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RANCHI, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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SC's clean chit to Rafale deal again

Top court rejects plea for FIR and further probe into aspects of pricing

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to the ruling regime and a big setback to the Opposition, the Supreme Court on Thursday once again gave a clean chit to the Modi Government in the purchase of 36 fully-loaded Rafale fighter jets from French company Dassault Aviation, rejecting the plea for registration of an FIR and a further probe into the matter.

While unanimously dismissing the pleas seeking review of the December 14, 2018, verdict in which it had said that there was no occasion to doubt the decision-making process in the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets, the SC also refused to re-examine the aspects of pricing, decision making process and selection of the offset partner in the deal.

"This court did not consider it appropriate to embark on a roving and fishing enquiry," a Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph said.

The apex court was not satisfied with the submission that it decided the disputed questions of facts in the ₹59,000-crore deal "prematurely" without investigation. However, Justice Joseph, in a separate judgment, said, "Petitioners can approach the CBI for registering an FIR provided the CBI gets nod from the Government as per the Prevention of Corruption Law."

"No doubt that there was a

prayer made for registration of FIR and further investigation but then once we had examined the three aspects on merits we did not consider it appropriate to issue any directions, as prayed for by the petitioners which automatically covered the direction for registration of FIR, prayed for," said the Bench.

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

The Bench said it cannot lose sight of the fact that it is dealing with a contract for aircraft, which was pending before different Governments for quite some time and the necessity for those aircraft has never been in dispute.

"We were, however, cautious to note that this was in the context of the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, the jurisdiction invoked," said the Bench.

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

The Bench said it appears that the petitioners construed themselves as an appellate authority to determine each aspect of the contract and

CHRONOLOGY

AUG 28, 2007: Ministry of Defence issues Request for Proposal for procurement of 126 MMRCA (medium multi-role combat aircraft)
 SEP 4, 2008: Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group incorporates Reliance Aerospace Technologies Ltd (RATL)
 MAY 2011: IAF short-lists Rafale and Eurofighter jets
 JAN 30, 2012: Dassault Aviation's Rafale aircraft comes up with the lowest bid
 MAR 13, 2014: Work Share agreement signed between HAL and Dassault Aviation under which they were responsible for 70 per cent and 30 per cent of the work, respectively, for 108 aircraft
 JAN 26, 2016: India and France sign MoU for 36 Rafale aircraft
 Nov 18: Government states in Parliament that the cost of each Rafale aircraft to be approximately ₹670 crore and that all aircraft



will be delivered by April 2022

DEC 31, 2016: Dassault Aviation's Annual Report reveals the actual price paid for the 36 aircraft at about ₹60,000 crore, more than double the Government's stated price in Parliament

MAR 13, 2018: PIL in SC seeks independent probe into Centre's decision to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets and disclosure of the deal cost in Parliament

SEP 5: SC agrees to hear PIL seeking stay on Rafale fighter jet deal

NOV 12: Centre places price details of 36 Rafale fighter jets

DEC 14: SC says there is no occasion to doubt the decision-making process of the Modi Government and dismisses all the petitions seeking direction to the CBI to register an FIR

JAN 2, 2019: Sinha, Shourie and Bhushan move SC seeking review of its December 14 judgment

Verdict big boost to fast forward defence buys

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court verdict on the Rafale deal comes as a big boost to expedite defence procurements, including Government-to-Government contracts. India desperately needs modern weapon systems to maintain operational preparedness and the verdict now allows the decision makers to go ahead without looking over their shoulders.

However, the Government is not yet off the hook as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is likely to table its report on offsets in the ₹59,000-crore deal in the Winter Session of Parliament, beginning next Monday.

With the apex court now giving a clean chit to the Rafale deal, the officials will surely now feel more confident of discharging their duties and help the Services to acquire modern weapons to face the likelihood of a two-front war with Pakistan and China.

Facing the twin challenge, India urgently needs submarines to shore up its present strength of 14 ageing submarines besides modern warships to patrol the strategically important Indian Ocean.

Similarly, the IAF immediately requires efforts to address the issue of the depleting strength of its fighter jet squadron. At present, the squadron strength is 31 while the desired level is 42. Even if the Government gives clearance for acquisition now, the process of increasing the fleet will take another decade given the long gestation period of defence contracts.

As per the contract, the offsets are 50 per cent of the overall deal and the manufacturer has to tie up with Indian ventures to plough back the offset amount into the country.

The CAG report covers audit of nearly 30 offset contracts of Army, Navy and IAF for 2012-13 and 2017-18.

SC lets Rahul off with warning for contempt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday closed the contempt plea against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for wrongly attributing to the apex court his "chowkidar chor hai" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the Rafale case.

The court said the remarks made by Rahul were far from true and he should have refrained from those and could have been careful.

"It is unfortunate that without any verification certain remarks were made by the contemnor (Rahul Gandhi) against the Prime Minister, a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph said.

Detailed report on P5

PRANAV PRATYUSH ■ RANCHI

The BJP did not officially announce it, the AJSU said nothing either, but the split between 19-year-old alliance partners is merely a formality now.

After days of suspense, the BJP on Thursday announced its third list of 15 candidates taking the tally of its total candidates to 69 in response to AJSU's non-negotiable stance on 17 seats, including some of the crucial constituencies where both the parties have fielded their candidates.

The decision came after a series of meetings in Delhi and Ranchi when the BJP

Fight over J'khand seats may end BJP-AJSU's 19-year ties

Battleground JHARKHAND

Central leadership took the stance to field 15 more candidates in the absence of any fruitful dialogue with the AJSU party, which has fielded candidates against the BJP on many crucial seats.

While Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das hinted in a Press conference here on Thursday that the party may go it alone in the polls by saying it will achieve the target of 65 plus seats this election. Speaking to a news channel in Delhi, State in-charge OP Mathur said the BJP has always given due respect to its partner and it has still not announced candidates on nine seats.

Continued on Page 4

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the Supreme Court's clean chit to the Rafale deal, the BJP on Thursday lost no time in launching an all-out attack on the Congress and its ex-chief Rahul Gandhi demanding an apology from him. An undeterred Rahul hit back latching on to a separate judgment by Justice KM Joseph, who said the "petitioners can approach the CBI for registering an FIR" to demand a joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe.

While BJP president Amit Shah led the charge, Rahul did so for the Congress claiming that the judgment is not a clean chit for the Government and that there should be a parliamentary panel probe as Justice KM Joseph has left open a "huge door" for investigation.

The Congress had used the Modi Government's purchase of 36 Rafale jets from French aerospace major

Dassault Aviation for the IAF at a cost of ₹59,000 crore as one of the major issues in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, combining it with its "Chowkidar chor hai" slogan. The pitch, however, was rejected by the voters as the Congress could win just 52 Lok Sabha seats.

The grand old party may raise the issue during the Parliament session in consonance with other like-minded parties. In a series of tweets, Shah said the judgment of the apex court has proved that the disruption of Parliament over the Rafale fighter aircraft deal was a "sham". Supreme Court's decision to dismiss the review petition on #Rafale is a befitting reply to those leaders and parties who rely on malicious and baseless campaigns," he said.

Countering the BJP narrative, Rahul took to Twitter using #BJPLiesOnRafale and tweeted, "Justice Joseph of the Supreme Court has opened a huge door into investigation of the RAFALE scam. An investigation must now begin in full earnest. A JPC must also be set up to probe this scam

RAHUL GANDHI
BS DHANOA

RAHUL GANDHI

BS DHANOA

Moody's cuts GDP growth forecast to 5.6%, but says it'll recover in '20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday cut India's economic growth forecast for current year to 5.6 per cent from 5.8 per cent estimated earlier, saying GDP slowdown is lasting longer than expected.

"We have revised down our growth forecast for India. We now forecast slower real GDP growth of 5.6 per cent in 2019, from 7.4 per cent in 2018," it said. It expected economic activity to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively, but the pace to remain lower.

Detailed report on P10

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While pollutants in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) breached severe mark second time in the season with Air Quality Index (AQI) at 482 and Particulate Matter (504, 332), latest study based on 26 different source of emissions by System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) claimed that transport and industrial sectors are biggest contributor in polluting Delhi's atmosphere.

The SAFAR said vehicular emissions rose to 41 per cent in 2018.

Also, it pointed out that the share of emission of particulate matter caused by the industrial sector

increased by as much as 48 per cent 8 years from 2010 to 2018.

In 2018, the estimated total emission of PM 2.5 was 107,786 gg (gigagrams) per year.

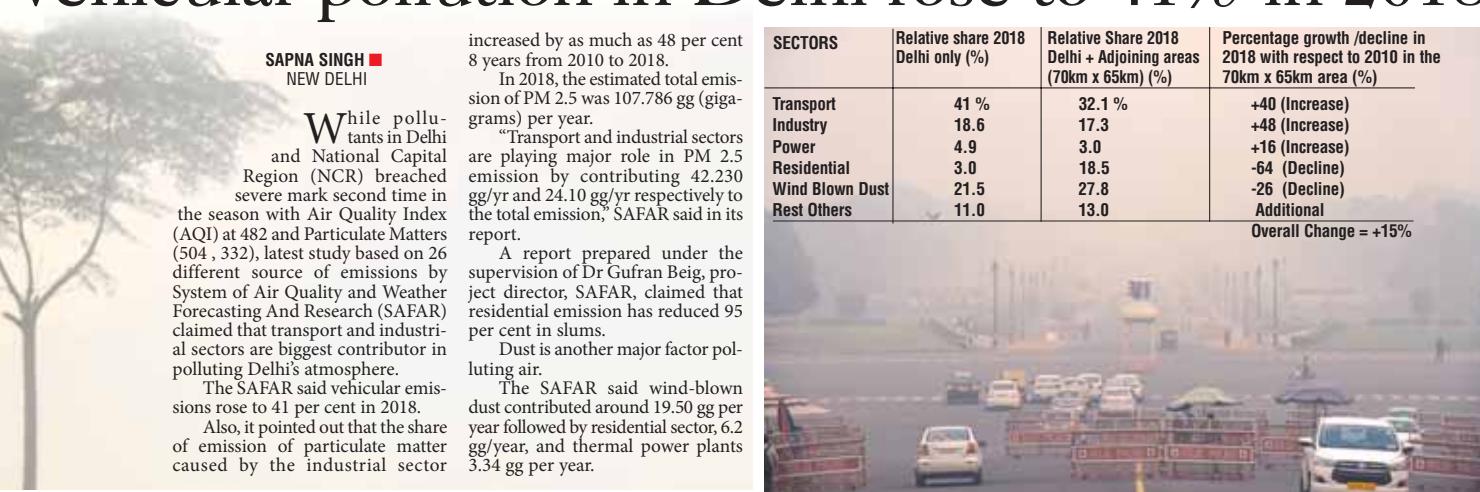
"Transport and industrial sectors are playing major role in PM 2.5 emission by contributing 42,230 gg/yr and 24,10 gg/yr respectively to the total emission," SAFAR said in its report.

A report prepared under the supervision of Dr Gufran Beig, project director, SAFAR, claimed that residential emission has reduced 95 per cent in slums.

Dust is another major factor polluting air.

The SAFAR said wind-blown dust contributed around 19.50 gg per year followed by residential sector, 6.2 gg/year, and thermal power plants 3.34 gg per year.

Vehicular pollution in Delhi rose to 41% in 2018



CAPSULE

GREAT MATHEMATICIAN VASHISHTHA DIES AT 74

Patna: Renowned mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh died on Thursday at the Patna Medical College and Hospital on Thursday. He was 74. Vashishtha completed his schooling in Netaanh in undivided Bihar and went on to do his PhD from the University of California in 1969. He taught at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

16 DISQUALIFIED CONG, JD(S) MLAs JOIN BJP

Bengaluru: A day after the Supreme Court paved the way for them to contest the December 5 Assembly bypolls in Karnataka, 16 disqualified Congress-JD(S) legislators on Thursday joined the BJP, which nominated 13 Congress and JD(S) MLAs as its candidates for the Assembly bypolls in Karnataka.

SC REJECTS PLEAS ON ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to pass any interim order on a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate the provisions of Article 370, which gave special status to erstwhile State of J&K.

2 ARRESTED IN NOIDA FOR SLAUGHTERING CALF

Noida: Two men were arrested here after an exchange of gunfire with police early on Thursday when the accused and two of their partners were allegedly slaughtering a calf, officials said. The carcass of the calf was found strown on the ground, while some equipment, including a butcher's chopper, were also recovered from the spot, police said.

JVM plans to bounce back in Kolhan

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

By fielding its central committee secretary Abhay Singh and local leader Pankaj Sati, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha-Pratantantri (JVM-P) is hoping to bounce back in Kolhan.

Party supremo and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi would participate in public meeting in connection with the preparations for next Assembly polls.

Marandi plans to address the public meeting Jugsalai assembly segment and a similar meet at Baharamgora for Baharamgora constituency. This would be part of his all 81 Assembly seats workers meet and tour programme.

A preparatory meeting of the party was held. Out of the five seats under Jamshedpur seats such meets for Potka and Jamshedpur West assembly segments had already been held.

The JVM-P supremo had already announced that his party would contest all Assembly seats alone in the next elections. It had a seat sharing poll alliance with Congress in the last election.

A district leader went on to add that repeated State Governments in the State have

deviated from the development vision. Jharkhand needs a stable Government. It has gone far ahead of Bihar as far as corruption is concerned and the situation is worsening. He said that the meetings would be an important event in run to the election preparation. Work is in full swing to make the meeting of Marandi successful.

Babulal ji is a magnetic leader of our State, his visit is going to instill confidence among party workers and voters too. He is going to spread vision of party among the people and will mobilise party cadre.

The activists are all looking forward to listen to their leaders," said the in-charge. He said that corruption and Maoist terror have taken over



Abhay Singh

the State. Development work has come to a standstill. People of the State will not forgive if efforts are not made sincerely for their welfare.

Marandi is one such politician that has dared to take action against it.

Taking lesson from the last two experiences JVM has apparently decided to focus more on the rural pockets of the constituency and this perhaps is the reason behind choosing Jugsalai and Baharamgora to convene public meeting.

"We want to focus on fielding a strong candidate to give tough fight to ruling Government in the State.

Our presence in the rural pockets of the district is relatively less than our rivals BJP and JMM so the party has decided to cover the ground before time," said a leader.

Babulal is a magnetic leader of our State, his visit is going to instill confidence among party workers and voters too. He is going to spread vision of party among the people and will mobilise party cadre

was set to face harrowing time as buses are going off road for poll duty. Hundreds of buses plying within the district and inter-State have been seized for ferrying polling parties and security personnel, reducing availability of public transport.

Several commercial vehicles, including passenger buses and pick-up vans, were detained by poll officials and were made to park at the Jamshedpur Co-operative College - converted to a strong room for the Assembly elections.

The State Government, under Representation of the People Act, 1951, is vested with power to requisition premises and vehicles for election purposes. The first phase of the five-phase Assembly election in Jharkhand commences from November 30, while the second phase election

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Admin starts detaining vehicles for poll duty

Over 1250 commercial vehicles required for poll duties, public transport to hit badly

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR



is scheduled on December 7 and the third phase of the assembly polls is scheduled on December 12.

The first phase will see elections in 13 seats prominent being Chatra, Gumla, Garhwa,

Lohardaga and Daltonganj, the second phase will see elections in 20 seats prominent amongst them being Ghatsila, Jharsuguda, Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West, Chaibasa, Chakradharpur, Khunti and

Simdega. The third phase will see polls in 17 seats, prominent amongst them being Koderma, Barhi, Barkagaon, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Ranchi, Hatia, Khijri and Kanke seats.

"Yes, we have started the

drive. We will be requiring over 1250 commercial vehicles for poll related duties. We have already sent requisitions to vehicles owners for submitting their vehicles on deputy commissioner (DC) Ravi Shankar Shukla assurance. Shukla is also a district election officer.

Jharkhand Truck Owners Association has however, criticised forcible seizure of vehicles for the ensuing elections by the district administration. An official of the association, said that in the city over 50 trucks have been forcibly seized by the district administration.

The news of seizer is also coming from several other parts of the State.

Moreover, several vehicle owners are still waiting for the clearance of dues pending since Lok Sabha elections. The administration should first clear the dues if they want to take the services of truck owners he added.

Two persons killed in separate road mishaps

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In three separate road mishaps, two persons, including a woman were killed and as many persons were injured on Thursday morning.

A 30-year-old woman died after being hit by a truck near the Adityapur toll bridge crossing on Tata-Kandua Road in Adityapur, in another fatal mishap a 28-year-old youth was also killed on the spot on being hit by a dumper near Medhia village on Jagduga-Mosabani Road in Mosabani.

The injured woman later identified as Usha Sinha was rushed to a Primary Health Centre in Gamharia from where she was referred to Tata Main Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries in an hour.

Usha's husband NK Sinha who was riding the scooter and

ASI INJURED IN ACCIDENT

was also injured seriously has been admitted at the Tata Main Hospital. The police have seized the truck and also arrested the driver. OC, Adityapur police station Shusma Kumari confirmed that a woman was killed in a road mishap at Adityapur this morning.

"We are investigating the incident. We have seized the truck and also the driver. We are subjecting the driver for a medical examination to get it ascertained whether he was drunk," said the OC.

At Mosabani, 28-year-old youth, Ramdash Murmu was killed when the motorcycle he was riding was hit by a truck near Medhia village on Mosabani-Jagduga road under Mosabani thana area this morning.

The injured cop (38) who sustained injuries in the legs and waist line has been admitted at the Tata Main Hospital.

Ghatshila sub-division this morning.

The victim, who was a resident of Benalopa village in Mosabani was going to Mosabani market as the mishap took place.

The dumper driver fled the spot having abandoned the vehicle, leading the police to seize it.

In yet another incident, assistant sub-inspector (traffic) Awadhesh Kumar Singh was injured as driver of a car hit him during a vehicle checking drive on Kadma-Sonari Link Road under Kadma thana area this morning.

The injured cop (38) who sustained injuries in the legs and waist line has been admitted at the Tata Main Hospital.

of Ranchi and feel safe.

The event aims in making Ranchi more sustainable, fitter, healthier and more conducive to cycling. It will be a free event and people can register for it on the Facebook page of Ranchi Cycling Club or on Facebook.com/velokp—the official page of Bicycle Mayor of Ranchi.

The first event of this monthly cycling day will be held on November 24 at Morabadi Ground, Ranchi.

The reporting time for the ride is at 6:30 am while the ride will start at 7 am sharp.

The route plan will be shared in due course while the distance to be covered will be approximately 10 Kms. Ranchi Cycling Day will be organised as a monthly event with an aim to inspire people to take up cycling in their daily life and also build confidence in people to ride on the streets

of independent city leaders that is now active on every continent working to make their cities more human-centric and fit for the future.

The Bicycle Mayor network was established and is coordinated by the Dutch social enterprise BYCS, which works to create and scale breakthrough new solutions for cycling.

It has a mission called 50by30, which means they want 50% of all city trips to be taken on bike by 2030.

They have this mission because cycling does not just provide active and clean mobility solutions for cities but it also improves mental and physical health, improves the environment, builds stronger communities and fosters new sustainable economic opportunities.

Party rebels no longer in BJP: Mangal Pandey

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

BJP's rebels who are in poll bring are no longer with the BJP. Bihar's BJP leader Mangal Pandey, who is Health Minister there made this bold statement here today when he said, "He (read Radha Krishan Kishore) is not in the BJP now."

Pandey's statement on rebels has come at such a time when there is still left 4 phase of polling as nomination for first phase has just ended on November 13. Pandey gave his reaction to a query in regard to Kishore the

chief whip of BJP in the out-running Assembly, who not only joined AJSU but filed his nomination on AJSU symbol thereby giving a straight challenge to BJP's nominee Pushpa Devi there from Chhaterpur assembly constituency.

Asked it would have been far better for BJP now to expel all such leaders, who on being denied party symbol rose in mutiny against the BJP now to which Mangal Pandey made a very diplomatic reply, "Such leaders are not in the BJP?" He refrained from making any

Further asked that new chief has announced to field 50 candidates of his party here in this vidhan Sabha election Pandey said LJP's big face Ramvilas Paswan is strongly with the BJP and there is no worry at all.

समाहरणालय गढ़वा (निर्वाचन)

स्वीप कोषांग, गढ़वा

प्रेस-विज्ञप्ति

विधानसभा आम चुनाव 2019 के निमित्त स्वीप कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत नव मतदाता एवं भावी मतदाता को मतदाता की प्रक्रिया में जोड़ने हेतु मतदाता जागरूकता कार्यक्रम के तहत गढ़वा जिला अन्तर्गत अवस्थित उच्च विद्यालय एवं +2 विद्यालयों के विद्यार्थियों (उम्र 15-20 वर्ष) एवं महिलाओं के लिए जिला स्तर पर विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन निम्न रूपेण किया गया है:-

क्र०	आयोजित कार्यक्रम का नाम	स्थान	दिनांक
1	2	3	4
1	(म्यूजिकल चेयर, बोरा दोड़, तीन पेर दोड़, गुबारा फोड़ो प्रतियोगिता, कंगा-चम्पा रेस, सुई-धांधा रेस इत्यादि)	विद्यालय गढ़वा के मैदान में	16.11.2019 समय-11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन से
2	(Pencil Sketching, Water Colour Painting, Crayon Painting etc.)	समाहरणालय, गढ़वा।	20.11.2019 समय-11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन से

सिलाई / कार्ड्राइंग प्रतियोगिता (सभी वर्ष की छात्राओं एवं महिलाओं के लिए) (लेडिंग स्ट्रॉम का साईर्ज लामग - 30 cm x 30 cm, जैन्टस्स रूमाल का साईर्ज लामग - 35 cm x 35 cm) पर मतदाता जागरूकता संबंधी कार्ड्राइंग कर दिनांक - 23.11.2019 तक समाहरणालय, गढ़वा विधायक विधायिका में जमा करना होगा। उक्त प्रतियोगिताओं में प्रथम, द्वितीय एवं तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त करने वालों को जिला प्रशासन की ओर से पुरस्कृत किया जायेगा एवं प्रशस्ति पत्र प्रदान किया जायेगा।

PNS ■ RANCHI

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre Ranchi organized a lecture session on the topic of 'Employment opportunities in the field of music and Government Schemes to encourage this sector' by Dr. Rakesh Ranjan on Thursday at Academic Wing, IGNCA RCR, Department of Archaeology, Ranchi University. The programme was organized under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Regional Director, IGNCA, RCR.

The speaker, Dr Ranjan is an author, a reputed Tabla artist, researcher, scholar and teacher. Dr. Shyama Prasad Neogi, a prominent figure of Jharkhand in the field of Hindustani Classical Music, chaired the session. Both the personalities have been extensively contributing to the field of performing arts. The lecture

was organized with the objective to propagate awareness among the upcoming generation, who are appetent to take up Music as a career and encourage them by imparting

the knowledge of Government's role of providing income opportunities for the artists. At the outset, Dr Mishra welcomed the Chairperson, the Speaker, the respectable guests,

all the participants and media.

In his speech, he mentioned

that Indian music is among the oldest forms of music in the world, whose origin is rooted in the Vedas. This rich tradition has been passed on from generation to generation by dedicated Gurus and artists.

Music is not only an epitome of creativity but also a method of tracing the evolution of art and culture. As the culture evolved, music evolved. Hence, special importance may be given to make the young art practitioners aware regarding the discipline's future opportunities, so that the rich Indian culture survives and unfurls.

In the lecture, Dr Ranjan elaborated regarding the scopes of employment and career opportunities in the field of music.

The programme concluded

regarding the various schemes of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which provides assistance to the artists including scholarships, fellowships, production grant, salary grant, cultural function grant etc.

An interaction session was conducted after the lecture, in which the students participated with great enthusiasm. Their response reflected the keep interest of the participants to further explore this field and its employment opportunities.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr Geeta Ojha, Coordinator (Department of Archaeology and Museology), RCR where he thanked all guests and participants for being a part of this venture.

कार्यालय, जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी -सह- उपायुक्त, गुमला (आय-व्यय जाँच कोषांग)

सूचना :-

झारखण्ड विधान सभा आम चुनाव 2019- में निर्वाची पदाधिकारी के द्वारा अध्ययनीयों के निर्वाचन व्यय लेखा के तीन चरणों में निरीक्षण हेतु सरकार की योजना है:-

68 — गुमला

निरीक्षण	दिनांक	समय	स्थान
प्रथम	19.11.2019	प्रातः 11:00 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	विकास भवन के सभा कक्ष
द्वितीय	23.11.2019	प्रातः 11:00 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	विकास भवन के सभा कक्ष

Ex-JPCC Chief PK Balmuchu joins AJSU Party

MRIUTANJAY KUMAR ■
RANCHI

Amidst political upheaval in the Jharkhand for the run up to the upcoming State Assembly Election former Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) president, Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu joined Sudeesh Mahato led AJSU Party at the party headquarters here on Thursday.

AJSU Party supremo Mahato welcomed Balmuchu, who can be made AJSU Party's candidate from Ghatshila Assembly constituency of East Singhbhum.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Balmuchu said that he had started his political career during his student life from AJSU Party then he became three times MLA from Ghatshila on Indian National Congress' ticket.



Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior Congress leader Pradeep Balmuchu joins AJSU Party with his supporters in presence of AJSU Chief Sudeesh Kumar Mahato, Giridih MP Chandra Prakash Choudhary and senior leaders during a Milan samaroh at party headquarters in Ranchi on Thursday

"After that I have become home coming. I am feeling like I am in my home," he added. He revealed, on the occasion, that the Congress

Party had given suggestion him to contest from another seat but he replied that he has been working in Ghatshila for several years so there is no question to contest the election from other seat. "I said people of Ghatshila that I will contest from the seat in the State Assembly elections.

So that I have taken the decision to join the party," he added.

Welcoming Balmuchu in the party, the party Chief Sudeesh Mahato said that Balmuchu is senior leader and it is moment of pride for the party to include him in AJSU Party.

"Decision to give him the party ticket from Ghatshila seat will decided after the party's parliamentary board's decision. Before joining of Balmuchu, JPCC executive president, Manas Sinha filed his nomination paper as AJSU Party sup-

ported candidate from Bhawnathpur.

On the issue of Sinha, the party Supremo said that Sinha applied for the candidature of the party but due to lack of time it was not to place and he could not take the party's symbol to contest from the seat, he added.

Amidst stalemate over ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and AJSU Party alliance for the upcoming State Assembly Elections in Jharkhand several known faces active in the State politics are joining AJSU Party as former Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA from Pakur, Aquil Akhtar had also joined the AJSU Party on Wednesday.

Akhtar was elected from Pakur on JMM seat in 2009 State Assembly Elections. He will contest from Pakur as AJSU Party candidate in the upcoming elections.

BJP mocks Cong's star campaigners' list

PNS ■ RANCHI

Taking a jibe at Indian National Congress (INC) the State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said that there is conflict among members of INC so that the party has not nominated Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's name in the list of star campaigners for the upcoming State Assembly Elections.



paigners in Jharkhand, the name of the Congress National General Secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, is missing," he added. Criticising the Congress Party the party Spokesperson said that one of the main reasons for this is Vadra was In Charge of Uttar Pradesh State

Congress and despite her frequent public meetings and dozens of rallies, the party's performance was extremely disappointing. It has become clear that Vadra has no support base among the public, he added.

"The top leadership of Congress also understands that all the lawsuits against Robert Vadra are being tightened. So, he has already started to keep away from Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

This episode also shows that there is a continuing tussle between the Gandhi family and everything is not well in the first family of the Congress," said Shahdeo.

State to celebrate its 19th year of foundation on November 15

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand- the land of forests is ready to celebrate its 19th year of constitution on November 15. With a series of events planned for the day concluding with a glittering cultural evening, the State is ready to make its entry in the 20th year on Friday.

The programme for the Statehood Day will commence at 9 am by paying a floral tribute at the mausoleum of Bhagwan Birsa Munda located at Kokar. Governor Droupadi Murmu along with Chief Minister Raghubar Das will pay their tributes to the tribal leader. The dignitaries will then offer garlands to the statue of the martyr at Birsa Chowk at around 9:30 am.

The State celebrates its foundation day on the occasion of the birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda also known as Bhagwan Birsa who played a vital role in India's struggle for freedom.

On the occasion of the foundation day, 60 police officers and personnel were awarded medals for their exemplary service.

The officers were given the Governor's Medal, Chief Minister's Gallantry Medal and the Jharkhand Police Medal for meritorious work at the JAP



Preparations underway at Morhabadi ground on the evening of State's foundation day celebrations, on Thursday

Ratan Lal | Pioneer

Ground, Doranda. The chief guest for the occasion was Chief Secretary DK Tiwari while DGP Kamal Nayan Choubey and other senior officials were also present.

"With the upcoming elections, the model code of conduct has been imposed across the State. Because of the model code of conduct imposed, The Chief Minister will not address any gatherings and new schemes will be launched," said the Chief Secretary.

Tiwari further added since Jharkhand was carved out of the southern part of Bihar in the year 2000, the State is slowly but steadily headed towards development and has also fulfilled the expectation of

the people to a great extent.

To continue the celebrations, a glittering musical extravaganza has been planned for the evening of November 15 at Morhabadi Ground, Ranchi.

Popular playback singer from the Hindi film industry Sukhwinder Singh will enthral the residents of Ranchi with his foot tapping music.

As many as 200 invitations have been sent out to the heads of various departments for the cultural evening.

An array of cultural programmes portraying the rich art and culture of the State. Local folk singer Mukund Nayak and Ranchi based band Highway 69 will also mesmerize the audience.

CS commends police efforts at combating crime in city

60 cops awarded

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Secretary DK Tiwari on Thursday commended the efforts put in by Jharkhand Police for combating crimes and maintaining law and order in the State. Addressing the Statehood Day March Past at JAP-1 in Ranchi, Tiwari stressed the importance of technological advancement for combating modern crimes.

The police, he said, were fast adopting latest technologies to intercept cyber frauds and track them down. "Technological advancement of the police is essential in combating crimes. And I am glad that Jharkhand police is doing a great job in this field," he said.

At least three police personnel were felicitated with the Governor's Medal for excellent performance on Thursday, while 30 policemen were awarded Chief Minister's Medal for gallantry. Besides, as many as 27 policemen were given police medals for their exemplary performance. "It is a matter of pride for the police department that policemen from Jharkhand have won accolades for their

performance. Appreciation for work is a great morale booster," said Director General of Police, Kamal Nayan Choubey.

Jharkhand will celebrate its 19th Statehood Day on Friday. The State felicitates its policemen, bureaucrats, health officials, activists and politicians every year on Statehood Day for exemplary work in their field. The main Statehood Day event will be held at Morhabadi on Friday. Tiwari's remarks on Thursday assume significance as the State police have won laurels for their technical skills lately. Jharkhand police's Global Information System (GIS) won accolades at the Police Technology Exhibition organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) at Kevadiya town in Gujarat recently.

The technology - used extensively in anti-Maoist operations and monitoring of elections here - became the eye-catcher for visitors from 12 states and nine enforcement agencies. Besides, the number of incidents triggered by Left Wing Extremist (LWE) groups in Jharkhand has halved since 2010 and the deaths caused in such violence has reduced at least by one third, says the latest Annual Report of 2018-2019, released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently. The DGP has attributed this success to the intensification of combatting operations by the State police and central forces here.



Chief Secretary DK Tiwari felicitate a Jharkhand Police martyr's family member on the occasion of 19th Statehood Day March Past ceremony at JAP-1, Doranda in Ranchi on Thursday. DGP Kamal Nayan Choubey are also present on the occasion

Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

IN BRIEF

IWCS distributes cloth bags



Under the Plastic free India campaign social organization Inner Wheel Club of Swarnrekha distributed cloth bags among vegetable vendors and buyers at Morhabadi on Thursday. People were apprised about the ill effects of plastic and were encouraged to shun use of plastic in day to day life. Club president Devyani Sanyal, IPP Deepa Chauhan, Secretary Neena Agrawal, Treasurer Namrata Kumar, Editor Sandhya Prakash, Neeta Narayan, Neeta Shekhar, Preeti Kumar, Sangita Sinha along with others were present on the occasion.

SAIL CELEBRATES 'QUALITY DAY'

Research & Development Centre for Iron & Steel, Steel Authority of India Limited, Ranchi celebrated the "Quality Day" on Thursday as part of the Quality Month



Celebration to commemorate the World Quality Day. SS Das, CGM (PC), in his welcome address emphasized that the preferred path to Organisational Growth is through Quality. On this occasion, KK Jha, ED (SSO) accompanied by Ajay Arora, ED I/c (RDCIS), Dr. Santosh Kumar, ED(RDCIS) and SS Das, CGM (PC) hoisted the Quality Flag as a mark of dedication to Quality. Jha administered the Quality pledge to all the employees of RDCIS and SSO. Award-Certificates were also given away to the winners of the Quality Essay and Quiz Competitions which were held during October 2019 as a part of the Quality Month celebration.

Health Dept: Zero Dengue deaths in city this year

Doranda man died of Typhoid

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi has not witnessed any Dengue related deaths so far this year, a statement released by the Health Directorate said on Thursday, adding that the 45-year-old Doranda man who reportedly died of suspected Dengue actually suffered from Typhoid which caused an abnormal drop in the count of his blood platelets and subsequent death.

Izhar Gaddi, a resident of Gwalatoli, who complained of high fever and weakness since November 8, died during the course of treatment at Medanta Hospital on Wednesday in Ranchi. Taking cognizance of some media reports that blamed Dengue for the untimely death, the State Health Department initiated an inquiry into the matter on Thursday.

A team led by State Entomologist Dr. Sagya Singh inspected Gwalatoli on Thursday to investigate whether Dengue larvae were present in the locality and how significant was the role of Dengue in Gaddi's death. "The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test in the said patient's case did not prove that he had contracted Dengue. He, however, suffered from typhoid, which led to the fall in the count of his blood platelet," said Singh, who also met the deceased man's family and neighbours on Thursday.

The diseased had travelled along with his family to Jamshedpur's Jugsulai area on



State Health Department officials inspecting Dengue larvae at Gwalatoli on Thursday

PNS

October 30 and may have contracted some infections there, the team of doctors said. Out of the 56 households inspected by the team on Thursday, eight were found to have Dengue larvae. Out of the 181 containers tested, 14 had Dengue larvae, a press communiqué from the Health Directorate said. "We cannot say that the death was caused due to Dengue," said Singh.

As per the latest figures with the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), out of the 2402 suspected Dengue cases in Jharkhand, at least 701 were found to be positive. At least 391 Dengue cases have been reported from East Singhbhum this year—the highest in Jharkhand. As many as 119 cases of Dengue were reported from

Ranchi. A total of 367 patients have undergone treatment for Dengue at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and 396 have sought treatment at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) Hospital, Jamshedpur. Dengue was the most common vector borne disease reported in Jharkhand this year — at least eight times more than Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis, says IDSP data.

Only 102 cases of Chikungunya and 109 cases of Japanese Encephalitis were reported in Jharkhand this year.

Health officials have decided to run awareness drives in different localities of Ranchi in order to check the spread of the mosquito-borne disease in the State capital.

डेंगू / चिकनगुनिया

संक्रमित एडिस मच्छर के काटने से होता है



कैसे करें पहचान | कैसे रहें सावधान

डेंगू / चिकनगुनिया के लक्षण

- अचानक तेज बुखार आना या पहचान खोना।
- तेज सिर दर्द।
- आंखों के पिछले हिस्से में दर्द।
- जोड़ों एवं मांसपेशियों में दर्द।
- नाक बहना, उल्टी होना।
- छाती और हाथों में खसरा जैसे चक्के/दाने निकल आना।
- मसूड़ों तथा अन्तः सारी ग्रन्थियों से खून आना।
- भोजन से अरुचि या भूख न लगना।

डेंगू / चिकनगुनिया के लक्षणों को अनदेखा न करें, यह जानलेवा हो सकता है

लक्षण दिखाई दें तो तुरंत चिकित्सक से संपर्क करें

हेल्पलाइन नंबर : 0651-2260625

स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार



App to track crowd at polling booths

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday organized video conferencing for district election officials of nine districts providing them information related to the use of the booth App. The commission asked the polling workers to be more convenient in using this App.

Voters through this App and token number can know about the serial number order making convenient for them to exercise their franchise. The booth app will be used in ten assembly constituencies of these nine districts in J a m s h e d p u r - W e s t , Jamshedpur-East, Chaibasa (ST), Ramgarh, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Deoghar (SC), Gandeypur, Bokaro and Jharia respectively. Chief Electoral Officer Vinay Kumar Choubey and Additional Chief Electoral Officers Kripalnand Jha and



Chief Electoral Officer Vinay Kumar Choubey holds meeting with State's nine District Election Officers through video conferencing, in Ranchi on Thursday

Shailesh Kumar Chaurasia were also present on the occasion. Photo voter slips with QR codes will be distributed to voters through booth level officer (BLO). When voters come to the polling booth with this

voter slip to use the franchise, the BLO will scan the QR code of the photo voter slip.

Voters can have information related to election and they will be provided with QTN code. Voters can exercise their

franchise in a convenient way through QTN. Voter can also download photo voter slip from the Voters Helpline app. Proper arrangements are also being made for the sitting of voters in polling stations.

SVEEP activities are being run for maximum number of voters to use their franchise in assembly elections. During the video conferencing by the Election Commission of India, it was directed that voters

should be made aware about the use of the booth app under SVEEP programmes.

The EC officials claimed that information of polling percentage in polling stations will be available in real time on this day of polling. It will also be easy to know how many male and how many female voters have used the franchise. This app is also unique in that through this, the updated information related to voting in real time on the day of polling will be available on the dashboard of Election Officer (RO), District Election Officer (DEO) and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

The Booth App can easily identify voters in polling stations. This app will prove to be very effective in conducting fair and transparent elections. Its use is also quite simple and convenient. In such a situation, make people aware to use it more and more.

Fight over J'khand seats...

From page 1

"We are open as we still left nine seats. You cannot take decisions single headedly. We will contest on the issue of development and cross 65 plus figure. This will be clear to all on December 23 (Counting Day)," said Mathur to the channel.

AJSU party has not cleared its stand till the time of filing of the report but party spokesperson Deosharan Bhagat said AJSU is the 'younger brother' of the BJP, which did not consult it before releasing the lists. "The BJP announced names for 52 seats, then one seat and then 15 seats without taking us in confidence, but we did not say anything. We have just announced a list of 12 seats. Decisions should not be imposed by the elder brother. They should be properly consulted beforehand.

We have also left several seats this time and earlier also. Last time (in 2014) they (BJP) had to find outsiders for majority despite coalition. What will be done this time has to be thought about," said Bhagat.

Notably, the BJP has till date announced candidates on 69 seats in the 81-member Assembly, while the AJSU has announced names of 13 candidates. Sources said the BJP had offered 12 seats to the regional party, while the AJSU, which has remained in all the Governments formed by the BJP since the for-

mation of the State and party chief Sudesh Mahto has handled plum portfolios including the post of Deputy CM, was adamant on contesting from not less than 17 seats. The AJSU contested on eight seats in 2014 polls and bagged five of them.

Notably, in the third list the BJP has come forward with the names of Gajadhar Singh (Poreyhat), Janki Yadav (Barkatha), Laxman Prasad Singh (Dhanwar), Jay Parakash Verma (Gandey), Viranchi Narayan (Bokaro), Amar Kumar Baru (Chandaniyari), Aparna Sen Gupta (Nirsa), Ganesh Mahli (Seraikela), JB Tuhid (Chaibasa), BP Pingla (Mahigaon), Jawahar Vanra (Kharwan), Neelkanth Singh Munda (Khunti), Deo Kumar Dhan (Mandar), Dinesh Oraon (Sisai) and Sujan Munda (Khunti).

Both the BJP and AJSU have fielded candidates against each other in Chakradharpur, Lohardaga, Chandaniyari, Sindri, Mandu, Ghatshila, Husainabad and Chhatarpur. AJSU has fielded a candidate against State BJP chief Laxman Gilat at Chakradharpur, while the AJSU has fielded former BJP chief whip RK Kishore against BJP candidate at Chhatarpur.

Only a formal announcement from either of parties is left to break the 19-year old alliance, while political experts said that neither of two is ready to take the blame.

HC rejects Rai's plea, reserves verdict on Tirkey

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court has reserved its verdict after hearing both the sides in the matter of granting bail to former Jharkhand Government Minister Bandhu Tirkey.

Bandhu Tirkey is accused of making a statement in support of Pathalgadi. In this case, the ex-minister Tirkey had filed a bail petition in the High Court. Earlier in the day, in the National Sports Scam case, the High Court reserved the verdict on his bail plea. The Court had earlier sought

a case diary in order of hearing. The Bench of Justice R. Mukhopadhyay reserved his verdict after an hour-long debate on both sides in the Court. Actually, the accused in the 34th National Sports



Scam case, has filed a petition in the High Court, seeking bail. Former Jharkhand Minister, Harinarayan Rai on Thursday has received a setback from the Jharkhand High Court. The High Court

has rejected his plea to contest elections. Rai had filed a petition in the High Court seeking a stay on the punishment for contesting the election. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Court sentenced Rai for the money laundering case.

Rai is accused of money laundering of Rs 37.22 crore.

In this case, Rai, his wife Sushila Devi and brother Sanjay Rai, have been sentenced to seven years each and fined Rs 50,000 each. The Enforcement Directorate has also seized his residence in Ranchi.

Sabarimala: Women entry call referred to 7-judge apex bench

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a 3:2 majority verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday referred to a larger 7-judge bench the pleas seeking review of its historic 2018 judgment allowing women and girls of all ages to enter Kerala's Sabarimala temple, set to open on November 17, along with other contentious issues of alleged discrimination against Muslim and Parsi women. As the majority verdict, penned by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, kept the review pleas pending for a 7-judge bench and did not stay its September 28,

2018, majority judgment, girls and women of all age groups will be entitled to undertake the pilgrimage to the shrine. The CJI, who wrote on behalf of himself and Justices AM Khanwilkar and Indu Malhotra, said the debate about the constitutional validity of religious practices like bar on entry of women and girls into a place of worship was not limited to the Sabarimala case.

They said such restrictions are there with regard to entry of Muslim women into mosques and "dargah" and Parsi women, married to non-Parsi men, being barred from the holy fire place of an Agyari.

It was time the apex court evolves a judicial policy to do "substantial and complete justice", the added. The major-

ity view, delineated by the CJI in its nine-page verdict, was not agreed to by Justices RF Nariman and DY Chandrachud. Justice Nariman, writing for himself and Justice Chandrachud, regretted his "inability to agree with" the view of the CJI and said the scope of the review pleas was limited to the entry of menstruating women into the hill-top shrine in Kerala and directed the State Government to ensure strict compliance of the 2018 verdict.

The majority judgment also said that a decision by a larger bench "would put at rest recurring issues" with regard to the fundamental right to profess and practice any religion.

इस्टर्खण्ड सरकार,
कार्मिक प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राज भाषा विभाग

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

1. आरखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग में राज्य सूचना आयुक्त के एकल पद पर नियुक्त हेतु वर्ष 2017 में पीठ 140 रांग 158584 द्वारा दिनांक 11.03.2017 को प्रकाशित प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के द्वारा आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये गये थे, जिसकी अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 31.03.2017 थी।
2. वर्ष 2019 में विज्ञापन सं 01 / 2019 के द्वारा राज्य सूचना आयुक्त के एकल पद पर नियुक्त हेतु दिनांक 10.04. 2019 तक आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये गये थे।
3. राज्य सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त के एकल पद पर नियुक्त हेतु विज्ञापन सं 02 / 2019 के द्वारा आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये गये हैं जिसकी अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 21.11.2019 निर्धारित है।
4. भारत सरकार द्वारा सूचना आयुक्त का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 में संशोधन करते हुए सूचना का अधिकार और राज्य सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त, राज्य सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त और राज्य सूचना आयुक्तों की पदाधिकारी, वेन, भट्ट और सेवा के अन्य निवेदन और शर्तों नियम, 2019 में विनियत किया गया है, जिस में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त एवं राज्य सूचना आयुक्तों के सेवा शर्त एवं येतन भर्तों आदि में संशोधन किया गया है। उक्त नियम दिनांक 20.10.2019 से प्रभावी है।
5. वर्ष 2017 एवं प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों के विरुद्ध वर्षमान में आरखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति नहीं हो सकी है। अतः उपरोक्त आलोक में वर्ष 2017 एवं पीठ 158584 के द्वारा दिनांक 11.03.2017 को प्रकाशित प्रेस विज्ञप्ति, वर्ष 2019 में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन सं 01 / 2019 एवं वर्ष 2019 में विनियोग सूचना आयुक्त के एकल पद हेतु वर्ष 2019 में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन सं 02 / 2019 एवं उक्त आलोक के प्राप्त वर्षमान से राज्य सूचना आयुक्त के लिए विवरण संशोधन करते हुए विज्ञापन कराया जाता है।
6. आरखण्ड राज्य में लालू आदर्श चुनाव आचार संस्थान की समाप्ति के उपरांत सूचना का अधिकार संशोधन अधिनियम, 2019 एवं भारत सरकार द्वारा गठित सूचना का अधिकार (लेनदेन सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्तों की विनियोग, वर्ष 2019 में विनियोग सूचना आयुक्त के एकल पद हेतु वर्ष 2019 में विनियोग सूचना आयुक्तों की आलोक में नये संसारे से विज्ञापन प्रकाशित कर आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

PR 221909 (Personnel Administrative Reforms and Raj Bhava) 19-20#D

सरकार के संयुक्त संविधान

(संघीकर कुमार रजन)

जिला निवाचन पदाधिकारी -सह- उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, बोकारो (कार्मिक कोषांग)

--- प्रेस विज्ञप्ति ---

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विधानसभा निवाचन- 2019 हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त मतदान दल के पदाधिकारियों/ कार्मियों का द्वितीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम दिनांक- 19.11.2019 से दिनांक-23.11.2019 तक बोकारो इस्पात सिनियर सेकेन्ड्री विद्यालय, सेक्टर-2/ सी-एवं बी-एस-एसलॉनो +2 हाई स्कूल, सेक्टर-2/डी, बोकारो में निर्धारित है। सभी मतदान पदाधिकारियों/ कार्मियों का नियुक्ति पत्र निर्गत कर नियंत्री कार्यालय को तामिला हेतु उपलब्ध करा दिया गया है।

इस प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के माध्यम से सभी प्रतिनियुक्त मतदान दल के पदाधिकारियों/ कार्मियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रतिनियुक्ति पत्र अपने नियंत्री कार्यालय से अविलम्ब प्राप्त कर लें तथा प्रतिनियुक्ति पत्र में अंकित प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र में निर्धारित तिथि को संसमय उपस्थित होकर निश्चित रूप से प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करना सुनिश्चित करें। उक्त प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में अनुपस्थित पाए जाने पर आपके विरुद्ध लोक जन प्रतिनियुक्ति अधिनियम 1951 के अन्तर्गत आवश्यक वैधानिक कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

बोकारो पदाधिकारी, कार्मिक कोषांग, बोकारो

जिला निवाचन पदाधिकारी—सह-उपायुक्त, बोकारो

PR 221857 (Election) 19-20#D

संघीकर कुमार रजन

संघीकर कुमार

2nd clean chit on Rafale blunts Cong attack plank

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The verdict coming days after the court had put a lid on the decades-old dispute on the title suit of 'Mandir-Masjid' dispute paving way for the construction of a temple for 'Lord Ram' at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, has come as a major political boost for the BJP which had promised to the effect at its Palampur (Himachal Pradesh) convention in 1989, when it had adopted a resolution to build a temple at the birth place of Bhagwan Ram'. The BJP had reacted with obvious glee over the judgment which would only add further polish on the anti-corruption plank of the party and the claim that its leadership was "without a blemish".

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

Congress to take issue in PAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hitting hard at Rahul, BJP working president J P Nadda said the Congress leader had tried to mislead the country on the issue and should now apologise.

Asserting that truth has prevailed, Nadda said, "From road to Parliament, Rahul Gandhi and his party tried hard to mislead the country on this issue but truth prevailed. I wish Rahul would be in country and should apologise to nation."

BJP seeks RaGa apology for 'lies'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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Addressing a press conference at the party office, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Congress and in particular its former president Gandhi must apologise to the country.

Hailing the Supreme Court's order on the Rafale deal as a victory of the country's national security, Prasad said, "It is recognition of the honest decision making process of the Narendra Modi Government... Satyamev Jayate. The Congress party must apologise and Rahul Gandhi in particular must apologise to the country."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hailing the judgement, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted the SC verdict on Rafale shows Government's decision was right on the price, the process and on the offsets.

"PM Modi put #NationalSecurity on top. Indian Air Force needed to be strengthened without any further delay. #NationFirst. Motivated propaganda defeated: Sitharaman tweeted."

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

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

draw the normal HRA for the original place of posting.

"The issue of

grant of additional HRA to Central Armed Police Forces personnel posted in Kashmir Valley has been

considered in the Ministry and it has been decided by Competent Authority that those personnel who are posted in Kashmir Valley and compelled to leave their families at their last place of posting will be eligible for drawing additional HRA."

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

August 5 abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution that granted special status to the erstwhile State. The move benefits nearly one lakh personnel of the paramilitary forces' personnel posted in the Valley.

Special allowances have been a major relief for paramilitary personnel who have been at the forefront of countering terrorism and maintaining law and order in the Valley.

IN SHORT

RS BYPOLLS TO BE HELD ON DEC 12

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

TWO ADVISERS TO JK GUV APPOINTED

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

JAISHANKAR FOR 'HONEST REVIEW'

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

TWO ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING GOLD

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

AMIT SHAH TO VISIT CRPF HEADQUARTERS

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

ED arrests ex-Fortis chief, other

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

These accused allegedly transferred an amount of approximately Rs 1,000 crore to various persons from entities linked to

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

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

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

FCRA CASE

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



NGO and them in June be quashed.

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

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

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

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

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

contributions received.

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

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

He said the Jamiat had asserted that the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case should be filed will be taken in a meeting of the working committee of the JUEH which will sit till late evening to deliberate on the matter.

Maulana Madani, however, said the judgment was

"beyond understanding". The court accepted that placing idols in a mosque and demolishing it is illegal.

"But the court gave its decision in favour of those responsible for it," he said.

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

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

Settling a fractious issue that goes back more than a century,

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

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

Asked about his views on whether the land should be accepted by the Muslim side, Madani said, "The land has not been given to us. We don't want land. Muslims don't need land," he said.

Madani said that according to religion, a mosque remains a mosque irrespective of 'namaz' being held or not.

"The SC said it was mosque and not made by destroying a temple. For us, according to religion, it is still a mosque," Madani said.

16 rebel Cong-JD(S) MLAs join BJP

13 get bypoll ticket

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

party office here.

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

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

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



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

current Assembly's term in 2023.

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

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

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

ticket.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



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

Hitting out at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for recommending President's Rule in Maharashtra

"defying" constitutional provisions and Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankher for "acting like BJP's mouthpiece" the Chief Minister said federal structure of the country was in peril.

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

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

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

Recently he went to a block office at Singur leading a massive uproar in the ruling party circles who questioned his "unconstitutional demeanour."

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

SPECIAL TRAIN

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

 04071/04072 Delhi - Panipat - Delhi
EMU Special Train

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

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

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

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

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

1. Name of Work with its location	Provision of "Divyang friendly Toilets" along with septic tank and soakpit at 36 nos. under Sr. DEN-IV.
2. Approx. Cost of work	(1) Rs. 59,57,014.57
3. Earnest money	(1) Rs. 1,19,200.00
4. Date and Time of Submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date Up to 15:00 hrs. on 22.11.2019 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 06.12.2019.
5. Website particulars published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/74/19-20/W-IV Date : 13.11.2019 3659/19

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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://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

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

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

General Manager (R), Noida

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13 get bypoll ticket

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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ticket.

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

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

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

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

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, LEAVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001. OA NO. 83/2018 DATE: 23.10.2019

CORPORATION BANK.....Applicant

VERSUS SH. ANAND PRAKASH MISHRA & ORS.....Respondent

To DEFENDENT

1. Sh. Anand Prakash Mishra Sh. M. K. Khare HR-40

Pulphedupur, Surajkund Crossing, New Delhi-44

Also at: 414/24, Serai Mall Khanjari Tola Chowk, Lucknow-226003

Also at: C.S. Customer Services Facility Fideli Fideli International Tower-D, Cyber Park Gurugram, Haryana-122003

3. M/s. M/s. PUNEET KHARE & CRS.Respondent

To DEFENDANT

1. Sh. Purushottam Khare Sh. M. K. Khare HR-40

Pulphedupur, Surajkund Crossing, New Delhi-44

Also at: 414/24, Serai Mall Khanjari Tola Chowk, Lucknow-226003

Also at: C.S. Customer Services Facility Fideli Fideli International Tower-D, Cyber Park Gurugram, Haryana-122003

3. M/s. M/s. PUNEET KHARE & CRS.Respondent

To DEFENDANT

1. Smt. Mithlesh Kumar W/o. Sh. Niraj Kumar

Bhakar WB-75A WB-Blok, Shakarpur, Delhi-92

Also at: 40-A, Akashvani Accountant Account BBV, Business Services Ltd. 69-A 3

50:50 FORMULA

Sena wonders if PM was kept in loop

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

uation that we are witnessing today," Raut said.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Giving an emotional spin to the issue, Raut said: "The venue where Amit Shah and Uddhavji held talks

was not an ordinary room. It was a room that belonged to late Balasaheb once. It was the same room from where late Balasaheb championed the cause of Hindutva and blessed Modiji on several occasions.... For us, the venue where the discussion between Amit Shah and Uddhavji is not just a room but a temple"

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

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

Though the three parties are coming out in the open, the senior leaders of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress are developing the contours of the proposed three-party Government — after detailed tripartite talks among their leaders.

With the vetting and formalisation of the CMP by the central leaders of the three parties having become a mere formality now, the talks on power-sharing arrangement among the leaders of Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP may begin from Friday.

In another major development, the Congress and NCP are understood to have agreed in principle to give the Chief Minister's post to the Shiv Sena which won as many as 56 seats as against 54 and 44 seats bagged by the NCP and Congress respectively in the State Assembly.

It remains to be seen if the NCP will share the post with

Received no communication from AIMPLB on reviewing Ayodhya verdict: Ansari

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

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

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

Wasim Rizvi donates ₹51,000 for Ram temple

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

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

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

PTI

Sabarimala takeaways

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



Faith over women's rights? A regressive over a progressive society? Religion justifying patriarchy or not? The Supreme Court needs more time, investigations and a larger bench to give answers on who can pray at Sabarimala, knowing that its ruling will become a precedent for all time to come and should, therefore, be well-considered. That it will affect 50 per cent of the nation's population, namely women, who could always interpret justice as hostage to a brute majoritarian force. Till then, its earlier order allowing women of reproductive age into the shrine holds. There were assumptions that the Supreme Court's verdict on Ayodhya, which relied heavily on the faith of believers and their continued practice of it, would influence it to review its own order. Simply because the patriarchal servitors of the house of Lord Ayyappa, the celibate God, had codified belief that women of a certain age group would bring temptation to a sacred space, if not the lord himself. As if menstruation and procreation were sins rather than the law of the universe. With their early hold on interpreting religion, they appropriated primacy by unequal means and solidified it as an ordained custom. They monopolised godliness when faith is a soul concern, irrespective of gender. They even equated the deity's rights to that of Ram *lalla*'s, humanising the claims of the God-kings to be treated as private individuals in their own homes. Such has been the sanctity of this practice in the public domain that even Judge Indu Malhotra, during the earlier ruling, had wondered if the ban should be respected as the ritualistic right of a sect to keep its customs as a secular allowance. The apex court doesn't usually admit a review plea but given the confusion, it did so despite a 3:2 verdict, with justices Rohinton Nariman and DY Chandrachud against another relook. Though petitioners may claim an admission of oversight is implicit in this decision, there are layered takeaways. One, it is intended to defer another ruling of landmark proportions so soon after the Ayodhya verdict and control the fallout. Second, the top court has suggested widening the ambit of a woman's devotional rights across religions, including the entry of women into mosques and Parsi shrines and the practice of female genital mutilation in the Dawoodi Bohra community. This could work both ways. For one, the localised appeal by a sect could be circumvented and made a subset of a larger ruling on democratic rights of women across religions. Or the Hindu sect could be treated at par with the other groups with a right to practise their socially sanctioned faith and attendant rituals. Last but not the least, the deferment helps most mainstream political parties, which do not want to deal with the ramifications before the Kerala elections in 2021. For the BJP, which has thrown its weight behind a review of the order allowing women inside the shrine, its stance has so far not yielded results, the party failing to win either a seat or increase its vote-share during the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress, in fact, has gained for endorsing the same line, that the hill shrine be entitled to its own traditions. So the court's need to study the objections raised is a reprieve for all parties concerned.

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

Setback for Congress

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



Now that the Rafale jets have made their way to India and their indispensability has been proven to our forces, the Supreme Court was expected to dismiss a review petition against their acquisition. Politically though, it gave the BJP weather-beaten by the latest round of Assembly results, some ammunition to beat the Congress with all over again. The latter was in for some embarrassment, not because its poll plank on the questionable nature of the Rafale deal was battered electorally, but because the court warned the party's former chief Rahul Gandhi for justifying his "chowkidar chor hai" jibe, citing court observations that were never made. While the court exempted him from a contempt case, the BJP used the severity of its warning to demand a national apology from the Gandhi scion for insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The "chowkidar chor hai" slogan wasn't just in bad taste but gave the BJP an opportunity to crest public opinion by taking a high moral ground. It, in fact, turned the slogan on its head to make its most effective brand slogan of "Main bhi chowkidaa." The Congress, therefore, will have no manoeuvring space in its self-defence now and the BJP won't let go of a chance of cornering Rahul on this. Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad lost no time in reminding that not only did Rahul call the Prime Minister a thief, he lied about the former French Prime Minister's statements and misquoted the Supreme Court.

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

Pay heed to warning signs

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



AOJY KUMAR

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

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

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

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

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



Therefore, I will not go through these details again.

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

Another example is how the Right to Information (RTI) Act was watered down or how fake news and hate speech have been allowed to thrive on social media. All of these instances, while completely unconnected at the first blush, have a disconcerting common thread running through them: They are all symptoms of a weakening democracy. The clash between the police and the lawyers is only the latest symptom of a more serious problem.

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

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

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

Not one person can be

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

The showdown between the police and lawyers calls for a brand of leadership where people are reassured that the Government is capable of taking steps to ensure that the crisis is averted with minimum loss and with maturity.

I am fortunate to see the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at work. I have seen it taking steps while at the same time encouraging brand of leadership. No doubt, there will be instances where we may fall short, too, but I am optimistic that we will not shy away from the problem, no matter how uncomfortable.

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

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

SOUND BITE

I generally do not comment on constitutional posts, but a few people (Governors) are acting just like BJP mouthpieces.

West Bengal CM
— Mamata Banerjee

I have certain responsibilities as a filmmaker. I don't want to make mindless entertainment. As a filmmaker, I have to be socially relevant.

Filmmaker
— Ananth Mahadevan

Kashmiris, who came to Pakistan for training, received a hero's reception. We used to train them and support them.

Ex-Pakistan President
— Pervez Musharraf

Some of the top court's recent verdicts must be studied studiously. If somebody says some verdicts are in favour of an ideology, he cannot be blamed.

CPI(M) general secretary
— Sitaram Yechury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Being watchful

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

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

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

Tushar Anand
Patna

Maharashtra saga continues

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

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

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

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Piecemeal measures

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

Sunita
Via email

Prepare an action plan

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

the residents of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). It is sad that though the reasons that contribute to air pollution are well-known, we have

been unable to alter the situation. One of the causes for such high level of pollution is the burning of crop residue by farmers in the neighbouring States of Punjab,

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Clear roadblocks to innovation

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



JASON OXMAN

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

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

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

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

(The writer is CEO and president ITI council)

POINT COUNTER POINT

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

—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER BS YEDIYURAPPA



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

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Understand the burning issue

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



SPOORTHY RAMAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

”



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is managing editor at a science portal)

The nuttiness of history in a nutshell

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



NAHEED PARACHA

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

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

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

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

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

The anti-slavery position was adopted by the North and President Lincoln only after the Southern states declared their secession. Lincoln's original stance on slavery, which he displayed a year before the Civil War, was rather different. He had said: "I have no purpose to interfere with the institution of slavery where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I don't intend to."

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

second introduced the death penalty for those found to have committed blasphemy.

When explained in a nutshell, the Second Amendment is elucidated as the sole doing of the "socialist" regime of ZA Bhutto. Unlike various conventional religious groups that had opposed the creation of Pakistan, Punjab's Ahmadi community had backed Jinnah's call. They then became prominent in the country's State and Government institutions.

The Iranian-American author and academic Vali Nasr, in *The Vanguard of Islamic Revolution*, writes that soon after Pakistan's creation, radical religious groups in Punjab often "articulated economic grievances in Islamic terms." This contributed to the 1953 anti-Ahmadi movement when the provincial Government, headed by Mumtaz Daultana, failed to address an economic crisis. As a distraction, Daultana went on to tacitly support the movement. He was dismissed by the President after the movement was crushed by the military.

However, with the army already engaged in fighting an insurgency in Balochistan, Bhutto demurred. On the insistence of some of his party's members in the Punjab Assembly, the religious parties were finally allowed to table a Bill.

In an essay for *Political Power and Social Theory*, Sadia Saeed writes that the 1953 movement had largely been crushed on the insistence of the military and the bureaucracy but that, by the 1970s, both had been weakened and distanced from politics. She also writes that the pressure to allow the Opposition to table the

newspapers of this period are full of statements by religious parties expressing economic grievances in 'Islamic' terms. Then, an episode in Rabwah, in which a group of Ahmadi youth clashed with the student-wing of Jamaat-i-Islami, suddenly triggered a brand new anti-Ahmadi movement in Punjab.

In his 1997 study of the Bhutto regime, Rafi Raza writes that Bhutto refused to allow the Opposition to discuss the issue in the Parliament. And when violence increased, he publicly threatened to crush the protests with the help of the military.

However, with the army already engaged in fighting an insurgency in Balochistan, Bhutto demurred. On the insistence of some of his party's members in the Punjab Assembly, the religious parties were finally allowed to table a Bill.

According to a February 11, 2011 article by Khalid Ahmad in *The Express Tribune*, some journalists and lawyers from Punjab approached the Federal Shariat Court in 1984, petitioning it to introduce stern laws against blasphemy.

On June 8, 1986, some members of the National Assembly — which was formed after the 1985 elections — agreed to table a private Bill that would include the death penalty for blasphemy.

The Zia-backed Government of Mohammad Khan Junejo pre-empted

the move and tabled a Bill that did not include the death penalty. However, during a debate, which included no more than six legislators, the death sentence was added. As a last-minute addition, the Government hastily added "death penalty or life imprisonment" in the Bill that was passed.

Upon emotional appeals, especially by those who had demanded the death penalty, Zia, as President, signed the Bill into law in October 1986.

The addition of the words "or life imprisonment" was challenged by the same politicians in 1987 in the Shariat Court. In 1990, the court ruled that the death penalty alone should be mandatory for blasphemy. It asked the then sitting Government of Nawaz Sharif to remove the words "or life imprisonment" from the law. The Government planned to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court but since those who had originally demanded the death penalty were from part of Sharif's party and coalition Government (the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad), the regime withdrew the challenge.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

Moody's lowers GDP forecast to 5.6 per cent

IANS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline for filing GST annual returns extended; forms simplified

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

month, Bharti Airtel had postponed the release of its full Q2 earnings to November citing the uncertainty in the sector in the wake of the court ruling on definition of telecom revenues.

Airtel's colossal net loss for just-ended September quarter was on account of exceptional charge pertaining to provisioning of ₹28,450 crore towards the AGR dues, that included principle of ₹6,164 crore, interest of ₹12,219 crore, penalty of ₹3,760 crore, and interest on penalty of ₹6,307 crore.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Vodafone Idea said its ability to continue as going con-

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

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

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

The company has estimat-

ed liability of ₹44,150 crore post the apex court order, and made provision of ₹25,680 crore in the second quarter this fiscal.

Airtel, Vodafone Idea and other telecom operators have to pay the Government a whopping ₹1.4 lakh crore following the recent Supreme Court order that has sent shock waves through the industry which is already grappling with losses and billions of dollars in debt.

The Supreme Court, last month, upheld Government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual AGR of telecom companies, a share of which is paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer.

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

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

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

New Delhi: Amid ongoing feud between the airline's promoters, IndiGo CEO Ronjoy Dutta on Thursday said there is "zero impact" on the carrier right now as they are on the same page over the airline's strategic direction.

Differences between co-founders and co-promoters — Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia — came to fore in July after Gangwal sought market regulator Sebi's intervention to address alleged corporate governance lapses at the company.

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

Raids on BMC contractors unearth ₹735-crore financial irregularities: I-T dept

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

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

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

CBDT mops up ₹6L cr in direct tax collection so far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has so far mopped up ₹6 lakh crore or less than 50 per cent of the total tax collection target of ₹13.35 lakh crore for the current fiscal, a senior official said.

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

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

lakh crore. Of this, we have already collected ₹6 lakh crore so far," he said.

Refunds due to the tax payers are done swiftly, he said, adding the refunds have gone up 20 per cent compared to the last fiscal.

Efforts are made towards tax collection and I have full confidence that we will reach the target set in the Budget," Mody said. He also said the tax payer services is one of the focus area of CBDT. Keeping this in mind, a member has been appointed for tax payer services.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



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

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

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

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

P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi

Ph. No.: 011-27821047

Mob. No.: 706503632

DP/767/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Namrata Pandey, D/o Dinesh Chand Pandey, R/o Gali No. 06, Gautam Colony, Narela, Delhi, Age 18 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Fair, Long Face, Wearing Orange colour suit, skin colour jaini and red colour sandal in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Narela, Delhi since 01.11.19. In this regard a vde DD No. 44-A dated 02.11.19 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.

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

E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found on 12.11.2019 on the patni near Taj Hotel Motor Market, Jama Masjid, Delhi and was taken to LN Hospital, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of MAMC for 72 hrs. for identification. In this regard DD No. 23, dated 12.11.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Jama Masjid, Delhi.

Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, **Age:** 50-60 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White color kurta and payjama & slippers.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

SHO Police Station, Jama Masjid, Delhi

DP/6726/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23261625, 23269777

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Pinki W/o Sukh Lal R/o H.No. 3467, Daribapan, Pahar Ganj, Delhi**, Aged-30 Years has been reported missing since 29.10.2019 vide DD No. 79-A Dated 31.10.2019 Lodged at Police Station Paharganj, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

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

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Paharganj, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

For P G Industry Ltd. Sd/-

FAX No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

Sd/-

FAX No.: 011-24368639

SHO, Paharganj, Delhi

DP/6722/CD/19 Tel.: 011-23520787, 23524746, Mob.: 8750870427

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, Age about 45/50 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Wheatish, Oval Face, Thin Built, Normal Long Black & Grey Hair, Grey and Black Beared with Mustache, Wearing Blue colour checkar shirt, orange colour jacket and black colour pant was found daed at Patri Near Rain Basera, Opposite Gate No. 9, GB Pant Hospital, JLN Marg, Daryaganj, Delhi on 11.11.19. In this regard a DD No. 16-A dated 11.11.19 has been lodged at PS Daryaganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Maulana Azad Medical Collage Mortuary for 72 hours.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO PS : Daryaganj, Delhi

Ph.: 23274683, 23279331

DP/6728/CD/19

Wholesale inflation slowed to 0.16% in October

Lowest in three-and-a-half years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation slipped to about three-and-a-half-year low of 0.16 per cent in October on account of a decline in prices of manufactured goods though food products remained dearer, government data showed on Thursday.

The previous low was in June 2016 when the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was a negative 0.1 per cent.

In September this year, the WPI-based inflation was at 0.33 per cent, while it stood at 5.54 per cent in October 2018.

The rate of price rise for food articles was 9.80 per cent during the month, while for non-food articles it stood at 2.35 per cent, showed the latest data released by the commerce and industry ministry.

The wholesale inflation in potato remained in the negative zone at 19.60 per cent (from 22.50 per cent in September).

However, for vegetables, the inflation jumped to 38.91 per cent in October from 19.43 per cent a month ago, while that for pulses, it remained elevated at 16.57 per cent as com-

pared with 17.94 per cent.

For fruits, it eased to 2.72 per cent during the month as against 6.67 per cent in September. While wholesale inflation in manufactured products was (-)0.84 per cent in October 2019.

"The sequential dip in the WPI inflation in October 2019 was led by core items, fuel and power, minerals, and crude petroleum and natural gas,

whereas inflation for primary food and non-food articles,

and manufactured food products recorded an upturn," said Aditi Nayar, economist at ICRA.

Among other articles in the WPI basket, the inflation for the fuel and light category declined further to 8.27 per cent.

Rahul Gupta, currency research head, Emkay Global Financial Services, said, "The data in wholesale prices signals that there is still lack of demand in segments such as manufacturing, metals, and chemical products. While only a surge in vegetable prices led to a rise in WPI from the market forecast.

The continued weakness in WPI along with slowing growth will induce the RBI to

Retail inflation may average at 4% in FY20: SBI report

Mumbai (PTI): Surplus rainfall in August and September is likely to keep food and vegetable prices elevated going forward, and retail inflation may average at around 4 per cent in FY20, an SBI research report said.

In October, inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) spiked to a 16-month high of 4.62 per cent on costlier food items.

In 2019 five states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka — bore the brunt of excess rainfall and were affected by severe floods. The surplus rainfall during August and September seriously damaged many Kharif crops.

"Going forward, thus, food and vegetable prices could remain elevated and

inflation prints in November still may be on a higher side due to the low base in 2018. We expect FY20 CPI to now average closer at 4 per cent," SBI research report Ecowrap said. The report said even as food CPI will remain elevated, core CPI will go below 3 per cent in this fiscal.

According to the report, RBI may cut repo rate in the upcoming December monetary policy meeting and may pause thereafter on concerns over inflation.

"We expect a December rate cut, but beyond December it will be a close decision (as inflation prints beyond October will remain elevated). Thus, it will be better if the rate cut is front loaded in December," the report added.

(Reserve Bank of India) to cut repo rate again in December."

The retail inflation for the month hit a 16-month high of 4.62 per cent due to soaring prices of food articles, including fruit and vegetables, according to data released by

Benchmark indices close in green on rate cut hopes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market barometers Sensex and Nifty on Thursday ended higher after swinging between gains and losses during the day as participants hoped for further easing of repo rate to boost consumer sentiment amid macro-economic challenges. At the closing bell, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 170.42 points, or 0.42 per cent, higher at 40,286.48. The index swung between a high of 40,348.61 and low of 40,026.99 during the session.

While the NSE gauge Nifty ended with a gain of 31.65 points, or 0.27 per cent, at 11,872.10. The market underwent bouts of volatility during the day as investors fretted over a host of negative factors like higher retail inflation print, weak IIP data and worries over US-China trade deal.

On the Sensex chart, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and HDFC Bank were among the top gainers — rising up to 2.67 per cent. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, EDL and HUL fell up to 2.90 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE IT, consumer durables, finance, bankex, tech and auto indices rose up to

1.07 per cent. While BSE telecom, metal, capital goods, power, FMCG and energy indices fell up to 2.76 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended on a flat note. After weak set of government data indicated deepening of economic slowdown, Moody's Investors Service lowering India's GDP growth forecast further hit investor sentiment.

"You plan a policy for next 50 years. Develop clusters in backward areas because there, you will get land and manpower

Gadkari suggests leather export industry to develop clusters in backward areas

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday suggested the leather export industry to develop clusters in backward areas as they can get land and manpower at affordable prices, with a view to boost shipments.

The Road Transport and Highways and MSME Minister said the government can think of giving incentives to such clusters, which will have all the facilities like labs and design centres, for the leather industry.

"You plan a policy for next 50 years. Develop clusters in backward areas because there, you will get land and manpower

at cheap rates. We can give power, and logistics cost will be less there. We will try our level best for low taxation because the area is backward," he said.

He was speaking at the CLE National Export Excellence Awards here. The Minister suggested the industry to explore options of buying land and develop clusters around the 22 new green expressways.

Citing example of the Delhi-Mumbai highway, he said that this will pass through economically backward and tribal areas in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana.

PTI

Rupee logs 1st gain in 6 days; recuperates 13 paise

Mumbai: The Indian rupee on Thursday clocked its first gain after five sessions, closing 13 paise higher at 71.96 against the US dollar in line with domestic equities.

A day after plunging below the psychological 72-level in over two months, the domestic currency opened on a positive note. As forex market par-

ticipants weighed a range of macroeconomic factors posing challenges, the Indian currency turned volatile traded in the range of 71.85 to 72.24 to the US dollar.

It finally settled at 72.93 — showing a gain of 15 paise over its previous close.

Meanwhile, stronger US currency against its key rivals

and surging crude oil prices capped the rupee's gains to some extent. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose by 0.01 per cent to 98.38.

Global crude oil benchmark Brent Futures surged 1.17 per cent to trade at USD 63.10 per barrel.

PTI

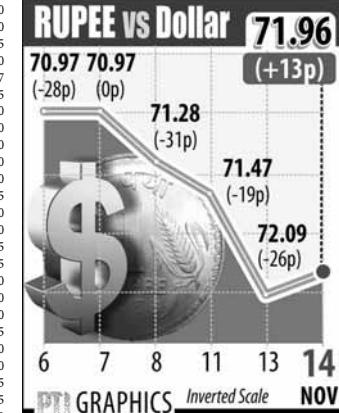
Vedanta Q2 profit rise 61% to ₹2,158 crore

New Delhi (PTI): Mining baron Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd on Thursday posted a 60.6 per cent rise in consolidated profit to ₹2,158 crore for the quarter ended September 30.

The company had posted a consolidated profit "attributable to owners of Vedanta Ltd"

of ₹1,343 crore in the year-ago period, Vedanta said in a BSE filing.

However, the consolidated income in the July-September period dropped to ₹22,814 crore from ₹23,279 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said.



NIFTY 50

SCRIPT	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11858.75	11895.65	11802.65	11870.45	30.00
ICICIBANK	489.75	499.85	483.75	498.05	12.30
INFY	696.35	709.80	696.35	705.10	13.70
BAJFINANCE	4158.00	4221.00	4120.40	4218.90	74.35
HDFCBANK	1263.80	1277.00	1257.20	1275.00	17.45
MARUTI	716.00	727.00	716.00	726.40	91.40
BAJAJFINSV	8979.95	9091.00	8900.00	9090.00	111.65
EICHERMOT	21500.00	21725.00	21355.00	21560.00	207.80
HCLTECH	1141.50	1157.40	1135.10	1149.00	10.40
CPLA	445.20	458.20	442.65	451.95	4.05
TITAN	1164.00	1176.30	1162.00	1169.20	10.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	3205.00	3244.55	3191.10	3232.50	26.50
YESBANK	68.85	70.80	67.10	68.75	0.55
M&M	575.20	579.65	567.75	579.00	4.30
AXISBANK	71.00	721.80	707.25	716.25	5.05
HDFC	2207.90	2232.85	2190.20	2222.00	13.55
IOC	133.20	140.00	131.40	134.65	0.80
TCS	2187.50	2200.00	2146.70	2190.00	11.40
TECHM	756.00	765.30	748.30	760.90	3.85
BPC	507.00	520.05	503.80	511.80	1.70
NTPC	118.50	119.15	117.55	118.50	0.20
WIPRO	254.00	254.75	251.40	253.45	0.35
ITC	254.10	255.90	253.25	253.00	0.00
ASIANPAINT	177.80	180.00	176.65	177.20	-0.25
NESTLEIND	14250.00	14305.90	14100.00	14224.75	-8.50
HEROMOTOCO	2595.00	2608.15	2577.00	2587.00	-2.10
SBIN	306.95	309.50	299.70	306.25	-0.55
GRASIM	713.10	756.85	712.00	738.00	-1.55
KOTAKBANK	1606.40	1610.40	1584.00	1620.25	-3.55
SUNPHARMA	413.20	417.35	407.55	410.50	-1.50
POWERGRID	196.00	190.15	186.90	188.55	-0.70
LT	1397.00	1405.95	1376.95	1385.00	-8.00
ADANIPOWER	371.90	374.10	365.85	368.20	-2.60
ULTRACEMCO	4130.00	4132.00	3993.10	4012.95	-102.65
HINDALCO	193.35	193.40	191.80	192.80	-4.95
MUTHOOTFIN	664.90	716.00	664.90	716.65	FINEORG
BANKBARODA	93.40	94.00	90.60	93.30	ADBIJALDNG
AUBANK	813.45	817.70	782.30	819.70	WOCKPHARMA
RELIANCE	2181.00	2199.55	2135.40	2196.50	STRTECH
TATASTEEL	396.00	398.60	389.40	391.95	BHARTIATL
JUSTIDIAL	142.05	144.35	138.60	139.75	SPARC
ADANIPORTS	515.00	522.40	500.85	513.60	ADANIPORTS
HDFCBANK	1259.50	1277.40	1257.00	1273.70	NMCB
ADANIENT	197.50	203.25	194.00	201.95	BOMDYEING
ADANIENT	1610.05	1650.95	1608.00	1619.00	TATAMTRDRV
IDEA	3.33	3.44	2.90	2.95	HEROMOTOCO
VEDL	152.80	152.80	142.80	143.95	BEL
TATASTEEL	2181.00	2199.55	2135.40	2196.50	STRTECH
TATASTEEL	396.00	398.60	389.40	391.95	

REGENT ENTERPRISES LIMITED

REGD. OFFICE : E-205 (LGF), Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110 048

Telephone No.: 011-29213191 Email ID: straderid@gmail.com

CIN : L15500DL1994PLC153183

Extract of Standalone Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended on 30th September, 2019
(Rs. In Lakhs except per Share data)

PARTICULARS	QUARTER ENDED 30.09.2019 Un-Audited	HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2019 Un-Audited	QUARTER ENDED 30.09.2018 Un-Audited
Total Income from operations	15330.72	29579.97	36459.11
Net Profit/(Loss) for the Period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	22.34	48.03	55.36
Net Profit/(Loss) for the Period before Tax (after tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	22.34	48.03	55.36
Net Profit/(Loss) for the Period after Tax (after tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	14.84	33.03	33.77
Total Comprehensive Income for the Period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	14.84	33.03	33.77
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the Previous Year)	3345.63	3345.63	3345.63
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 1/- each) (for continuing and discounted operations)	1 Basic : 2 Diluted:	0.04 0.04	0.10 0.10

NOTES:
 1. The above Financial Result were reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 13.11.2019 at 4:00 P.M. and Approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 13.11.2019 at 5:00 P.M.
 2. No complaint received from the shareholders during the quarter. Hence, at present no complaint pending against the company.
 3. Previous year's figures regrouped and rearranged, wherever necessary.
 4. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half Year ended 30th September, 2019, filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange <https://www.bseindia.com> and on Company's website <http://regenterprises.in>.

For Regent Enterprises Limited
Place: New Delhi
Date: 14/11/2019
Sd/-
Vikas Kumar
Whole Time Director
Din: 05308192

THE HOME LIVING COOPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD.

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

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

Name of the Resigned Members (Mr. / Ms.)	Membership No.	Address as per Record
HARCHARAN SINGH	04	548 Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
AMAR JEET SINGH	95	A-1/16 Panchsheel Enclave, N. Delhi
GURINDER KAUR	87	10/20/ Vasant Vihar, N. Delhi
BALJIT KAUR	21	548 Punjabi bagh N, Delhi
B.P. MISHRA	88	115, Kalka Jn. N. Delhi
SUB. DHIRAJ SINGH	35	Kanya Gurukul Narela Delhi
MINI SONI	56	G.T. Road Shahjahanpur N. Delhi
GURBACHAN KAUR	70	8/69, Punjabi bagh N. Delhi
MANDEEP SINGH	105	F-10/12, Vasant Vihar, N. Delhi
VIRENDER KAUR	96	8/69, Punjabi bagh N. Delhi
MANINDER KAUR	13	8/69, Punjabi bagh N. Delhi
SURAYA TABBUSUM	20	587, Galutewali, Chiruwala, Delhi
ANUJ	26	121-D, Kamla Nagar, Delhi
SOM DUTT SHARMA	86	247-4A, Panchnikut Road N. Delhi
LAXMI	101	27/22, Rly. Flats, Krishanangji, Delhi
GULSHAN SINGH	52	594/6, Govind Puri N. Delhi.
INDER MOHAN SINGH	99	N-3, Ring Road, N. Delhi
INDER MOHAN BHATIA	72	36-C-Pocket-L, Sheikh Sarai, N. Delhi
ANUJ AHLUWALIA	60	51, Mayfair Garden, N. Delhi
R.S. AHLUWALIA	54	51,Mayfair Apts., Mayfair Garden, N. Delhi
PAVNEET SINGH	92	1-A, Sardar Patel Marg N. Delhi
LAVLIN MADHU	42	E-104, Pragati Vihar, N. Delhi
GURDEEP SINGH	55	S-208, Panchsheel Park N. Delhi
RAMANDEEP SINGH	62	S-208, Panchsheel Park N. Delhi
BELMATI PAL	109	K-155, Sarojini Nagar, N. Delhi
GURDEEP MINHAS	82	6/600, R. K. Puram N. Delhi.
DARSHEET G. SINGH	106	C-4/130, SDA, N. Delhi
MULAKI RAJ	65	I-A/54C, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi
LAJWANTI	28	VIII & PO- MehpalPur Delhi
SUNITA	63	D-121, Kamla Nagar, Delhi
SAVITA	64	99, State Bank Colony, Delhi
LAXMI DUTT JOSHI	89	C-4/67, B- Lawrence Road, Delhi
RAJ KALI	98	112,Sainti Enclave Vikas Marg, Delhi
PHOLCVATI	41	13, Suraj Nagar, Azad Pur, Delhi
MANJU	84	32/256, West Patel, Nager, N. Delhi
USHA	104	E-530, Greater Kailash-II, N. Delhi
AMTUL MATIM	39	577, Galutewali, Delhi
A.H. ANCHAN	03	A-294, Defence Colony, N. Delhi
J.K. GANDHI	14	B-138, Amer Colony, Lajpat Nagar, N. Delhi
SHAKUNTALA	103	I-A/54C, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi
SANJAY	100	BL-100, Shalimar Bagh, N. Delhi
ARUNA MAHAJAN	15	14, Savitri Nagar, N. Delhi
ANIL KUMAR MAHAJAN	57	T-517D-52, Baljeet Nagar, N. Delhi
AYAJ CHAUDHARY	05	13, Suraj Nagar, Delhi
SANTOSH DAHIA	08	67, Suraj Nagar, Delhi
VIJAY KUMAR	19	VILL. & P.O- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
DEWAN SINGH	16	Traders Bank Ltd, Uttram Nagar, Delhi
PREM沃	29	13, Suraj Nagar, Azad Pur, Delhi
R.R. CHAUDHARY	01	7/20, Darya Ganj, N. Delhi
PARMANAND	18	VILL. & P.O- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
RAVINDEER SINGH	23	VILL. & P.O- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
JAWAHAR SINGH	31	VILL. & P.O- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
RAJ SINGH	30	Municipal Quarters, Azad Pur, Delhi
CHOTO	37	VILL. & PO- MehpalPur Delhi
USHA SINGH	40	VILL. & PO- Bhalawala, Delhi
LAXMAN SINGH	45	VILL. & P.O- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
PREM SINGH	59	Municipal Quarters, Azad Pur, Delhi
JANAK RANI	69	3205, Kata Shivaji Basti, Punjab Bagh, Delhi
SURAJ BHAN	25	VILL. & P.O- Khayala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi
HAWA SINGH	36	VILL. & PO- MehpalPur Delhi
KALAVATI	33	VILL. & PO- MehpalPur Delhi
PARVEEN BHUTANI	91	Y-2, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi
SHIKSHAMAN	34	Kewal Park, P.O-Prachvati, Delhi
GIRODHARI	80	B-203/2, DDA Flats, East of Kalash, N. Delhi
Dr. S.K. SONI	111	R-17, MCD, Sarojini Nagar N. Delhi
RANJAN KUMAR	124	R-23, Nehru Enclave, N. Delhi
AJAY KUMAR	125	G-73, SangamVihar, N. Delhi
VIJAY KAPOOR	133	A-2A, Munirka, N. Delhi
RAKESH NARANG	168	114-15, Vinod Garden Najafgarh Road, Delhi
MOHD. ILYAS	156	8/17/17, Old GovindPura, Delhi
ANU	128	E-211, Kalindi Colony, N. Delhi
ABHMANYU MAHAJAN	126	47, Friends Colony (E), N. Delhi
SUDHA	132	R-2, 2nd Floor, Nehru Enclave , N. Delhi
A.PAL	130	D-81/2, Kalakji Ext., N. Delhi
SUDESH KUBA	123	27, Pusa Road, N. Delhi
NITI	122	C-44, Press Enclave, N. Delhi
KAMAL KHANNA	119	D-70, Kalakji, N. Delhi.
BLOSSOM	121	14-A, Dhrub Appit, Rohini, N. Delhi
ASEEM CHAWLA	127	U-23/30, 1st Floor, Qutab Enclave, N. Delhi
NAUSHABA ZAFAR	142	D-22, Kalakji N.Delhi
F.I.SIDDIQUI	136	26-G, Pocket-L, Shekhar Sarai, N. Delhi
SHAMBHOOSH NATH VERMA	81	H.NO-428, PushpVihar, Sect-07, N. Delhi
ASHOK KUMAR SAXENA	87	Sitaram Bazar, Delhi
ANIL AGARWAL	102	B-78, Kalakji N. Delhi
Dr. S.S. RASTOGI	68	26,Toramda Road, N. Delhi
SUBHASH KUMARDHINGRA	77	25-E, Pocket-JD/AJ, Area- G-8, Opp. Maya Puri LIG Flats, Rajouri Garden, N.Dehli
SUDHANSHU ARORA	120	Q-39, Dilshad Garden N. Delhi
ANOOP TIWARI	150	B-32, AditiAppits, -16-A, Patparganj, Delhi
EV.A SWAROOP	140	F-1174, C. R. Park, N. Delhi
R.S.ANDAN	151	BC-11/G, Munirka DDA Flats, N.Dehli
MOHIT MALIK	93	B-59, Vivek Vihar, Delhi
SHIBANI MALHOTRA	146	245, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, Delhi
ANAND DEWAN	182	Bunglow, No.-2, H.R. Flats, INA, N.Dehli
RASHMI NANGIA	159	K-43A, Kiranagar, N. Delhi
INDRA KAPOOR	176	B-5/78, Safdar jang Enclave, N.Dehli
ABHA SHARMA	134	H. NO.-234, Sector-4, Gurgaon.
ROHIT KUMAR	186	D-12/4, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi
SURINDER MALHOTRA	175	C-73-B,KUTT Colony, N. Delhi
KULDEEP KUMAR	131	A-109, SangamVihar, N. Delhi
GULNAZ BEGUM	162	587, G, Galutewali, churuvilaran, Delhi
RAINA SINGH	157	33-A, Rameshwari Nagar, Azad Pur, Delhi
AMIT MALHOTRA	159	A-9, Shivalik, N.Dehli
ZAHEDA	152	587, Galutewali, churuvilaran, Delhi
VAISHALI	129	K-43A, Kiranagar, N. Delhi
MADAN KUMAR	179	H.No-148,DaspurVil,Narangian Colony,Delhi
A.J.SHIVANI	83	E-287, 2nd Floor, G.K-1, N.Dehli

Battle lines harden as US President impeachment inquiry goes public

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

PORN ACTRESS FIGHTS TRUMP REQUEST FOR SETTLEMENT DOLLARS

Columbus: Attorneys for porn star Stormy Daniels are challenging a request by President Donald Trump's lawyers to stake claim to a settlement between her and Ohio's capital city. A federal judge last year said Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, must pay Trump nearly USD 293,000 for his attorneys' fees and another USD 1,000 in sanctions after her defamation suit against him was dismissed.

Earlier this year, the city of Columbus reached a USD 450,000 settlement with Daniels over the porn actress' arrest at a strip club in 2018. Trump's lawyers noted in a filing to the court involved in the Columbus judgment last week that Clifford owes him USD 293,052.

Daniels' attorneys said in a Wednesday filing that Clifford has an active appeal in the court of appeals. AP

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

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

"Is this now going to be the new normal?" Schiff asked. Hostling the president of Turkey at the White House, Trump insisted he was too busy to watch the hearings being broadcast live across the country and the world. He denied a fresh detail from one of the witnesses about a phone call in which he was overheard asking about "the investigation." "First I've heard of it," Trump told reporters during a news conference.

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

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

GLOBE TROTTING

TEAR GAS GRENADES KILL 4 PROTESTERS IN IRAQ

Baghdad: Four protesters were killed by tear gas canisters in Baghdad on Thursday, medics told AFP,

Trend Blazer

Sonam to play blind character

Actor SONAM K AHUJA will play a blind character in the Hindi remake of the 2011 South Korean crime thriller film *Blind*.

Filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh, who will be the creative producer of the film, said, "Shome Makhija, my friend, is directing the film. It's an out-and-out female-hero story." The *Kahaani* director feels that Sonam is the right fit for this role.

Sonam was last seen on the big screen in *The Zoya Factor* this year. The film failed to receive much critical or commercial impact upon release.

She said, "I haven't done any action and horror films, so these are the two genres I would love to explore."



'I was lucky to be part of a team who made me feel comfortable with what I was doing. It was amazing to be among such hardworking people as Sonakshi (Sinha). Playing Gabru in Khandani Shafakhana was both, difficult and easy for me. The complete transition in the last courtroom scene was the challenge.'

—Badshah

Actor RAKUL PREET SINGH is excited about her forthcoming cross-border romantic-comedy. She reveals shooting for the yet-untitled film will start later this month.



"The film is in the rom-com space and it is the story of characters who belongs to India and Pakistan, so it's a cross-border, coming-of-age rom-com," Rakul said about the film, which sees her team up with Arjun Kapoor for the first time.

The film will be directed by debutant Kaashvi Nair and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Nikhil Advani and John Abraham.

Pink confirms she is taking a break

Singer PINK has confirmed that she will be taking a break from music for at least a year.

The 40-year-old singer has spent the past two years on the road with her successful Beautiful Trauma World Tour and she is now looking in a different direction for her future. Pink arrived at the

Country Music Association Awards for 2019 with her kids in tow as she and husband Carey Hart made the event a family affair.

Speaking about her future on the red carpet, Pink said, "It's time to do something else for a minute."

Ahead of the ceremony, Pink posed for pictures with Hart and their two kids, daughter Willow, 8, and son Jameson, 3.



EMOTIONS MAKE FOR AN UNENDING DRAMA

Theatre directors tell CHAHAK MITTAL that till the time a play offers distinct aesthetics and addresses contemporaneity, it cannot stay relevant

though times have changed, the emotions can be interpreted in the modern schema"

Theatre director and founder of Dreaming Stage, Nikunj Wadhwan argues that plays and stories don't have to be "made relevant" to contemporary times because even though the current environment and surroundings might have evolved, human beings stay the same. He adds, "Just like previous times, fewer men have chivalry. Women had more duties and limitations than men and though it is changing now, it is still prevalent to an extent. And the ones who rule us take decisions based on their mindset rather than on the basis of right or wrong."

Recalling Mohan Rakesh's *Ashad Ka Ek Din*, which talked about Kalidas and how his lover had waited for him for years, he says, "This has certainly changed but only because today's woman and lover are more evolved people, who use social media and eat through apps. However, the lover would still feel the same pain

and longing for one's beloved."

Theatre director Bharti Sharma, who is set to bring her play, *Chhaya-Hindol*, at the Delhi Government's art and culture wing Sahitya Kala Parishad's *Mohan Rakesh Natya evam Samman Samaroh*, also agrees to the point that it is human emotions which are universal and they will react in the same way to different plays, regardless of the language or era the classic has been written in.

While experts argue about how human behaviour has been similar, Prateek Kumar, director of Arcus en Ciel Theatre, believes that classics are important because they have a certain sense of "aesthetics" and a socio-political relevance. "The aesthetics offered by them is unmatched when they are performed with a particular form," he says and recalls theatre directors like KS Rajendran, who had directed *Pratimanikam* (based upon *Ramayana*) and *Priyadarshika*, in which he took mudras (gestures) from the *Natyashastra*. He adds, "The performances have had

long-lasting imprint on the audience because of the visual elements offered by classical theatre. There is also experimental theatre director Suresh Anagalli, who had directed Sanskrit classic *Bhagwat Ajukam* in an abstract and modern form. It has mesmerised the audience in a similar manner."

Once a play is read, the reader is impacted by its character for some time but soon, the chapter ends. When the story is reimagined after 50 years and brought on the stage, the director re-explores the moral fibre of each character, revealing his/her demons and strengths in a more nuanced way. And this has become a trend. More theatre directors are picking up old classics and adapting and re-interpreting them in their own ways to make it relatable to the current audience.

Prateek says that the trend is also because of the fact that the Indian audience has evolved to understand the vision of a director and take on to understand the art form which director chooses to display his/her story.

Giving example of one of his directions, "When I adapted *Andha Yug* (based on the last day of *Mahabharata*), it

gave me a broader understanding of relationships, human instincts and violence. I could understand them better because the play offered me a parallel image of today's world and showed the issues which still haunt us. Till the time a play offers distinct aesthetics and addresses the contemporary times, it cannot stay relevant."

Prakhar also takes *Mahabharata* as an example and points out that it explores every possible human emotion in its story, "which is why it is always going to be relevant. Wherever a director's imagination or creativity takes him/her to... it will."

However, when the story is already known to the audience, why bring it over and over again? Nikunj points out that even though the sto-

'Education is important'

A head of Children's Day, veteran actor Boman Irani used the occasion to draw attention to the fact that every child in the country should have access to formal education, although that is not the only way to educate an individual. "In my opinion, basic education should be accessible to every child in this country. Later, they should practice their choice on higher education, and things should not be imposed on them. I am not a big believer in formal education because I am a self-taught actor and photographer. I do not believe that one can only educate himself between the age of five to 25. But I say that because formal education did not work for me that well," Boman said.

"Having said that I think when children go to school, they get a sense of childhood (later in their lives) because that is how society looks at children who are cared for. What they learn in school, and how much they are educated by attending class, is a different discussion. But access to education, the whole thing of wearing uniform, walking together with classmates and going to school, such things give them a structure in life," he said.

Boman plays a pivotal role in the new film *Jhalki*, which addresses the issue of child labour. He essays the character of Sham Singh in the film, which is broadly based on the Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, who is known for his relentless work for children's rights and Bachpan Bachao movement.

Jhalki is one of the releases in the Children's Day weekend. The film revolves around the struggle of a young girl from an underprivileged background. She is in search for her brother who is employed as child labour and has gone missing. The film is directed by Brahmandan Singh, and features two child artistes, Aarti and

Goraksha along with Sanjay Suri, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Divya Dutta and Govind Namdev.

"When a child wishes to go to school but doesn't get the chance to do so owing to poverty, he or she feels like an outcast. That is almost criminal," said the actor.

Interestingly, Boman has played characters like Viru Sahastrabuddhe (*3 Idiots*), Dr JC Ashtana (*Munna Bhai MBBS*) that show another extreme side of higher education and how it can suffocate young minds. The actor mentions he has treated each of these characters differently, keeping his personal opinion aside.

"I reserve my opinion and never impose it on the character I portray in the film because every character serves to tell a story and I am just an actor there. I am not judging the character. Personally, I do not support such imposition on students," said he. —IANS



my hip hop music under the name, J Hires. My first song *Fire Flame* has got over five million views and streams online so far. I'll be putting out my first full mixtape soon entitled — *Chapter 1: I Do This Too*.

Lucas: I recently completed a film based on the life of Robert Zellner called *Son of the South* directed by academy award winner Barry Brown and executive-produced by Spike Lee.

Where is Mac's relationship with his father headed in Season 3?

Lucas: It is like an arc which swings back and forth. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it's not. The relationship heads slowly taking baby steps.

Why does the Phoenix Foundation need Mac back?

Lucas: They need him back because Jack is in trouble. Jack has been spotted with a former dictator who's been deposed and trying to get his throne back. It looks like he's doing bad stuff and I've got to figure out whether he's gone rogue and bad, or he just needs my help. So I had to rescue him from a situation which I thought he was getting into.

And Mac's dad thought that he's gone rogue and he is doing wrong things. But I was like, 'no that's not the case.'

Tell us more on Mac returning to the Phoenix Foundation?

Lucas: He goes along with his dad to save Jack, out of respect for him. But it's funny because Mac and his dad still don't get along.

(*MacGyver* Season 3 premieres every Friday at 10 pm on AXN.)

Survival and betrayal

Actors JUSTIN HIRES and LUCAS TILL say that their series *MacGyver* is popular because it is about family, something that everyone is related closely with. By TEAM VIVA



never-ending. I've used a flamethrower, I get to do comedy and drama, the opportunities with this character and show are endless.

What kind of research did you do for your role as the master mask maker?

Justin: I watched the *Mission Impossible* films. They gave me a deeper insight about my role. I learnt the nuances of my role from.

What do you think are the reasons behind the show's popularity?

Justin: The show is about family. And family is something that everyone connects and relates closely. So the show provides a universal connection for everyone.

Lucas: There's something for everyone. The whole family can watch the show — grandparents, parents, and the kids.

How has your character developed throughout the seasons?

Justin: It has developed a lot. I went from just being a cook at a fast food restaurant to a secret government agent. Even the audience has been able to see

Bozer endure several obstacles throughout the series and come out on top as an unsuspecting hero.

Lucas: Mac started off beautifully naive in certain things initially. But as the seasons unfold you will see him discovering herself. Even with this latest season, he figures out that the world is just not black and white, it has various shades of grey too.

shows. And the best sequences are the ones where the detective is tracking down a great villain. That's why I love David Dastmalchian's character, Murdoc, on the show so much.

Lucas: According to me, a great detective show should make you look things differently. It should leave the scenes to be interpreted by the audience in the way they want to. Also it should allow the viewer to think like a detective.

Are you a fan of detective shows? What makes a great detective show according to you?

Justin: I love detective

What are your current and future projects?

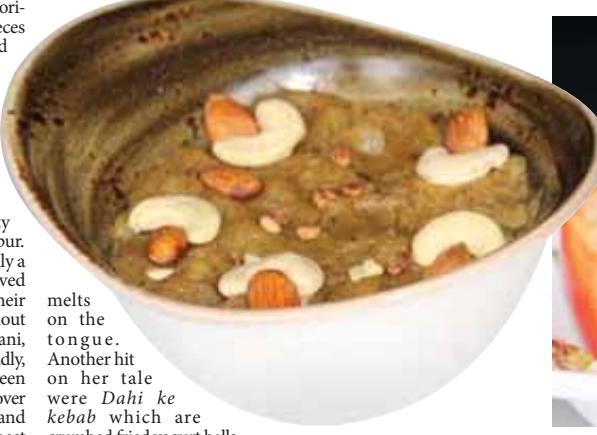
Justin: I have just released



By the time we clocked the end of our dinner, Jonathon Gold's remark, "You can't fake hummus. It is either on point or your grandmother goes home," was incessantly resonating in my mind. Only instead of the Middle East, I was in the lap of Rampur cuisine, and in place of the hummus, I was fussing over Baigan achari, which seemed to be a proud favourite of mas-

SACRED TASTE

Blooms at Eros Hotel celebrates the city's regional cuisine and DHRUVIKA BHANOT finds that its dishes are not only eclectic but on the same wavelength of authenticity



terchef Suroor Khan. Among our conversations about the place, nawabs, creating jobs for cooks from Rampur, he mentioned that their Baigan achari is somewhat of an indisputable force against all other brinjal oriented dishes. It has small pieces of brinjal marinated and cooked in tangy gravy. I had never been more excited to try a vegetarian dish.

The menu is curated following an extensive hands-on research to create dishes that are not only eclectic but are on the same wavelength of authenticity that one would find in Rampur.

Rampuri cuisine is essentially a 'courty cuisine' that evolved along with its sultans and their taste buds. It is a blending clout of Mughlai, Awadhi, Afghani, Rajput and other cultures. Sadly, these recipes have not been chronicled and are thus lost over the years. It is a few chefs and hotels who are doing their best to revive Rampuri cuisine.

If you find yourself at Blooms restaurant, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place, with a plate of Tar Korma, one of the signature dishes and Mirch ka salan which is lightly spiced and slightly tangy curry cooked in green chilli, just know that this is as authentic as it can get. Quite literally though since chef Suroor belongs to the lineage of royal cooks or khana-sas of nawabs of Rampur. Taste is sacred in the city and uncompromised, believes chef Sudarshan. He said that the cuisine is a nice combination in terms of taste, texture and presentation.

Mewa mave ka shaami became another of my favourites, it is kebab made with condensed milk and filled with dry fruits. It is slightly sweet, courtesy of the mewa and

melts on the tongue.

Another hit on her tale were Dahi ke kebab which are crumbed fried yogurt balls

seasoned with Rampuri spices, a mixture of 35 to 40 spices. The food is flavourful for one, no surprise there but it is also neutral and balanced in taste, so fortunately there won't be the risk of hot flashes or hike in diabetes.

One of my personal favourites till the next day remains Kacche gosht ki tikki, a traditional lamb patty seasoned with homemade spices. Chef Suroor shared an interesting anecdote behind this dish. In earlier days, while on hunt, the nawabs would cook meat by themselves with whatever spices they could get hold of. The dish on the menu is reflective of that time, the meat is lightly marinated and slightly raw.

Chef Suroor's Saans-e-dum pulao is magnificent, a traditional preparation of Rampur, basmati rice, lamb and chicken prepared as a Yakhni pulao. And



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ver leaf. True to the chef's words, the dish becomes a sonnet of flavour, texture and aroma. As both the chefs mentioned, half the taste of the cuisine is in its smell. The people who used to find refuge in Rampur brought their own flavour to the kitchens and it still remains diverse in taste.

But why Rampur? Because Rampuri cuisine has a taste but no name, is what chef Suroor shared. And even though Delhi is a hub of cultures, this cuisine has found itself aloof and hidden in kitchens at home. The chefs want it to reach to as many people. Not only this, jobs are being created. Chefs from Rampur are here, so there is exposure and experience on both sides of the spectrum, the chefs and the diners.

This experience of dining would remain unparalleled, from the food to the service to the bits of history of Rampur that was shared in conversations, a few phrases would certainly lack justice to an evening of amiability and warmth.

The food at Blooms restaurant is a blend of the best of both worlds, it is definitely not the sweetest. However, what it is not is something to be missed on.

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Injury-time goal saves India



PTI ■ DUSHANBE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And the 149-ranked Afghanistan car-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tsitsipas reaches ATP Finals semis



Stefanos Tsitsipas celebrates winning a point against Alexander Zverev

AP ■ LONDON

6 TEAMS UNVEILED FOR ATP CUP

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

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

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

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

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

PTI



Bryan brothers to retire in 2020

AFP ■ LOS ANGELES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Go back to baseball'

Ibrahimovic confirms LA Galaxy exit

AFP ■ LOS ANGELES

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ HONG KONG

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

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

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

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

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

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

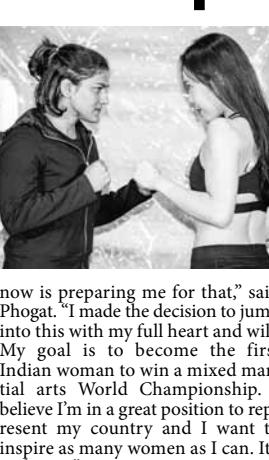
Earlier, H S Prannoy suffered a 12-21, 19-21 loss to sixth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie in the second round.

Former Commonwealth Games

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

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

Sindhu poor show continues



now is preparing me for that," said Phogat. "I made the decision to jump into this with my full heart and will. My goal is to become the first Indian woman to win a mixed martial arts World Championship. I believe I'm in a great position to represent my country and I want to inspire as many women as I can. It's an honor."

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

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

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

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

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

"I'm young, I'm strong, and I'm hungry," Phogat concluded. "Give me a few fights, let me get a feel for this and I'll be contending for a World Title soon. I promise my fans I'll give them something to cheer about. I want to make my country proud."



Paes, top-players return for Pak tie

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

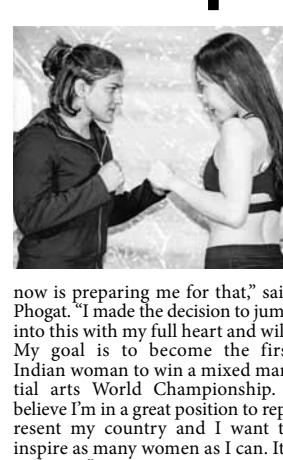
'I'm coming for the One Championship World Title: Ritu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

A luckless Ravichandran Ashwin (2/43 in 16 overs), let down by Ajinkya Rahane in the slips cordon, also had a couple of clean-bowled dismissals in his kitty in the post-lunch session.

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

Each of the three displayed

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

Ishant's bowling was about disconcerting bounce from length that had opener Shadman Islam caught behind and the occasional fuller delivery holding its line that forced Liton Das to edge one to Virat Kohli in the slips.

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

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

Mohammed Shami, probably the craftiest among the contemporary Indian pacers, showed there is no one better when it comes to getting reverse swing with 10-year-old SG Test ball.

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

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

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

Even without Jasprit Bumrah, who is nursing a stress fracture,

GET SET GO

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



the unit looked so formidable that one could sympathise with Bangladeshi batsmen facing their combined might.

They attacked relentlessly and it didn't matter that India weren't exactly having a great day as far as slip catching was concerned. Umesh could have got Mushfiqur early had Kohli latched on to one in the third slip.

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

It didn't cost the team much but the frustrated bowler then decided that breaching the defence was the

best option as Mominul Haque (36) and Mahmudullah were dismissed due to poor judgement and shot selection respectively.

'ONE OF THE MOST LETHAL'

The current Indian pace attack is "one of the most lethal" in world cricket since it has the ability to create openings in every spell, reckons senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

"Sometimes you feel that every spell they bowl, something is happening or they make it happen," the off-spinner added. Bangladeshi batsmen danced to He however denied

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

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

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

Very few world class bowlers in Test cricket now: Sachin

PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I think it has also got to do with the kind of pitches that are provided. If we provide fair pitches where fast bowlers as well as spinners get help, then balance between bat and ball will be restored.

"If the balance is missing then the contest becomes weak and it fails to grab eyeballs. Test cricket must have good wickets," added the man, who has scored 15,921 runs with 51 hundreds.

For Tendulkar, the model pitches are the ones on which the Ashes was played in England.

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

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

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

Ranjane keeps Mumbai on high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

All-rounder Shubham Ranjane shone with both the bat and ball, as his unbeaten 30 helped Mumbai defeat Bengal by three wickets in a last ball thriller of the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament here on Thursday.

Chasing a modest 154-run target, Mumbai were teetering at 105/5 at a stage. And then thanks to Ranjane's heroics with the bat, Mumbai chased the target on the final ball to remain unbeaten.

This was Mumbai's fifth win and they are on top of the points table in Group D and have almost sealed their place in the knockout stage.

The hosts needed four runs to win of the final ball and Ranjane (30 not out off 17 balls, 5x4) reversed sweep a full toss to the third man boundary, as celebrations began in the Mumbai camp.

Mumbai opener Jay Bista (48 off 41 balls; 5x4 and 1x6) and Aditya Tare (37 off 27 balls) added 78 for the first wicket

before the team's middle order collapsed.

Shreyas Iyer (15), Siddhesh Lad (0) and Shivam Dube (0) fell in quick succession after Bista departed as Mumbai slumped to 105-5 from 102-2.

Then Ranjane did the rescue act in company of skipper Suryakumar Yadav (22 of 18 balls), as the two took the hosts near the target. However, Surya fell with three balls to left, putting the onus on Ranjane, who finished the match in style.

Earlier, invited to bat, Bengal failed to capitalise on the start provided by openers Vivek Singh (56 off 45 balls) and Shreevats Goswami (43 off 28 balls) to post a below-par 153/4 on the board.

In the first match at Bandra Kurla Complex, Haryana defeated Pondicherry by six wickets, while in the second game at the same venue, Assam thrashed minnows Mizoram by nine wickets.

In the second game at Wankhede, Madhya Pradesh got better of Meghalaya by 85 runs.



आरती सरकार

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