, who scored a double century in the Indore Test, saying opposition would be better-prepared to counter him in future matches.

"He is enjoying Test cricket, this is his first year and hopefully he keeps scoring on the second year also because in the second sea-

son there is a lot more data available of you to the opposition.

"But he has been batting beautifully, the way he balances himself without falling on the offside as he plays so straight and his movement of the front and back foot has been fantastic making him the man in form who is full of confidence," Gavaskar said.

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir said the Men in Blue have a complete bowling unit with quality spinners and pacers in their ranks.

"If you see other oppositions, some teams have got quality fast bowling attacks, some have quality spinners but if you look at this Indian side, they've got two quality spinners, three quality seamers plus Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar who are not in the playing 11.

"So they've got proper 5 seamers plus Kuldeep Yadav."

# Coach Langer throws weight behind Warner



Langer and Warner

Australia coach Justin Langer has reckoned opener David Warner will put his bad form in the Ashes this year behind him in the upcoming Test series against Pakistan. Warner had a horrible outing during the Ashes campaign this year as he managed just 95 runs at an average of 9.5 from five games. "I cannot wait to see him play well.

When he simplifies the game, stays still and watches the ball, keeps his mind clear, we know there's no more destructive player in the world, probably," Langer was quoted as saying by *cricket.com.au*.

"He loves batting in Australia, he loves batting, basically. We are looking forward to him having a great summer. I know how important he is to our team, that's why I had no doubt after the Ashes that he'd be in the first Test of the summer," he added.

When Pakistan last toured Australia, Warner averaged 71.20 across three Test matches.

Earlier, Aussie spinner Nathan Lyon felt that Warner would come out all guns blazing in the two-Test series against Pakistan. "Dave is a world-class player. I'm expecting him to come out here and play exceptionally well," Lyon had told reporters on Saturday.

"No doubt, he would have been down and disappointed about the Ashes that he had. But he was still part of the side to go over there and retain the Ashes, which is pretty bloody special, if you ask me," he added.

# Babar's best yet to come: Ponting

IAN S ■ BRISBANE

With Pakistan set to challenge Australia in a two-Tests series starting Thursday, former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting believes that Babar Azam could be a threat for the home team as the World Cup-winning skipper feels that Babar is yet to play to potential. "We haven't seen the best of him yet," Ponting told *cricket.com.au*. "Twenty-odd Tests for an average of 35 — he's better than that. He averages 54 in one-day cricket at a strike-rate of about 90. He's a very, very classy player.

"He's a really exciting talent and probably the guy I'm looking forward to seeing the most this summer. I've seen the Aussies a lot and I've seen a lot of the Kiwis, but I'm really excited to see him. He could be anything," he added.



Babar Azam in a file picture

# Kiwis & Eng put rivalry to Test

AFP ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

New Zealand and England will take their cricketing rivalry into the Test arena on Thursday after finding themselves evenly matched in recent limited-overs thrillers.

England have bragging rights after winning a rollercoaster World Cup final in July, then edging the Black Caps 3-2 in a desperately close Twenty20 series completed earlier this month.

Both the one-day decider and T20 series needed tie-breakers to find a winner and there will be no shortage of mutual respect when the rivals face off again on Thursday in the First Test at Mount Maunganui.

On paper, there again appears to be little to separate the teams, with New Zealand second in the Test rankings and England third.

But England skipper Joe Root is painfully aware that his team underperformed when it lost a two-Test series in New Zealand last year after underestimating the Black Caps' bowlers on their home turf.

Pacemen Trent Boult and Tim Southee bundled the tourists out for 58 in the first innings of the opening Test as England tried to play what Root described as "fast forward" cricket.

England's skipper said his team would be taking a more measured



New Zealand and England players watch as local Maori perform a haka during an official welcome

approach this time, with batsmen placing an emphasis on protecting their wickets.

"We have to be prepared to play some attritional cricket at times," he said.

"We have to try to bat longer... it would be nice to get used to batting for 120 overs more regularly, especially in the first innings."

The series will not count towards the World Test Championship, giving new England coach Chris Silverwood room to experiment in his first Test series in

charge.

He is expected to hand opening batsman Dom Sibley his debut, partnering Rory Burns, with Root moving down to fourth in the order.

New Zealand will take the opportunity to blood speedster Lockie Ferguson, who has already excelled in limited overs internationals and was described as "an extreme talent" by short-ball specialist Neil Wagner.

"I know he's raring to go. If he gets the opportunity he'll make the most of

it," Wagner said.

New Zealand will also be bolstered by the return of captain Kane Williamson, who sat out the T20 series with a nagging hip injury.

It will be the first Test match ever staged at Mount Maunganui's Bay Oval, which has been hosting limited-overs internationals since 2014.

The beachside venue is Wagner's home ground and he said the wicket could take time to get used to.

"It's been a pretty good wicket that's tended to be on the flatter side but there's always pace and bounce that you can work with," he said.

"It's also got its own unique challenges with wind that swirls around a bit."

## SQUADS

**New Zealand:** Kane Williamson (capt), Todd Astle, Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Jeet Raval, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling  
**England:** Joe Root (capt), Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Jack Leach, Saqib Mahmood, Matthew Parkinson, Ollie Pope, Dominic Sibley, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes.

# Misbah working on plans to shut Smith

IAN S ■ BRISBANE

Pakistan coach Misbah-ul-Haq said that pitching the ball consistently on the blind spot or near the top of the off stump would be key to dismissing Australian stalwart Steve Smith.

Smith returned to Test cricket by taking the Ashes by storm earlier in the year. In the five-match series that was held across August and September in England, Smith scored a whopping 774 runs at an average of 110.57. He carried the good form into the recently concluded T20I series against Pakistan at home.

"As far as Steve Smith goes, there's a blind spot for every top batsman in the world; as a bowler you're always interested in pitching the ball there," Misbah is quoted as saying by *ESPNcricinfo*.

"It's important that we bowl with consistency there.

Our bowlers are executing the plans very well right now, and hopefully we'll be able to build that kind of a pressure, and stay disciplined especially early in the innings. No matter how good a batsman is batting, it's about consistency and bowling the maximum balls in those areas that build pressure and the batsman respects you, and you force

him to make a mistake."

Pakistan are going into the series with a pace attack that consists of Mohammad Abbas, Shaheen Afridi, Muhammad Musa and the 16-year-old Naseem Shah.

"All the batsmen you talk to, any batsman in the world, that's the area where you have to defend a ball, and that is a six to eight metre spot where you have to play the top of off stump," he said. "That's the area from where if it's happening then that creates a great chance. Even if it's not happening, you have less chances to do anything with the ball.

"So it's about consistency, and top players in the world, if you miss those areas, that special length and line, then they are good enough to just cash in on that. So you have to be very, very disciplined, just keep the ball there, and if it's happening you are already in the game."

