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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Diplomacy key to India-Lanka ties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DELHITES IN DEEP WATER

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Kolkata and Chennai

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

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

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

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

phenolic compounds and chloramines respectively. In Ranchi, the potable water test failed on four parameters, while in Shimla on aluminium and Chandigarh on two parameters, "aluminium and coliform".

According to officials, testing was conducted for organoleptic and physical tests, chemical test, toxic substances and bacteriological tests in the first stage. In the next phase, they will also undergo virological and biological tests for major disease carriers. The study, conducted by BIS for the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry, tested 10 samples in 21 capital cities to see if they met the Indian Standard 10500:2012 (specification for drinking water).

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

CM Das calls for JMM free Kolhan



Chief Minister Raghuraj Das addresses a gathering after attending nomination of State BJP president Laxman Gilua in Chakradharpur on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Attends nomination of Gilua at Chakradharpur

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Raghuraj Das today called upon the people in Kolhan region to free the Kolhan area from Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. Addressing a public meeting after attending nomination of State BJP president Laxman Gilua in Chakradharpur on Saturday Das said JMM's Hemant Soren snatched land of tribals and became a landlord.

"You entrusted the JMM with the responsibility of developing your area for years. But, you must be feeling what results it gave. The JMM, which calls itself wellwisher of tribals and poor people, did nothing. It did not even preserve the tribal culture. However, JMM's Hemant Soren sold the sand from rivers of the State and became a landlord by snatching the land of tribals violating the CNT/SPT Act," said Das.

"The people of Kolhan should assess who is their friend and who is not. Pledge to free Kolhan from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and pave way for development of the region, because you have to tell that the party, which will develop, will get your vote. Do not block your path of development for momen-

tary benefit. Do vote for the prosperity of Jharkhand," he added.

Das said that policies are formed due to a strong and stable Government, decision-making capacity is increased and officers are not unbribed. But, neither a policy can be formed with a coalition government, a decision is taken nor officers are in control and the poor tribals suffer. "In the last 5 years, many things have been done due to stable government. Due to the double engine government, 57 lakh families got the benefit of Ayushman Bharat Yojana, 30 lakh households deprived of electricity were brightened, 40 lakh families got gas stove, the process of providing housing to every poor started.

The work of providing drinking water started, they were provided financial assistance for the prosperity of the farmers, empowerment of women. I do not say that there is complete development in Jharkhand.

We still have many things to do in the field of health and education. It has been accelerated in 5 years. With the help of the government of double engine, its speed has to increase even more in the coming years," said Das.

The CM presented the facts of development works done during five years in the Chkradharpur Assembly Constituency enlisting schemes that benefitted people in the area and said that several ongoing works will also be completed at the earliest.

BJP releases another list, AJSU stands firm

Minister Saryu Roy says 'No interest to contest on party ticket'

PRANAV PRATYUSH ■ RANCHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday announced three more candidates in its fourth list for the elections in Jharkhand, thereby taking the total count of its candidates to 72 — an indication that the ruling party is unwilling to entertain the demands of its long-term ally AJSU Party. The latter, however, has still kept a wait and watch stance after announcing candidates for 19 seats.

The BJP announced names of Mochiram Bauri for Jugsalai (SC) seat, Sudhir Sundi for Jagannathpur (ST) seat and Reeta Devi Munda for Tamar (ST) seat, from where sitting MLA Vikas Singh Munda, who recently joined the JMM after leaving AJSU Party, is contesting the poll. The Tamar seat also becomes important because former Minister, Raja Peter alias Gopal Krishna Patar and former naxal commander Kundan Pahan, who are incarcerated on charges of murder of Vikas Munda's father former minister Ramesh Singh Munda.

The AJSU party on Saturday did not release any statement over alliance issue.



State Food, Civic Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Saryu Roy in Jamshedpur on Saturday. Pioneer photo

However, the party, which is almost set to go alone in the poll battle, is ready with its manifesto to be released by party chief Sudesh Mahto on Sunday.

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

Holding a press conference in Jamshedpur on Saturday, Roy said, "I decided to bring out the party senior leaders from the state of confusion. I have told them not to consider my name for the constituency as I have no interest left to contest election on party ticket. I have asked them to find a suitable candidate for the seat and I will accept it happily. I am

feeling relieved now," he said. "Tomorrow I will have a discussion with the party workers, who have supported me for over 15 years and then take a decision on contesting the election. I need to thank them also for their support," said the Minister, who has already bought nomination forms from both Jamshedpur East and West seats.

Notably, the BJP has fielded Chief Minister Raghuraj Das from Jamshedpur East seat, which is his traditional seat and it is likely that Roy will challenge Das contesting as an independent candidate from the seat. Roy has been frequently raising issues against the working style of the government and has written several letters to BJP Central leadership expressing his discontent.

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

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

indebted to. But falls in love with the girl and wants to turn good for her. In steps the villain. Again Riteish Deshmukh. The least Zaveri could have done is to not take the same starcast and make a movie on similar lines. However, all is not lost here. Deshmukh instead of doing movies like *Housefull 4* that don't make any sense to those like to watch movies that have some content, should actually switch to doing roles where he plays the bad guy. Like in *Ek Villain*, Deshmukh excels here too as the bad guy somewhat with a twist in his character. Siddharth Malhotra does what he does best. Play the baddies at the drop of a hat; all this with his bare hands, a tad difficult to digest given that the baddies that he is fighting are all armed with the latest machine guns. And yet, our hero is able to come out as the winner. A total disconnect with reality. Overall, it is a movie that is not worth a watch.

— Shalini Sakseena

No saving this disastrous affair

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

It is unfortunate that an actor, the calibre of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has done films like *Sarfarosh*, *Badlapur* and *Manjhi-The Mountain Man* would actually agree to sign on the dotted line for *Motichoor Chaknachoar*. One doesn't understand the thought that went into him accepting the role. He can't be that desperate to play the lead. Yes, here Siddiqui plays the hero with Athiya Shetty. There are a few things horribly wrong with this pairing at many levels. First, the two actors have no chemistry; they are awkward at best. Given that Shetty is doing the pursuing while Siddiqui just goes with the flow should have had some laugh out loud moments. The only time when a smile comes is where Siddiqui has been given some funny dialogues. '36 ke hain, kab tak brahmachari bankar baithe rahe. Naati, kaali, patali, takli, kisi se bhi byah kar lenge. Hamko mourat hi chahiye bas' the dialogue reeks of desperation but at least it is funny given the context in which it is said. Then there is the whole loud message that is staring at our faces that of dowry. If that was the intention of the director Debamitra Biswal, to highlight the problem of dowry in the country, he should ensure that the film walked that path and the content suited the purpose. All that this film managed to do was to show that a 36-year-old man is desperate to get married. A strict no-no.

— Shalini Sakseena



Plan Your Sunday

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



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



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

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



'Was never approached for Super 30'

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

■ What's your role in *Flames*?

I play Rajat. This is the second season of the web series and the story is of young romance unfolding. As it was shown in Season 1 that Rajat and Ishita are now in a relationship, this season will show what actually happens after two people come into a teenage relationship — attraction and romance, understanding, discovering the deep-rooted discomforts, trust and a gamut of emotions.

■ What prompted you to play Rajat?

First, I found the storyline interesting and appealing. Second, I just completed shooting for *Laakhon Mein Ek* and it was an exhausting experience because I played a dark character in it. I wanted to take up something light-hearted that would be interesting to do and this series was the best option.

■ You debuted with *Ferrari Ki Sawaari*, how did that happen?

It happened all of a sudden. I was in Class VI and was preparing for my Mathematics exam. That's when my father asked me to take a break from study and we both went to a mall. After doing our shopping, while we were returning home a person came to us and asked if I would like to be a part of a film. He was Rohan Mathur, now a casting director who was assisting in the film back then. At first, we thought it was a joke but then he took us into confidence and the next day I went for acting workshops. That's how I got the film.

■ Were there any apprehensions in your family?

My parents have been very supportive throughout. I am here because of them. They always asked me of what I wanted to do before taking any decision themselves. Even when I was approached for the film, my father asked me *tujhe karna hai kya?* Knowing that I was so young still he asked for my decision whether I want to do it or not. They have always been understanding and



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

comforting.

■ After doing the film, did your friends treat you any differently?

I had a small group of close friends and all of them were extremely happy. Vidhu Vinod Chopra sir even held a special screening of the film for my friends. There was no big difference in their behaviour towards me because we knew each other much before the film, so it was not a big deal. They are still the same.

■ Was acting always on your cards?

No. I never thought of becoming an actor. I was a confused child. Sometimes I wanted to be a pilot and sometimes a doctor. I took part in school plays and always got to play the lead, I still don't know why. May be because my teacher liked me very much. (laughs)

■ There were reports that you were casted for a role in *Super 30*. Is it true?

No. I was never a part of the film. I don't know why such reports were doing rounds on the internet, but I was never approached for any role in the film.

■ What things do you keep in mind before signing a project?

I try to choose strong scripts with good content. If the story is good your role will definitely stand out and people will love it. My focus never lies in playing only lead roles, the

character and the story should be good and that's all I look out for.

■ Any actor or director that you would like to work with?

I would like to work with Ranbir Kapoor as he is a fabulous actor and I love the vibe that one gets to see in his films. As for the director, I would love to work with Rajkumar Hirani sir and Sriram Raghavan. I love the kind of films they make.

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF 18635 RANCHI - SASARAM EXPRESS

REVISED TIMINGS between Ranchi & Tori w.e.f. 01.03.2020

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17.16 - 17.17	a/d	PISKA
17.45 - 17.46	a/d	NAGJUA
18.03 - 18.05	a/d	LOHARDAGA
19.10 - 19.12	a/d	TORI

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:- आम सूचना :-

विधान सभा चुनाव-2019 के लिए धनबाद जिला में 24X7 अवधि के लिए नियंत्रण कक्ष गठित किया गया है। नियंत्रण कक्ष का Toll Free दूरभाष नम्बर-18003451217 है। उक्त Toll Free दूरभाष नम्बर पर विधान सभा चुनाव-2019 से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की शिकायत/सुझाव दर्ज की जा सकती है। इसके अतिरिक्त #Go Verify के लिये 1950 Toll Free दूरभाष संख्या अधिष्ठापित है। भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली के c-Vigil App पर भी आम जनों द्वारा शिकायत दर्ज की जा सकती है।

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दिव्यांग मतदाताओं के लिए आम सूचना

दिव्यांग मतदाताओं को मतदान केन्द्रों पर आवश्यक आधारभूत सुविधा प्रदान कराने के उद्देश्य से भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा PWD App जारी किया गया है एवं Helpline No. 1950 स्थापित है। इसके उपयोग से शत-प्रतिशत दिव्यांग मतदाताओं की लोकतंत्र में भागीदारी सुनिश्चित किया जाना है।

अतः एतद् द्वारा सभी दिव्यांग मतदाताओं से अपील है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा जारी PWD App को अधिक से अधिक संख्या में Download कर उपयोग करने का कष्ट किया जाय साथ ही निर्वाचन संबंधी किसी प्रकार की जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु जिला में स्थापित Helpline-1950 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

ह0/-
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, गढ़वा।
PR.221947 Election(19-20):D

कार्यालय जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी -सह- उपायुक्त, लातेहार (ट्राय -व्यय, लेखा कोषांग)

प्रैस विज्ञप्ति

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग की अधिसूचना के अनुसार आसन्न विधान सभा आम निर्वाचन- 2019 के अंतर्गत विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र सं0- 073 मनिफा एवं 074 लातेहार विधान सभा क्षेत्र के मतदान की तिथि प्रथम चरण में दिनांक- 30.11.2019 को निर्धारित है। उक्त आलेख में उपरोक्त दोनों विधान सभा क्षेत्रों के लिए नामांकन दाखिल करने वाले प्रत्याशियों को एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि निर्वाचन से संबंधित व्यय लेखा की जाँच की तिथि निम्न प्रकार निर्धारित की जाती है :-

क्र.सं.	निर्वाचन व्यय जाँच	निर्वाचन व्यय लेखा जाँच की तिथि	जाँच स्थल एवं समय
1	प्रथम लेखा जाँच	दिनांक-19.11.2019 (मंगलवार)	विकास भवन, डी0आर0डी0ए0, व्यय लेखा कोषांग
2	द्वितीय लेखा जाँच	दिनांक-23.11.2019 (शनिवार)	समय- 10:30 पूर्वाह्न से 05:00 बजे अपराह्न तक
3	तृतीय लेखा जाँच	दिनांक-28.11.2019 (गुरुवार)	

आसन्न विधान सभा आम निर्वाचन 2019 के अंतर्गत विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र सं0- 073 मनिफा एवं 074 लातेहार विधान सभा क्षेत्र के लिए नामांकन करने वाले प्रत्याशी स्वयं अथवा अपने निर्वाचन अभिकर्ता से निर्धारित तिथियों में ससमय उपस्थित होकर निर्वाचन व्यय लेखा जाँच कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

ह0/-
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी -सह- उपायुक्त, लातेहार।
P.R. 221927 Latehar(19-20)-D

जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार, धनबाद

''कोल लोक अदालत''

दिनांक 26.11.2019 (मंगलवार)

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार, धनबाद द्वारा सिविल कोर्ट परिसर में 26.11.2019 (मंगलवार) को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से प्रथम कोल लोक अदालत का आयोजन झारखंड राज्य विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार, राँची के तत्वावधान में किया जा रहा है। इस कोल लोक अदालत में बीसीसीएल एवं कोल से संबंधित प्री लिटिगेशन अथवा पोस्ट लिटिगेशन सभी तरह के वादों का सुलह समझौते के आधार पर निष्पादन किया जाना है।

अतः आप सभी संबंधित पक्षकारों को एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि आपका कोई मामला जो बीसीसीएल अथवा कोल से संबंधित प्री लिटिगेशन अथवा पोस्ट लिटिगेशन किसी भी तरह के वाद हों जिसे इस कोल लोक अदालत के माध्यम से सुलह समझौते के आधार पर निस्तारण किया जाना है। अतएव आप सभी संबंधित पक्षकारों से अनुरोध है कि उपरोक्त वर्णित अपने- अपने मामलों की पूर्णतया जानकारी दिनांक :- 20.11.2019 तक जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार व्यवहार न्यायालय धनबाद के कार्यालय में आकर देना सुनिश्चित करें ताकि इस कोल अदालत को पूर्णतया सफल बनाया जा सके।

श्री बसंत कुमार गोस्वामी
प्रधान जिला जज-सह-अध्यक्ष
जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार, धनबाद
निवेदक अरविंद कच्छप PR 221935 (Law)19-20#D
सचिव, जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार, धनबाद

TMC fields 13 candidates, backs young leaders



State president, TMC, Kameshwar Baitha, along with other party leaders, during a press conference in Ranchi on Saturday
Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

PNS ■ RANCHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Saturday announced 13 candidates for the Jharkhand Assembly elections. All 13 candidates are political greenhorns who will be contesting elections for the first time and a majority of them are under the age of 40 years – a decision that the party sees as an effort to encourage young and energetic leaders to take up active politics and strengthen the base of otherwise 'inactive' TMC here.

The list of candidates includes a few youth wing leaders from Congress party and other regional parties who joined the TMC in the past couple of years, sources said. "We are encouraging young leaders to take up active politics in Jharkhand. Most of our candidates have done tremendous work at the grass root level and are well aware of the actual problems people face in the tribal hinterland," said Sudhanshu Saha, Jharkhand In-Charge of TMC.

TMC has never managed to send any representative to the Jharkhand Assembly since the formation of the State in 2000. However, the party has inducted former legislators in the past in order to get a berth here, but the efforts have not shown any results yet. In 2014, the party

decided to field former Human Resource Development Minister Bandhu Tirkey from Mandar, but Tirkey failed to weave his magic against the Narendra Modi juggernaut. He quit the party after 2014 elections and the party that swears by Mamata's 'Ma, Mati, Manush' slogan has since not inducted any popular face in its cadre here.

The party has fielded Mandip Malhar from Garhwa, Kanhaiya Choubey from Bhawanathpur, Surendra Yadav from Panki, Kishore Kumar Bhagat from Tamar, Shani Sinku from Jagannathpur, Turam Biruli from Chaibasa, Mahendra Jamuda from Manoharpur, Rajiv Ranjan from Barhi, Vijay Ram from Kanke, Harekrishna Rai from Madhupur, Radheshyam Goswami from Jharia, Shivcharan Malto from Litipara and Munni Hansda from Shikaripara.

The TMC contested the 2014 elections as an ally of former Chief Minister Babul Marandi-led Jharkhand Vikas Morcha-Prajatantrik. Then State President of TMC, Bandhu Tirkey had said that the party will have an added advantage in Santhal Pargana due to the region's cultural and geographical proximity to Bangladesh.

Elections in Jharkhand will be held in five phases. Polls here will begin on November 30 and conclude on December 20. The final counting will be done on December 23.

ECI issues notification for third phase of election

189 in fray for first phase of polls

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday issued notification for the third phase of elections in 17 Assembly segments in Jharkhand. The nomination procedure for these seats began on Saturday with the issuance of the notification and will continue till November 25, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinay Kumar Choubey said.

The scrutiny of all nominations for this phase of elections will be done on November 26, and candidates here can withdraw their nominations by November 28. The polling will be held at 7016 polling stations spread across the 17 constituencies, said Choubey.

The 17 Assembly segments, spread across eight

districts, have as many as 56,06,743 electors – 29,32,657 men and 26,73,991 women. Among the constituencies going to polls in the third phase, Hatia has the highest number of voters – 4,44,246, while Silli has only 205538 voters, which is the lowest. State capital Ranchi, which has the highest number of urban polling booths in Jharkhand, will also go to polls in this phase of elections. Ranchi constituency has zero rural polling booths.

Nominations of all the candidates who reach the election officer's office and start the formalities before 3pm will be accepted even if the officials concerned have to work overtime. However, the nomination process will be closed on official holidays.

Meanwhile, 17 candidates withdrew their nominations on Saturday for the 13 constituencies going to polls in the first phase of elections here on November 30. After the withdrawal of



Chief Electoral Officer Vinay Kumar Choubey addresses a press conference at Cabinet (Election) Dept, Dhurwa, Sector -2 in Ranchi on Saturday. Additional Chief Electoral Officers Kripnanand Jha and Shailesh Kumar Chourasia are also seen in the picture
Ratan Lal | Pioneer

nominations, as many as 189 candidates are left in fray for the polls in the first phase, Choubey said.

With 28 candidates, Bhawanathpur constituency has the toughest competition in terms of number of candidates in the first phase.

A total of 228 candidates had filled nominations for the first phase of polls, and 22 of them were rejected during scrutiny.

There are a total of 3906 polling stations and 37,78,963 voters in the 13 Assembly segments—Chatra, Gumla,

Bishunpur, Lohardaga, Manika, Latehar, Panki, Daltonganj, Vishrampur, Chhattarpur, Hussainabad, Garhwa, Bhawanathpur—that will vote in the first phase of elections here.

Officials from the CEO's

office on Saturday said that as many as 37135 electors in these constituencies are above the age of 80 years and they can avail the ECI's postal ballot. Besides, 38584 voters with disability can also opt for postal ballot as per ECI norms. Jharkhand will be the first phase to provide postal ballot facility to voters with disability and voters who are older than 80 years.

Elections for the 81 Assembly constituencies in Jharkhand will begin on November 30 and end on December 20.

The final counting will be done on December 23 and the results will be declared on the same day. According to figures with the ECI, at least 67 of the 81 constituencies here are Left Wing Extremism affected. Central forces and local police will be deployed in sufficient numbers across all the constituencies to maintain law and order and ensure peaceful polls in Jharkhand, the ECI has said.

AAP promises world-class school facility in Jharkhand



State Convener, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Jaishankar Choudhary (C), along with party senior leaders, releases Aam Aadmi Party's manifesto (Sankalp Patra) ahead of the State Assembly elections at party office in Ranchi on Saturday
Pioneer photo

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today released its manifesto for the upcoming State Assembly Election in Jharkhand at its party headquarters here on Saturday. The party announced that compulsory and uniform education for all and the Government schools will be made world class and Anganwadi will be developed as play schools if the party is voted to power in the State.

AAP State Convener Jaishankar Choudhary said that the manifesto is a sacred agreement with the people, which the party considers to be its first obligation. "The parties and governments in India's democratic history so far have not completed the promises made in the manifesto issued by them, but in Delhi, AAP fulfilled hundred 100 per cent promises made in manifesto," he added.

The party State convener said that they do not show big dreams but basic needs of people like health, education, electricity, water and such kinds of people related basic issues are the main focus area of the manifesto.

Announcing important issues of manifesto Choudhary said that there will be arrangements to procure grains in every panchayat on double rate, renovations of ponds and new water sources, effective

steps will be taken to increase water, forest, land security and forests, ₹5,000 crores will be passed for tribal enterprise, will not let anyone die of hunger and for this responsible officer will be suspended, ration card will be made for every house hold, corporate loot will be stopped and local people will be promoted in the mining industry.

"₹1 crore rupees and one person will be given job to the martyr's family, electricity bill will be waived half and up to two hundred units, seven hundred liters of water will be given daily," said Choudhary.

Announcing other main focus area of the manifesto Choudhary said that holding tax will be reduced, migrants will get houses, the loot of land will be stopped by the Government and the land rate will be decided from the market rate, tribal women will be given double exemption in land and house registry, special courts will be set up for speedy disposal of land dispute, twenty million youths will be provided employment, local youth will get more opportunities in private jobs, number of judges will be increased, every case related to women will be decided in fast track court, old age pension, widow pension and unemployment allowance will be doubled, Sahia and all contract workers will be given pay scale on the lines of Delhi Government.

Experts brainstorm over role of youth in democracy

PNS ■ RANCHI

Association for Democratic Reforms and Live Foundation, Jharkhand organized a State level consultation on 'Youth and Democracy' on Saturday at Ranchi Press Club. The event saw participation of at least 120 students from four noted universities.

The consultation was organised to disseminate the message that electoral reform is the need of the hour and candidates with criminal background shouldn't be allowed to file nomination.

Addressing the gathering, senior Journalist Madhukar stressed the importance of voting and said that voting is perhaps the most important thing a citizen can do to support a democratic form of government. "A democracy is a system in which the people



Founder member, ADR, Trilochan Shastri, along with Jharkhand State Convener ADR (National Election Watch) Sudhir Pal, Moderator Balram and others, during the State-level Conference on 'Youth in Democracy' at Ranchi Press Club in Ranchi on Saturday
Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

have a voice in the decisions taken for their community and countrymen. Voting has long been the method used to determine the will of the citizenry. Without the power to vote, a citizen is essentially voiceless," he added.

"Voting is a basic process that keeps a nation's government machinery functional. It enables the citizens to choose their own government. It also allows the people to choose their

representatives in the Government. The purpose of every government is to develop and implement various policies for the benefit of its citizens. Every adult is given the right to vote, irrespective of sex, class, occupation and so forth," said Madhukar.

A Social Media Specialist Sunny Sarad said that as the popularity of social media has risen over the last few years, marketing campaigns have seen a shift as well. "Traditional print or media advertisements have made way for videos on social media, aimed toward consumers of content and the shift makes sense as videos encourage engagement through click. Many users find videos helpful when finding causes to support or places to volunteer. People are more likely to choose video over the text, and 95 percent of viewers remember a video clip rather than a blog or text," he added.

CMPDI holds CIL Foundation Day

PNS ■ RANCHI

CMPDI, a Mini-Ratna Company, celebrated the Coal India Foundation Day with full fervour at Mayuri Hall, CMPDI here on Saturday. The Chief Guest on the occasion, was Justice Ajay Bhanot, Justice of Allahabad High Court. Shekhar Saran, CMD, CMPDI was present on the occasion with esteemed guests.

Awards in different categories were given to the employees of CMPDI for excellent performance in their respective area of operation. On this occasion, based on drill productivity, Durgapur Camp, RI-IV, Nagpur got the award for the best drilling camp (Mechanical) and Singhpur Camp, RI-V, Bilaspur (Hydrostatic) category.

Under the best drill crew category award (highest productivity), crew of Drill DM-1000-2 (Murpur), RI-IV, Nagpur and KR-WAIIIC-07 of Singhpur Camp, RI-V, Bilaspur got the



Judge Allahabad High court justice Ajay Bhanot, CMPDI CMD Shekhar Saran, along with other senior officials, during Coal India Foundation Day ceremony at CMPDI in Ranchi on Saturday
Ratan Lal | Pioneer

award for mechanical and hydrostatics drills, respectively.

For best performance in report preparation, awards were given to Birendra Kumar, Chief Manager (Mining) for Opencast Report; B.K. Thakur Chief Manager (Mining) for Underground Report, S.N. Bohidar, GM (Geology) and his team of RI-VII, Bhubaneswar for Geological Report, V.N. Dupattawala for Environmental Services; Sunil Kumar Jayswal, Abha Prasad and Jayant Prasad for Reclassification OF

Unclassified LVMV in Infrastructural Planning; S. Kundu and his team (HQ) for preparation of DPR for Development of Mini smart colonies.

R.K. Singh and P.K. Somani got the award for outstanding performance in 'Exploration' and 'Financial' services, respectively. Under CSR, CMPDI(HQ), Ranchi, got the award for maximum utilization of CSR Budget in 18-19 and Regional Institute-IV, Nagpur got the award for maximum expenditure in remote areas, amongst all the RIs.

A.K. Mohanty, Y.K. Singh, Anil Savanur got the lifetime achievement award for excellent contribution in their respective fields. Additionally, Jolly Bhattacharjee, Ram Prasad Adhikary, Prateesh V Parolical got the 'Young Executive' awards. Moreover, Om Prakash Singh, Deepak Prasad, Dasrath Ram, Abhiram Kujur got Awards in their respective field of services in Non-Executives category.

City girl Rachna Tiwari features in Vogue India magazine

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

Capital City's beauty, 25-year-old Rachna Tiwari, has been featured in the September edition of the Vogue India magazine while modeling for a fashion designer called Tanushavy. The city based model has also been featured in the celebrity magazine Gladrags in September 2019.

"September has been a great month for me. I had been trying for a feature in Gladrags for the past three years. And, this year fortunately I got a call from Mumbai informing that I had been featured. Vogue India is something I had not imagined and planned at the moment and right now it feels I have crossed a milestone. I was hoping for a coverage in Vogue in the years to come," said the ecstatic model.

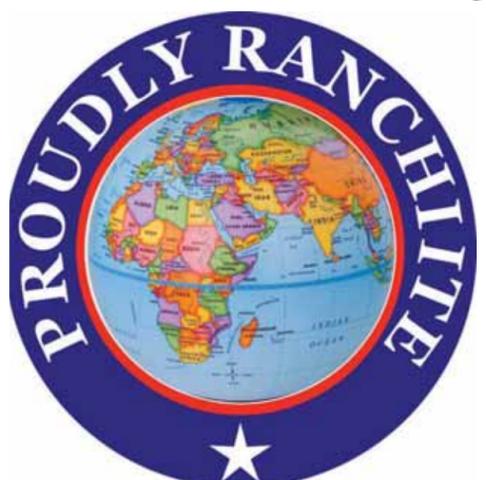


File photo of Rachna Tiwari
Pioneer photo

Tanushavy and eventually got featured in Vogue India.

From a young age Tiwari has been passionate about modeling and always wanted to make a career in this industry. A die heart admirer of Lisa Haydon, Tiwari considers herself to be the super models biggest fan.

"There are many famous personalities in the modeling industry but the way Lisa



Haydon represents herself is a class apart. I really look up to her while walking the ramp for a designer or during a photo shoot," said Tiwari.

Tiwari has been modeling since 2014 and started her

career with Designer Next India and since then there has been no looking back. She was also involved with the Swedish brand called Oriflame for product launch for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017

and also the New York based brand Avon in 2017. In 2017, Tiwari represented Jharkhand in the East zone and was adjudged as the second runner up at AHF India - a California based organisation at Mr and Ms Attitude 2017. The model has done advertisements shoots for Mumbai designer Payal & Nikila and has also worked with celebrity photographer Rohan Gandotra.

Tiwari completed her schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya, CISE, Dhurwa and is a graduate from Marwari College in B.com. She is currently pursuing her MBA in dual specialization from Vinayaka Mission University. The IT is also working with the IT Department for IIM Ahmadabad for the State government.

Presently Tiwari wants to focus on her modeling career before switching to television or movies. "A couple of tears back I did get an opportunity

from a TV channel, but acting is not my comfort zone. As of now am not too sure about taking a plunge into the movie industry but want to work for big brands and leading designers. Its best to wait and watch and see what life has in store for me," she added.

A resident of Pundag, Tiwari is the youngest of three siblings and feels her family, especially her sister has been her biggest supporters. "Initially when I had started my parents were a little apprehensive but with time as I started with working with designers and brands, they too accepted it.

My parents have always wanted to see me featured in an international magazine and I feel I have just made their dreams come true," said an elated Tiwari. Her father Brijkishore Tiwari works for a private company while her mother Saroj Tiwari is a home maker.

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FJCCI holds meet on poor trade condition in State

PNS ■ RANCHI

In an attempt to grab the Government's attention on poor business and trade condition in the State, Federation of Jharkhand Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FJCCI) convened a State level meeting of its members here on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering of businessmen, FJCCI president Kunal Ajmani said that the situation of industries are very poor in the State and most of them were closed and remaining are heading towards closure. "Industrial areas such as Kokar, Tupudana, Tati Silvay and others are facing huge crisis of basic amenities. It is money of traders and industrialists which collects government in name of tax to run all welfare works but apathy of the Government towards business men community is worrying," he added.

Ajmani said that with a view to strengthen trading and business environment in the State FJCCI will open its branches in rural and semi rural areas in days to come. "Established business houses are very disturbed. The Government's good policies are not giving results. In such a situation we should think on the new government which will form after the election. In implementation of business policies it will be better effort to include participation of local stakeholders. We will form



President, FJCCI, Kunal Ajmani, along with former President of Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Pawan Sharma, Bishnu Budhia, Deepak Maroo and members, during the State-level conference in Ranchi on Saturday

Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

Government of traders, farmers and residents of Jharkhand. Our representative should provide a better system and good governance which should be corruption free. No government can bring development by ignoring traders. We will show our emotions through voting which is our fundamental right," he added.

The FJCCI president said that the traders will not go to meet political parties with their demand. "The representatives of political parties will come to meet us then we will submit our agenda. Whichever political party will include traders demands in their agenda the traders will support that party. The traders are too distressed that they are ready to contest the election as candidate. If any members of the chamber will want to contest the election then the traders' body will consider supporting him," he added.

Excise lens on spurious liquor in view of Assembly polls

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In view of Assembly polls, the State Excise Department has embarked on a drive to curb on the sale of illicit liquor across East Singhbhum district. The department has set up two flying squads comprising six officials in each of them. The idea is to keep on targeting the places where the illicit country-made liquor is manufactured and sold.

"We want to ensure peaceful polls and have made elaborate arrangements for the same. We would be also focusing on illegal consumption of liquor while the traffic police personnel will be checking into traffic norms violations," said an official.

At Jamshedpur there are 98 Indian Make Foreign Liquor (IMFL) licensed shops, 51 country-made liquor shop and 15 spicy liquor shops.

Revealing about the move, the official pointed out that though they have set up the flying squads for conducting raids on the illicit liquor den and also at the illicit manufacturing units.

"We have decided to rely

on the police's co-operation in conducting raids effectively against the liquor traders and liquor-den operators," said the official.

He said that today they had sent a requisition for conducting raids at some slum area.

He said they have received two vehicles for the flying squads from the election cells, but in absence of the armed police force the flying squads are not working effectively against especially the liquor manufacturers who operate in the interior part of the district.

Notably, the steel city has a history of manufacturing of duplicate liquor as the district police had in the past busted several racket of duplicate liquor manufacturing units, especially from the localities like Bagbera, Jugsalai and Kadma. Knowledgeable sources maintain that the racketeers of duplicate liquors use to do the rebottling of the brand which has the maximum demands, and when the liquor shop owners do a brisk business on such occasions, they tend to sell the duplicate stuff.

DPS, Ranchi holds annual Function-PARAKRAM



PNS ■ RANCHI

DPS RANCHI (Classes I - II) celebrated its Annual Function Parakram the Exhilaration of Victory here Saturday. Former IAS officer Ratan Kumar IAS, Chairman, Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission was the Chief Guest of the function.

Tiny tots of class one performed on the theme of Sports. A healthy mind lives in a healthy body' and 'All study and no play makes Jack a dull boy' The young children enacted as famous personalities in the field of Sports. They were dressed up as cricketers, tennis players, footballers, etc. They presented an impressive act on the valour and courage of Arunima Sinha, the first amputee in the world to climb Mount Everest.

Students of class 2 performed on Parakram, staging history of past and present. It was a musical bonanza of foot-tapping performances interwoven into stories of bravery and courage. The little champions illuminated the examples of great people from Lord Rama, Krishna, Abhimanyu, Ashoka, Maharaja Pratap, Lakshmi Bai, Shivaji to

our brave soldiers. The play revolved around the concepts of National Integration, Secularism and Patriotism with special mention of Parakram Parv being celebrated everywhere highlighting the bravery of the Indian army.

Principal Ram Singh addressed the audience & highlighted on the various accomplishments of the students of DPS Ranchi. He appreciated the hundred per cent participation of the students in the function. He appreciated the flamboyance of the students & congratulated them for showcasing their quintessential performance. Presenting these talents on stage helps to build their confidence, courage, and certitude to win, he said.

Chief Guest Ratan Kumar was spellbound to see the astounding presentation of the kids. He emphasized the importance of curricular activities in a student's life and later as well. He said that inculcating these characteristics at the initial age is mandatory for any educational institution. He praised the school for nurturing the young minds to be the responsible citizens of tomorrow.

BJP plays master stroke to checkmate AJSU in Hussainabad

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

In a master stroke the BJP got two of its cadres Prafulla Kumar Singh and Ajay Kumar Gupta, who had filed their nominations from Hussainabad constituency as Independents bowed out of the poll ring.

Announcing this twin withdrawal from the poll ring from Hussainabad constituency at a press conference at BJP's Media Centre here today Aditya Sahu the State vice president of BJP and now in charge BJP electioneering in Palamu, Garhwa and Latehar said "Prafulla K Singh and Ajay K Gupta have withdrawn from the Hussainabad Assembly contest. They are our most respected and disciplined cadres.

Their withdrawal is under no coercion. They have stepped out for our cadre Binod Singh."

Sahu further said, "Now the BJP has decided to give all back up and support to our another cadre Binod Singh who too had filed nomination

here in Hussainabad as Independent like Prafulla and Ajay. Binod Singh will now be BJP's supported candidate but as Independent."

Sahu agreed that Binod Singh will not campaign with Lotus the BJP's party symbol but any symbol that will be given to him by the returning officer. Distribution of symbols will come late in the evening today.

Asked that campaign without Lotus but with party flags will confuse the voters much to which Sahu said, "Our cadres will take care of this situation. We will do our best to tell voters that Binod ji is BJP candidate."

Sahu without mincing any word said, "We started late here just because of AJSU as it had fielded its candidate here (read in Kushwaha Sheopujan Mehta the name Sahu did not mention at all in the press briefing) but when we found there should be a BJP candidate here in Hussainabad by then nomination was over."

Gun-shot attack on Sikh leader: Police arrest CGPC president

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

After a week of the attack on Sikh leader Gurucharan Singh Billa by bike-borne attackers at Sitaramdera on last Saturday, the police have arrested Gurmukh Singh Mukhe, president of Central Gurudwara Prabhandhak Samity (CGPC). Sitaramdera police arrested Mukhe and brought him to the police station for further investigation.

The injured Billa (50) who is presently undergoing treatment at the Tata Main Hospital for the gun-shot injuries had accused three persons belonging to the Sikh community to have conspired the attack.

Police had filed an FIR against Gurmukh Singh Mukhe, president of Central Gurudwara Prabhandhak Samity (CGPS).

The police had registered a case of attempted murder and Arms Act against the three suspects. The statement was made before the Sitaramdera thana OC, Anjani Kumar Singh.

OC, Sitaramdera said they are probing into the FIR lodged by Billa. Singh said they are investigating the incident. Mukhe was arrested as he has been accused in the gun shot incident. He said that the police will disclose further only after proper investigation.

Mukhe who had always been in controversy in the steel city for the past one decade was elected the CGPC in 2018 for a three years term. Notably, Mukhe was in the news a decade ago when he had allegedly cut his hair in the lock-up of Ulidih thana in Mango and had alleged the police to have cut the hair for humiliating him and also his community.



Sindri constituency BJP MLA Phoolchand Mandal joins Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in the presence of JMM Chief Sibsu Soren in Ranchi on Saturday

Ratan Lal | Pioneer

निर्वाची पदाधिकारी-सह-अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, सदर, हजारीबाग (निर्वाचन शाखा)

—: आम सूचना —:

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली के द्वारा निर्वाचन कार्य हेतु सभा, रैली, वाहन, अस्थायी निर्वाचन कार्यालय, लाउडस्पीकर, हैलीकॉप्टर एवं हैलीपैड के लिए अनुमति हेतु सुविधा पोर्टल प्रारंभ किया गया है, जिसके द्वारा ऑनलाईन आवेदन-पत्र के माध्यम से 48 घंटे के अन्दर अनुमति प्रदान किया जाता है।

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि 25-हजारीबाग विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के लिए उक्त प्रकार के किसी भी अनुमति की आवश्यकता होने पर समय से 48 घंटे के पहले सुविधा पोर्टल पर ऑनलाईन आवेदन करना सुनिश्चित किया जाय। आवेदन ससमय दर्ज नहीं कराये जाने की स्थिति में अनुमति अनुमान्य नहीं होगा। निर्वाची पदाधिकारी,

—सह-अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, सदर, हजारीबाग।

P.R. 221923 Election(19-20):D

जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, गुमला (सामान्य शाखा)

आदेश

आगामी विधान सभा निर्वाचन 2019 को स्वच्छ, शांतिपूर्ण एवं भयमुक्त तरीके से सम्पन्न कराने हेतु शस्त्र नियमावली 1962 के नियम 63 एवं शस्त्र अनुज्ञप्ति की शर्त 9 के तहत जिला के सभी शस्त्र अनुज्ञप्तिधारियों के शस्त्रों को स्थानीय/ओपीओ या शस्त्र एवं कारतूस विक्रेता दुकान में जमा कराने हेतु पूर्व में आदेश दिया गया है।

शस्त्रों को जमा करने हेतु पुनः 17.11.2019 तक तिथि निर्धारित की गई है। कई शस्त्र अनुज्ञप्तिधारियों द्वारा अभी भी अनुज्ञप्ति पर धारित शस्त्र को जमा नहीं किया गया है।

अतएव ऐसे शस्त्र अनुज्ञप्तिधारियों जिन्होंने अबतक अपने अनुज्ञप्ति पर धारित शस्त्र को जमा नहीं किया है, उन्हें निदेश दिया जाता है कि दिनांक 17.11.2019 तक निश्चित रूप से अनुज्ञप्ति पर पारित शस्त्र को स्थानीय थाना/ओपीओ या शस्त्र एवं कारतूस विक्रेता दुकान में जमा कर देंगे अन्यथा उनके विरुद्ध अनुज्ञप्ति रद्द करने की कार्यवाही प्रारम्भ की जायेगी।

अनुज्ञप्ति द्वारा शस्त्र एवं कारतूस विक्रेता दुकान में जमा करने के पश्चात पावती रसीद की छायाप्रति निश्चित रूप से स्थानीय थाना/ओपीओ में उपलब्ध करायेंगे।

ह०/-
जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, गुमला।

P.R.221914 District(19-20):D

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, धनबाद (जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)

(Phone No.:-0326-2312412, E-mail: electiondhanbad@gmail.com)

—:आदेश:—

मतदान केन्द्र स्थल परिवर्तन संबंधी सूचना।

मंत्रिमंडल (निर्वाचन) विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची के पत्रांक 7169 दिनांक 14.11.2019 के साथ संलग्न भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र संख्या 64/पूर्व0अनु0-1/आर-वि0स0/2019 दिनांक 13.11.2019 के मंत्रिमंडल (निर्वाचन) विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची के पत्रांक 7169 दिनांक 14.11.2019 के साथ संलग्न भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र संख्या 64/पूर्व0अनु0-1/आर-वि0स0/2019 दिनांक 13.11.2019 के आलोक में धनबाद जिला के 42-टुण्डी विधानसभा क्षेत्र के 05 मतदान केन्द्रों के भवन के स्थल परिवर्तन की स्वीकृति प्राप्त है, जिसकी विवरणी निम्नवत् है:-

क्रं सं	जिला का नाम	विधान सभा क्षेत्र संख्या एवं नाम	पूर्व का मतदान केन्द्र सं० एवं नाम	भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा अनुमोदित मतदान केन्द्र संख्या एवं नाम
1	2	3	4	5
1	धनबाद	42-टुण्डी	23-नया प्राथमिक विद्यालय, परसबनी	23-उत्कर्मित मध्य विद्यालय, नवादा।
2	धनबाद	42-टुण्डी	24-उत्कर्मित मध्य विद्यालय, नवादा	24-नया प्राथमिक विद्यालय, परसबनी
3	धनबाद	42-टुण्डी	72-प्राथमिक विद्यालय, गोसाईंडीह	72- उत्कर्मित मध्य विद्यालय, नेटवारी
4	धनबाद	42-टुण्डी	73-नया प्राथमिक विद्यालय, लक्ष्मणपुर	73-प्राथमिक विद्यालय, गोसाईंडीह
5	धनबाद	42-टुण्डी	74- उत्कर्मित मध्य विद्यालय, नेटवारी	74-नया प्राथमिक विद्यालय, लक्ष्मणपुर

प्रखंड विकास पदाधिकारी, टुण्डी को निदेश दिया जाता है कि अनुमोदित मतदान केन्द्र के स्थल का संबंधित मतदान केन्द्र से सम्बद्ध ग्राम के आम जनों के बीच व्यापक प्रचार-प्रसार कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

ह०/-
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, धनबाद

PR 221949 (Dhanbad)19-20#D

Absence of ATM kiosks in far flung areas worries cops in Palamu

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

Cops coming over here from outside are bound to feel the pinch of absence of ATM kiosks in remote, cut off and difficult areas of their deployment for conduct of voting here in the first phase of 5 Assembly constituencies here.

Roving cops are the new money takers at the ATM kiosks here. These cops preferring to be in their uniform stand in queue at ATM kiosks for withdrawal as their being in uniform helps them save from the suspicious eyes of the thugs that lurk around ATM kiosks. Local visitors of ATM kiosks are making way for these cops.

44 in fray from Garhwa, Bhawnathpur seats

PNS ■ GARHWA

After withdrawing their nomination papers of three candidates, now 44 candidates are in fray from two assembly segments in Garhwa district. On the last day for withdrawal of nominations, Manas Sinha Congress State Executive president from Bhawnathpur Assembly constituency and two from Garhwa took back their papers, according to district election officer cum deputy commissioner Harsh Mangla.

जिला समादेष्टा झारखण्ड गृह रक्षा वाहिनी, लातेहार आवश्यक सूचना

विधान सभा चुनाव 2019 के अवसर पर विधि- व्यवस्था संधारण/ चुनाव डियूटी हेतु काफी संख्या में गृह रक्षकों को कॉल-अप किया जाना है।

इस कॉल-अप को पूरा करने के लिए लातेहार जिला के प्रभाव बल के वैसे गृह रक्षक जो वर्तमान में कही पर डियूटी में प्रतिनियुक्त नहीं हैं, को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे दिनांक-20.11.2019 तक झारखण्ड गृह रक्षा वाहिनी कार्यालय, लातेहार में अपना आगमन निश्चित रूप से दर्ज करना सुनिश्चित करें।

चुनाव डियूटी महत्वपूर्ण श्रेणी में आता है, इसमें आगमन नहीं कराने वाले गृह रक्षकों के विरुद्ध नियमावली के अनुरूप कार्यवाही की जा सकती है।

जिला समादेष्टा
झारखण्ड गृह रक्षा वाहिनी,
लातेहार।

P.R.221934 Police(19-20):D

IN BRIEF

WORKSHOP ON DATA SCIENCE



IEEE student branch, BIT Mesra conducted a workshop on Data Science from 13th November 2019 to 15th November. Kiran Muthigi, Rishabh Jain, Abbas Ismail, Aryan Dosaj and Shiksha Rawat of the K17 batch were main mentors who guided the students throughout the three-day workshop. The topics like introduction to data science and its applications were covered. Different Python libraries like NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib were briefly discussed. The first day of the workshop concluded with a doubt clearing session and the seniors personally attended to the queries of pupils. On the second day students were taught the differences between supervised and unsupervised learning with the help of easy to understand examples. The workshop concluded with the students being given an implementation program to download followed by a doubt clearing session.

CHILDREN'S DAY AT FMPS



First mark Public School celebrated Children's Day on November 14 with different interesting activities participated by students of the school. The students saw their own reflection on the stage in form of their teachers who presented the thought/activities which were practiced by students on daily basis. Director of the school addressed the students and said that they are the dreams of the nation. Administrator Pramod Kumar said that every child should be loved, cherished and protected. A number of cultural programmes with fun and frolic were conducted as the teachers and staff members played a key role in making the programme a success.

MARKBUZZ 2.0 AT XISS



Marketing Management students of XISS, hosted the second edition of its Annual Management Fest titled "MarkBuzz 2.0" here on Saturday. The event was inaugurated by a Panel Discussion by Ravi Ranjan (entrepreneurship evangelist and two times TedX speaker), Anurag Mazumdar (co-founder, The Logical Indian), RJ Gaurav (brand ambassador of Swachh Indore and Mentor at Change Atal Innovation) and Prof. A.R. Bodra (Former Head of Programme, Marketing Management) who imparted valuable insights on Speed of Technology Change, Start up Culture, Sustainable Development and Traditional Business- The Challenges to Co-exist. A Flash Mob took place to shoot up the energy and momentum of the excited participants and the crowd a notch higher.

INDIAN BANK ORGANISES CUSTOMER MEET



Customer meet was organised by Indian Bank in the State Capital on Saturday. In this function, Regional General Manager, Venkates Perumal informed the customers about various deposits and expenditure plans and interest rates of Indian Bank. Zonal Manager, Prabhat Ranjan Sinha while addressing the customers said that customer service has always been a priority for Indian Bank. The program included many new customers who were granted loans.

जिला खनन कार्यालय, धनबाद

—:आवश्यक सूचना:—

एतत् द्वारा धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत सभी ईट निर्माताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि ईट-सत्र 2019-20 प्रारंभ हो चुका है। सभी ईट निर्माताओं द्वारा ईट-मिट्टी खनन/निर्माण नियमानुसार सक्षम प्राधिकार से पर्यावरणीय स्वच्छता (EC) एवं अन्य वैधानिक कार्रजातें प्राप्त करने के उपरांत आवेदन शुल्क के साथ निर्धारित श्रेणी के समेकित स्वामिस्व का भुगतान कर अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में अनुज्ञप्ति प्राप्त करने के उपरांत ही ईट-भट्टा का संचालन किया जाना है। यदि उक्त नियम का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित नहीं किया जाता है तो विधिसम्मत आवश्यक कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

ह०-
(अजीत कुमार)
जिला खनन पदाधिकारी,
धनबाद।

PR 221946 Mines and Geology(19-20)D

Speaker chairs all-party meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

There will be 20 sittings in this session.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Venugopal said that the party has planned to hold agi-



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

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

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

to malign the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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

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

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

BJP holds nationwide protest, demands apology from Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

It also organised demonstrations in Lucknow,



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

He stressed that if a newspaper is run by a political party, it should clearly mention so. "Political parties and politicians started their own newspapers. They are called newspapers but they should be (called) newsletters."

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

"Same is the case with the news channels. Earlier, that was not the case," he remarked. Stressing on the need to maintain objectivity, fairness and accuracy, the vice president said neutrality and sanctity of newsrooms should be upheld at all times.

"This has become all the

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAVY MIG TRAINER CRASHES IN GOA VILLAGE, BOTH PILOTS SAFE

PNS/PNTI ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dean of Diplomatic Corps expresses concern over air quality in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nafed apple procurement in Kashmir failed miserably: Farmers body

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Highlighting the plight of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Work on to push MSME exports: Gadkari

PTI ■ NAGPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overcome outstanding issues to get India into RCEP: Singapore Min

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

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

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

PTI

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Phone : 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044
E-mail: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com Website : www.kangrabank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

The provisions of Private Treaty as provided in Law may be referred to in case of need or if warranted so. The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/bids/offers without assigning any reasons therefor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DELHI:
DATED: 14.11.2019

FM holds meet on GST simplification

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

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

NCAER cuts Q2 GDP growth forecast to 4.9%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJWAL" Maharani Bagh, G. M. S. Road, Dehradun - 248006
Telephones: 0135-276515, 2763809, Fax No.: 0135-2763508
CIN No.: U40101UP200501500232886, Website : www.ujvn.com

TENDER NOTICE

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

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

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
653 यू.के.एन. लि. / वि. / रिनॉ / 15.11.2019

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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

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

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

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

WESTERN RAILWAY

10MM THICK CGRSP TO RDSO
Tender Notice No.WTR/17/2019/03 dated 13.11.2019 for tender on e-procurement mode only are invited by Chief Engineer (Track Supply), Head Quarter Office, Old Building, 2nd floor, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020 for supply of the following items:-
Tender NO.: 196036. Short Description : 10mm thick CGRSP to RDSO drg. No. T-8528. Tender Quantity : 2400000 Nos. Date of closing tender : 18.12.2019. Time of closing of e-tender Box : 11.30 hrs on the date of closing of tender. For detailed tender conditions / Corrigendum please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Like us on Facebook.com/WesternRly 49

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

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

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

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

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

The above notices are being substituted for notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Date : 16-11-2019
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT POTUS: Double standard never seen in US history

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

'I have right to speak, freedom of speech'

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

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

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

Zero evidence of any wrongdoing by President : White House

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"And although I have met former Vice President Biden several times over the course of our many years in government service, neither he nor the previous administration ever raised the issue of either Burisma or Hunter Biden with me," she said.

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

Diplomat says he overheard Trump call about investigations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HONG KONG PROTEST Protesters defy Xi with pro-democracy rallies

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Then it will bring calamity on itself."

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

Govt supporters march after week of chaos

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

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

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

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

Clean-up begins after week of chaos, destruction

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

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

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

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

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

China deploys PLA troops

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

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

Israel strikes Hamas targets in Gaza after rocket fire

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

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

A ceasefire has been in place since Thursday morning following the wave of tit-of-tat air strikes and rocket fire between Israel and Islamic Jihad — the territory's second most powerful militant group.

The Israeli military said Saturday it hit the ruling Hamas in the Gaza Strip, where AFP journalists saw the Israeli strikes.

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

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

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

Most of the dead and injured Friday in Sacaba near the city of Cochabamba suffered bullet wounds, Guadalupe Lara, director of the town's Mexico Hospital, told The Associated Press. He called it the worst violence he's seen in his 30-year career.

Angry demonstrators and relatives of the victims gathered at the site of the shootings, chanting: "Civil war, now!"



Mourners gather around coffins of backers of ex-President Evo Morales killed during clashes with security forces in Sacaba, Bolivia on Friday **AP**

Morales, who was granted asylum in Mexico after his resignation Sunday, said on Twitter that a "massacre" had occurred and he described Bolivia's Government led by interim President Jeanine Añez as a dictatorship. **AP**

Lanka votes for new Prez

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gunmen fire on buses carrying Muslim voters

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

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

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"TENDER NOTICE"

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

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

Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

C.K. Jha (Advocate)
Office No. UB-36A, Antriksh Building,
22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110002
Mob. No. 9811295674

GIRNAR SPINTEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED

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

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

(Rs. In Lacs)

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

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

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

Place : Kolhapur
Date : 16.11.2019

Pacers engineer another innings win

India demolish Bangladesh for sixth successive Test win

PTI ■ INDORE

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

The quick victory was on predicted lines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

calibre in his short Test career.

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

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

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

turned out to be successful.

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

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

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

In the post-lunch session, Shami

Arun lauds Indian pace unit

PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amid the ruins, Rahim, after get-

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



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

We feed on each other's success: Ishant

PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We don't have restrictions as batters. The team management has given us freedom. We try to bat sensibly, though, when there is a batter at the other end. I have been empowered by the skipper and the coach."

'We now have dream combination of fast bowlers'

PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India's performance at



Captain Virat Kohli applaud teammates

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

"The numbers and records are there for every-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ INDORE

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

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

It has been learnt that

Twilight Training

Indian team to stay in Indore for nets under lights

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Warner will bounce back after Ashes horror: Lyon

IANS ■ BRISBANE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"For the last eight or nine years I've been playing Test cricket here, everyone's been talking about playing four quicks every time I come here," Lyon said. "I love playing cricket here. I think it's a good contest between bat and ball. Personally, I find I get a fair amount of bounce and a bit of spin over the last couple of years as well," he added.



Rajat Sharma resigns as DDCA president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the pioneer agenda

Don't take yourself too seriously. Know when to laugh at yourself, and find a way to laugh at obstacles that inevitably present themselves
— Halle Berry



FROM THE INSIDE

Mystic pillars of a great king
The two pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border tell the tale of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism

2



4

Leading a virtuous life
Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were transformational and cut across the lines of religion



FROM THE KEHWA KHANAS TO THE SOCIALS

What do millennials want from restaurants in India? Do they appreciate quality, instead of chatpata, “buzzing” flavours? The answers lie in the history of restaurant retail in India and cultural habits of how people eat different foods at home and in restaurants, writes ANOOTHY VISHAL in her book, *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*. But first, a taste of history... An edited excerpt:

If professional chefs run restaurants today, history has come a full circle. In medieval India, the moneyed nobility employed the highest-paid chefs and not the *bazaar* chefs who cooked the common man's *chaat*, kebabs and breads. Several accounts of Lucknow, including the early 20th-century *Guzishta Lucknow* by Abdul Halim Sharar, talk of highly paid *rikabdars*, or professional cooks, who specialised in unique dishes that left their diners amazed.

Shaikh Fida Ali was a *rikabdar* during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh. He once placed a transparent lampshade on a table before a British dignitary. He placed a lit candle inside the lampshade, then blew it out, broke what appeared to be the glass of the shade and started eating it. 'It was later learnt that the entire lampshade was made out of sugar candy,' wrote Aslam Mahmud, an old *Lucknauwallah* and bureaucrat, in his superbly researched *Awadh Symphony*, which talks about life under the nawabs. Centuries before molecular gastronomy began to beguile us with its presentations, the *rikabdars* were already practising food as an art form.

Restaurant cooks, on the other hand, traditionally didn't know how to cook these nuanced dishes, and restaurant cooking has therefore always been distinct from home cooking in India. This fact is crucial to any understanding of the country's food- and restaurant-scape. For the first time, really, in the history of food retail in India, we are at a point where at least some restaurant food cooked by chefs is being considered more evolved and more desirable than home food. Experience-led dining that was confined to moneyed homes (as opposed to restaurants that were more functional and catered to mass needs) has only relatively recently shifted out of that private zone and into a public, social one.

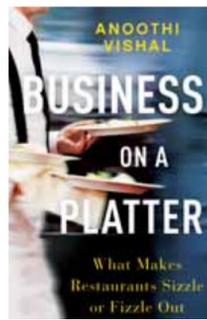
After the British assumed power in India and Mughal might was lost, cooks who had till then laboured in the kitchens of aristocrats found themselves out of work. Some of them found work with new employers but discovered that these new sahibs and brown sahibs of the Raj did not understand the elite art. Chef Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, a well-known chef from Lucknow popular for his high-end wedding catering, tells me this delicious story behind the popular Lucknow idiom, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal', used to be dismissive about someone.

According to him, a chef who found employment after having served a nawab for a long time asked his new employer what he would like to eat that day. The employer told him to make something simple like *masoor dal*. The chef in turn handed the employer a long list of ingredients to be bought for the preparation, looking at which the employer's face fell and he complained of the expense. The cook walked out, scoffing, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal' (loosely translated as 'How can you, with this face, appreciate my *masoor dal*').

Used to a lavish, no-expense-spared way of cooking, the talented cooks must have been at a loose end. Some of them and their descendants set up small restaurants where they refashioned the elaborate and exquisite foods of their former masters as bites for common men. *Qormas* (hitherto cooked only within homes, *nihari* being the street dish), *dal* and *pulaos* were thus tweaked to become part of Mughlai menus at a few restaurants in cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

We find an example of this kind of shift in the story of Karim's, the iconic Mughlai restaurant in Delhi. According to his descendants' retelling of their restaurant's history, in 1913, Haji Karimuddin set up Karim Hotel in Gali Kababian near Jama Masjid, contending he was serving the 'food of royals to the common man'. Haji Karimuddin traced his ancestry to a family of Mughal cooks in Shahjahanabad that had to flee the capital after the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was exiled. The family relocated to Meerut. However, when India came under the British crown and the Delhi Durbar was being held in 1911, Karimuddin moved back to the city with the idea of opening a small restaurant to take advantage of the crowd that would be descending on the city for the *darbar*. Karim Hotel in the beginning served just *aloo gosht*, a home-style gravy of meat and potatoes, and *dal* to its patrons. The food was meant to be a substitute for home food.

In Calcutta, another cosmopolitan melting pot, dishes of Mughal origin were reinvented by small restaurants to cater to the needs of workers and daily-wage earners. Anadi Cabin on Esplanade is reputed to be almost a hundred years old. It has been around most certainly since before Partition, and remains unchanged till today, including in its use of the same iron *tawa* on which the cook shallow-fries Mughlai *porotas* (the Bengali term for *paranths*), a beloved Calcutta street snack and Anadi's signature dish.



MANY OF THESE EARLY RESTAURANTS THUS CAME UP AS BUSINESSES THAT WERE SEEKING NOT TO PROVIDE RECREATION BUT INSTEAD TO CATER TO A NEED FOR CHEAP, FILLING MEALS AS PEOPLE MOVED FROM VILLAGES AND SMALLER TOWNS TO THE CITIES TO WORK FOR THEIR COLONIAL MASTERS



The tiny restaurant turns out 400 *porotas* from 20 kg of four daily in a kitchen visible to all. The *porotas* could be covered in duck egg (which were considered vegetarian by traditional meat-eating Hindu Bengalis who did not prefer chicken) or chicken egg, filled with *keema*, folded and shallow-fried. These *keema porotas* are an innovation often credited to this restaurant. Mughlai *paranths* almost certainly existed in Lucknow and Awadhi homes before Wajid Ali's exile to Calcutta along with cooks who brought Nawabi dishes to the City of Joy. The simple egg-coated Mughlai *parantha* of Awadh, made with many layers or *parat*, underwent a metamorphosis to become the *keema*-filled substantial snack of Calcutta, which could be picked up easily and eaten on the go by daily-wage earners in the new city.

Many of these early restaurants thus came up as businesses that were seeking not to provide recreation but instead to cater to a need for cheap, filling meals as people moved from villages and smaller towns to the cities to work for their colonial masters. However, colonialism in India brought with it more upscale restaurant and leisured experiences, catering to the elite.

The first passenger train in India started running between Bombay and Thane in April 1853, pulled by three steam engines Sahib, Sindh and Sultan on a 34 km broad-gauge line. As British India's rail network grew and the railways began to cover longer distances (Bombay to the capital in Calcutta was a much publicised route for first-class tourists), there was need for refreshments and restaurants en route.

Several British or Anglo-Indian travellers' accounts speak of impeccable crockery, turbaned waiters and formal service, and food that was fairly similar all across the railways — thick soups, cutlets and bread and butter. It was, however, only Europeans or Anglo-Indian travellers who were entitled to travel in first-class carriages, and who could enjoy the catering in the dining cars. Conditions in the third class, in which the bulk of Indians travelled, were terrible. A 1929 *Times of India* report said that the Great Indian Peninsular Railways was trying out a separate dining car for Indians: 'It would probably not have allowed the third class passengers who made up the bulk of travellers, and who had to either eat food they had brought or buy at station halts on the way.'

Since the catering was primarily for Europeans, European-inspired dishes started

appearing on the menus in these restaurants along the rail network — things like chops, cutlets, omelettes, tea and custard. These dishes would eventually get absorbed as restaurant and club food in India, and we continue to eat some of this 'continental' food even today. The crockery and cutlery used were of the highest quality and the service by liveried waiters was impeccable, in keeping with the expectations of the sahibs of the Raj. Even after India became independent, upscale dining would imitate this pattern of deferential service.

While the dining cars were available only to first-class European travellers, from 1901, separate refreshment rooms for Indians started appearing at a few stations. This resulted in the emergence of other dishes that are now part of old-fashioned or nostalgic restaurant food centred around the Raj — for instance, the railway mutton curry (which clearly was never a single recipe) or the egg curry.

Till much after Independence, railway refreshment rooms were thought to be fairly high-standard restaurants, and railway catering would be relied upon for banqueting needs when dignitaries visited. My grandfather, who was in the catering division of the Northern Railways for some time in the 1970s, had amusing stories of catering to the Nehru-Gandhis — delicious anecdotes that we savoured as all restaurateuring tales must be.

But not all history is appetizing. The history of restaurants in India is fraught with caste and religious segregation — one reason that may have prevented a food retail boom earlier in the country's history. Once they started catering to Indians, railway refreshment rooms were segregated not just as those meant only for Europeans but also as those meant for Hindus versus Muslims. Even water from taps in the railway stations was marked Hindu or Muslim in British India. There were 'pure' Hindu meals cooked by brahmins, and those offering Muslim food like *qorma*, *kebab* and *pulao*.

In the south, similarly, vegetarian brahmin hotels and 'military hotels' serving meat (with the suffix 'Hindu' added to signify that no beef or pork was served, though mutton was) came up as well as Udipi restaurants serving 'pure veg' food run by brahmins from the region, to cater to students and officers who worked in the Madras Presidency.



Lauriya Nandangarh and Araraj Ashoka:

THE MYSTIC PILLARS THAT UNVEILED A GREAT KING

The decoding of the two Ashokan pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border in the 18th century tells the tale of how India first came to know of the existence of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

A major unpardonable pitfall of India's pre-Islamic era was its apathy of recording political chronology in a systematic way. On top of that, non-stop destruction of its monuments, architecture, literature and centre of cultures thereafter in the hands of Islamic invaders from 12th century, a major part of Indian history was once deleted, fragmented, obscured and finally fictionalised with legend and folklore.

From 18th century onward, when European traders started exploring the country, they were astonished to see several archaeological ruins prevailing under massive dilapidation in isolated places, attracting no attention from common people. India at that time was a country with little sense of heritage of its pre-Islamic era, though the country's civilization dates back 5000 years. This was a matter of great perplexity to Europeans who were clearly excited to find amazing archaeological relics, one after another, with mind blowing engineering marvel and excellent craftsmanship. However, none of those seemed to connect with any ready reference of written history.

For instance, in 1616, an Englishman named Thomas Coryat found an eccentric monolithic stone pillar at Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla. The pillar had some mystic inscription written in an unknown language. The thrill of this discovery was extended when on July 30, 1670, inside a pestilential jungle frequented by wild animals in Bihar near the Nepal border, John Marshal (not to be confused by famous John Marshal of ASI) found a similar circular sand stone pillar with mysterious edicts on its body. The pillar had a beautiful stone lion seated on an abacus crowned on its top as capital.

From the local people, John came to understand that this amazing engineering marvel was called "Bhim ka lathi" or the walking stick of Bhima, a character of Hindu epic Mahabharata. The place, where this pillar was found, was 23 km from Bettiah town.

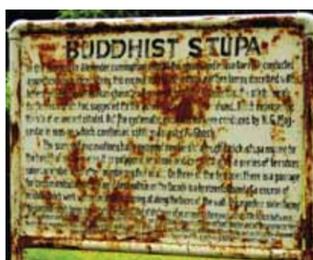
The place was then known as Mathia and today is known as Lauriya Nandangarh. Lauriya in local language means stick.

The two major victories against two Indian rulers — one in 1757 in Bengal and another in 1799 in Mysore — cemented the position on East India Company in political theatre of India. They become the ruler in almost every sense over a vast geography. This attracted many Europeans to India in the next 200 years. Many of them were ordinary office bearers and yet they proved to be extra ordinary researchers with an acute interest in India's history. In next 100 years or so, some of them gave Indian history a new insight with their exceptional hard work and outstanding academic brilliance.

By the end of 18th century, many such mysterious stone pillars and rock stones with edict written on them in an unknown language were found from Peshawar to Mysore. European officials working in India, and having keen interest in oriental history, were excited to discover a new light of wisdom in these mystic pillars. Groping in the dark, many of them speculated these as conquests of some victorious king, or boundary pillars of dominions, or edicts of religious nature. The widest speculation was that these were secret codes of Greek treasures once owned by Alexander. However, these were soon discarded with the logic that the pillars were found in places like Delhi, Allahabad and Bihar, where Greek never could invade.

In November of 1780, Charles Wilkins sent a report to the Asiatic Society of Bengal about a finding of another mysterious decapitated pillar with similar alphabets carved on its surface at Buddal in north Bihar. This place was 28 km from Bettiah town, now known as Lauriya Araraj. This pillar, though not found with a capital, created more excitement as its edicts were more prominent and bold.

In 1783, Thomas Law, collector of Gaya district drew sketches of both the pillars and sent a report to William Jones in Calcutta.



The report heading read: "A short Account of Two Pillars to the North of Patna". In March 1814, while marching with 34th Regiment of East India Company to take part in Anglo-Nepal war, Lieutenant J Horris saw Lauriya Araraj pillar and drew some important sketches.

Now two stone pillars — one with a lion capital on top and another broken at top, found in north Bihar near Nepal border with mysterious inscriptions on them — started to rouse curiosity of the antiquarians. Such inscriptions on similar kind of pillars found in Delhi and Allahabad were already being discussed. More people started exploring the places with an objective to decode the language. It was clear that the mystery would only be unfolded once the edicts were decoded.

At the beginning of 19th century, James Prinsep, a young man came to Calcutta to join Calcutta mint. Out of sheer passion, he started serving Asiatic Society of Bengal as journal editor. The journal was a class by itself and very popular across the world. Soon Prinsep built a fantastic network with people across India who started sharing information and documents with him on every single archaeological findings. Prinsep was confident enough to think that a new chapter of history would be uncovered if the edicts written on the pillar could be decoded.

After years of hard work, in 1837,

Prinsep managed to decode the script of the edict and opened the doors of knowledge to India's glorious past that remained hidden for so long.

In 1820, Brian Hodgson, a British resident in the royal court of Kathmandu, sent a copy of the inscription on Lauriya Nandangarh pillar edict to Calcutta. This document was reported lost. Prinsep and Hodgson started frequent correspondence and soon became good friends, though it is assumed that they never met. Hodgson again sent him the copy of the inscription that he once found in Lauriya Nandangarh and in October 1834, he sent him an eye copy of Lauriya Araraj pillar edict.

Now armed with the information pertaining to all the four edicts, Prinsep managed to decode a name — "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" — that seemed to appear in all edicts. Meanwhile, a discovery of an ancient book by someone in Sri Lanka at almost the same time revealed that "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" meant — "The beloved to the God and his name was Ashoka". Overnight, India got a colossal king whose transformation to a humanist after accepting Buddhism was known and the name Ashoka became a cult chapter of history.

Once the language was decoded, it was easy to understand that these pillars were not victory monuments, but a new and effective way of communication. Much to their astonishment, it was found that these were a public declaration of a king to come forward in acceptance of Buddhism and his transformation.

Discovery of the existence of Ashoka, the emperor, and his gargantuan contribution to spread Buddhism across the world delivered a master stroke. The language decoded by Prinsep was Prakrit, written in Bramhi script. This newly found script was named as Ashoka Bramhi. This was the first and biggest tangible evidence of Ashoka, India's greatest king ever.

Out of these two pillars, the crown-less pillar of Lauriya Araraj, erected in 349 BC

is a marvelous piece of art. Known as "Stambha Dharmia", the pillar is well polished and 37.9 feet in height. The diameter of the base is 41.8 inches and weighs nearly 34 to 40 tonnes.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is majestic and perhaps the second best specimen of Mauryan architecture with animal capital after Rampurva's grounded pillars.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is a single block polished sandstone with an excellent lion capital built in black stone. The lion built in a seated position on a circular abacus of arched bell is covered with lotus petals.

The circular abacus of Lauriya Nandangarh lion is again decorated with image of geese. The face of the lion is broken due to vandalism. In design, it is very similar to that of the lion capital which was later found in Rampurva in 1876 by Archie Carlyle, inside the deep forest of Tarai. Rampurva lion capital is now preserved in Indian Museum of Calcutta.

The six edicts in a single block found on the pillar of Lauriya Araraj, revealed Ashoka the beloved of the God's declaration of Buddhist teachings of morality through kindness shown to all subjects and animals. It also talks about the restriction of animal slaughter. However, in both the pillars found in Bihar, nowhere do the edicts talk about Ashoka's conquest of Kalinga and his repent. This is very interesting to note.

The lion capital found on Ashoka pillar of Lauriya Nandangarh is one of the oldest samples of Indian stone sculptures, influenced by Persian archaeology, whereas the discovery of Ashoka Bramhi is the first tangible evidence of Buddhism that finally cemented the existence of Shakyamani Buddha as a human being and discarded the theory of him being a mythological figure as per many Hindu legends.

Two kilometres from Nandangarh Ashoka pillar, another archaeological wonder was discovered in 1862 by Alexander Cunningham — a huge mound of 15 stu-

pas made of mud, yellow clay and brick in three levels in the shape of polygonal with three flights of stairs. The 26 metre high structure has a circumference of 460 metres and the dome is missing. It is imagined that when intact, this would be one of the biggest stupa of India built in 300 BC.

Cunningham did very little excavation and later, Henry Garrick did a great job of excavating more mounds. In 1905, T Block did further excavation and found a gold leaf, a female statue and a small deposit of burnt human bones with charcoal. These findings are common with Buddhist stupa where bone remains of Buddha are said to be found. However, till now, no solid evidence has been found that tells us who these remains belonged to. Many think that this was a pre-Mauryan structure and may be a vedic burial ground. Nani Gopal Majumdar and Amalendu Ghosh, who excavated the site from 1935 to 1939, are of an opinion that this stupa is very similar to the Buddhist stupa found at Piprahkot on UP-Nepal border.

Cut to present, it is sad to note that two hundred years ago, when this site lay undiscovered inside a dense forest with no human habitation around, a group of Europeans risked their lives to uncover the hidden treasures of India, uncovering a glorious part of our history, our present generation attaches no value to these findings.

Today, Bettiah is a dusty, over populated and unplanned town, situated very close to the Nepal border. The locals hold no pride in India's rich history. Marks of vandalism are clear on the pillars and unrestricted entry is palpable. Bettiah now has Americanised pizza restaurants, which get over crowded every evening, whereas it's a struggle to get the auto drivers to take you, or for that matter even seek directions, to Lauriya Nandangarh or Araraj.

It is sad indeed that we never knew our heritage back then two centuries ago, and today, it seems we still haven't learnt the lesson to protect it.

FROM PAGE 1

Restaurants like The New Woodland Hotel came up in the Madras Presidency, and can be credited as popularising the Udupi-style food that continues to thrive today. Woodland, as it was popularly called, was set up in 1938 by K. Krishna Rao, a man from a poor family of priests from near Mangalore. Its customers then were primarily brahmins who worked for the government, or upper-caste religious travellers who were vegetarians. As we can see, for so much of their history, restaurants in India were not the inclusive businesses we see them as today.

Partition changed much of that. It rent India's social fabric in more ways than we can imagine. It unleashed bloody, religious violence, but with the old order being torn apart, space for the new was created. For the first time, as I argued in a 2017 article, we got eateries that catered newly invented restaurant food to all manners of people — rich and poor, Hindu and Muslim. Butter chicken, dal makhani and naan became the first restaurant foods to escape the

From the Kehwa Khanas to the Socials

tag of religious identity.

Refugees from Punjab had arrived with less than nothing in Delhi. They brought with them a hardy spirit of survival and enterprise, but also one very important tool — the tandoor. A clay oven used to bake bread in villages, the tandoor made its way into Delhi with refugees carrying memories of the sanjha chulha (the common village oven used to bake breads for all households) into this new harsh city where they had to fashion life afresh.

In 1947, an enterprising refugee from Peshawar, Kundan Lal Gujral, opened a restaurant called Moti Mahal in Delhi's Daryaganj area, in a building that had suffered badly during the rioting. Here, he set up a tandoor, in which the restaurant baked naan, a bread popular in old Peshawar eateries, and eventually chicken. The fowl was not a meat



that Delhi was familiar with or fond of. 'Neither Hindus nor Muslims ate it, and initially there was some resistance to tandoori chicken,' says Anil Chandra, one of Moti Mahal's early patrons.

As food historian K.T. Acharya notes in his authoritative *Indian Food: A Historical Companion*, the chicken, as a scavenger, was thought to be 'unclean', and since the oldest of times, there has been resistance among brahmins and other upper-caste Hindus to eating its meat. Delhi and Uttar Pradesh's composite culture meant that these biases were ingrained in upper-class Muslim culinary cultures too.

Goat meat was prized and Mughlai dishes like shabdegh, silken qormas, gola and dil (heart) ke kebab, that required much dexterity, were made of goat meat with-in homes by specialist cooks for weddings and special functions.

Specialist cooks like Hakim in old Delhi, whom old-timers told me about for my article for the Wire, and restaurants like Flora cooked these and catered to shaukeen, gastronomically indulgent Dilliwallahs, both Muslims and meat-eating Hindus like the Kayasths. This courtly culture, however, waned after Partition as the Muslim elite moved away and refugees poured in.

The new tandoori chicken was India's original fast food. Simply done and fresh. Moti Mahal also takes the credit for inventing butter chicken: tandoori chicken pieces dunked in a tomato, yoghurt and butter laden sauce, and perhaps India's most famous restaurant creation.

The advent of this new kind of food served by Punjabi restaurateurs was to have a big impact on restaurant food everywhere in the

country. In Delhi, restaurants such as Kwality, which had come up around the time of World War II and served ice cream and simple continental eats to American soldiers posted in Delhi, gradually incorporated this new Punjabi food into their menus. Other similar restaurants came up, also run by migrants, serving bold Punjabi flavours with tomato and cream, dishes that had been concocted within restaurants, and dishes such as pindi chana (a style of dry chickpeas popular in Rawalpindi) that came to Delhi and have been part of the city's most famous street dish since then — chole bhature.

Excerpted with permission from *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*, Anoothi Vishal, Hachette India, ₹550

It's time to wrap up Naga peace process



In this October 30, 2019 photo, a poster with a Naga flag is seen on the entrance of a shop in Kohima

AP

A fortnight has already gone by since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. Even as the peace talks are inconclusive, the good news is that the both sides — Union Government's interlocutor and Nagaland Governor RN Ravi and Naga groups, including the NSCN factions — have not stopped negotiations for a peace pact.

The ongoing Naga peace process, which was started in 1997, turned 22 this year. It could happen only after a ceasefire agreement was signed between the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the Government of India.

Interestingly, the Naga insurgency has its roots in 1918. Against the backdrop of the First World War, the Nagas had decided to form Naga Club to bring Naga tribes under a single umbrella. The seed for the unique identity was germinated outside India — when various members of the scattered Naga tribes, recruited in the British Labour Corps, thought of forming a group of their own. And this Club approached the Simon Commission and informed it in 1929 “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as we did in ancient times”.

It simply indicated that the Nagas did not want to surrender themselves either to then British imperial regime in India or any future Government of India. Also it showed its desire to live as they want. All these indicate that the Nagas never wanted themselves to be subservient to any non-native “foreign” domination. This precisely demonstrates the very idea of “Naga self-determination”, alive for a century now.

Later, when the struggle for India's independence moved towards its final stage, the Nagas under the leadership of charismatic AZ Phizo formed the Naga National Council (NNC). And eventually, the NNC declared independence for the Nagas on August 14, 1947, just one day before India achieved hers. The NNC conducted a referendum in May 1951 which it claimed to have the backing of almost 99.9 per

cent of the Nagas for full independence.

On record, the peace process with the Nagas started before independence in June 1947. Then Assam Governor Sir Akbar Hydari signed a Nine Point Agreement with the moderate leaders in the NNC, but the hard-core leaders like Phizo refused to accept the agreement. Almost a year later, Phizo, not seeing any further cooperation from the Government of India, formed an underground Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA). But then the Government responded with armed power and enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in 1958. In July 1960, the basis of a Sixteen Point Agreement led to the creation of a separate State in the Union of India for the Nagas. This actually came into existence on December 1, 1963. Here it must be noted that the peace agreement was signed between the Naga Peace Convention, a group of moderate Naga leaders, and the Government of India. The NNC refrained from signing and agreeing to form a separate State under the Indian Union.

After the formation of the State of Nagaland, a Peace Mission was constituted in 1964 to advance talks with the NNC, but this could not produce any result despite a series of six rounds of historic negotiations. Finally, the mission was cancelled in the year 1967.

In the midst of this turmoil, the NNC split in 1975 during the heyday of the Indira regime. And the breakaway group from the NNC formed the NSCN. Unfortunately, this happened during the period of a peace deal between the Government and the NNC in Shillong. As per the Shillong Accord, the NNC leadership agreed to give up arms. But then, many of its front-line leaders, including Isak Chishi Swu, Thuingaleng Muivah and SS Khaplang did not accept the terms and conditions of the peace deal and hence they together established the NSCN in 1980. But after more than a decade of the formation of the NSCN, differences cropped up among the leaders. As a result, the NSCN broke into two factions in the year 1988, one led

by Isak and Muivah, named as NSCN-IM and other led by Khaplang, known as NSCN-K.

Later on these two groups fought fiercely, even killing their own cadre and damaging the chances of coming together. In fact this schism between the NSCN factions helped different political establishments at the Centre to deal with them separately. Further, NSCN-K made its operational area mainly restricted to Arunachal Pradesh and the NSCN-IM based its activities in Nagaland and Manipur. In later years, the NSCN-IM took the centre stage and held the centre of the “Naga sovereignty” movement.

In the year 1997, the NSCN-IM leadership signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government, preceding rounds of talks since 1995. The key principle of the agreement was that there would be no counter-insurgency operations against the NSCN-IM and in turn it would not attack Indian security forces. And this truce has survived for long.

Finally, the historic Nagaland Framework Agreement, popularly known as Nagaland Peace Accord, was signed between the NSCN-IM and the Narendra Modi Government in August 2015. The accord was inked after over 80 rounds of talks between the Government and various stakeholders of the Nagaland movement. The Nagaland Peace Accord brought lots of hope to the Naga people across the region and they thought a lasting solution would soon emerge. Interestingly, in 2017, after two years of signing the Nagaland Peace Accord, other Naga armed groups joined this peace process under the banner of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). All of them now form one single group and take part in the ongoing discussions with the Government.

The 2015 Framework Agreement says: “The Government of India recognises the unique history, culture and position of the Nagas and their sentiments and aspirations. The NSCN understood and appreciated the Indian political system and governance.”

Though details of the Nagaland Peace Accord are

not available in the public domain, it has been understood that the Naga leadership has accepted the broad terms and conditions to live under the Indian Union. With this, their demand for an independent Nagaland diminishes for now.

Interesting turn in this entire saga of struggle is that the senior-most leaders of the NSCN — Isak and Khaplang — died in 2016 and 2018 respectively. This left only Muivah to deal with the Indian Government for any future negotiations.

After the demise of Isak, who was the only Naga leader from Nagaland, the support for a Greater Nagalim has gradually waned within the region. (Khaplang was a Naga hailing from Myanmar).

However, among a few side effects of this disenchantment is the wavering commitment of the Nagas from Nagaland towards the peace process. And finally, Muivah, a Naga belonging to Manipur, might face hurdles in negotiating the last remaining details of the truce.

Today, Centre's interlocutor and Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi, who has been handling the Naga peace process for long, says that the procrastinating attitude of the NSCN-IM is simply delaying the inking of the deal. It is because the organisation is now insisting on a separate flag and a constitution for Nagaland.

Surely, the Union Government will not accept it and the NSCN-IM may handle such controversial issues too carefully. If NSCN-IM is sidelined at this moment and other groups take the centre stage, its efforts of nearly half a century will result in fiasco.

Since the Naga issue has been regarded as the oldest insurgency in the country, it is worth noting the thorny problems that may unfold violence in the North East.

First of all, the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) are advocating a solution for the Nagas within the State of Nagaland, whereas the NSCN-IM wanted to include all the Naga-inhabited areas across the region in the Nagalim or Greater Nagaland wherein it thought their problems could be addressed.

Second critical aspect of the truce between the Nagas and the Government is the territorial integrity of the Greater Nagaland. As the Naga groups desire and demand to include all Naga-inhabited areas into the Greater Nagaland, it has been increasingly making some of the States such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur restive.

Already Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has welcomed the Centre's initiative to solve the decades-old Naga problem, but categorically stated that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the State. “We are clear in our stand and we want that Naga peace process should not affect the State at any cost,” Khandu said on November 16.

Also the Union Home Ministry has assured that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including the States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will be duly consulted and their concerns will be taken into consideration. Earlier during a “lengthy discussion” with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had urged the Centre to take into consideration the interests of the people of Assam while going for any accord.

The core issue is that a future Nagalim could redraw the boundaries of these three Naga-inhabited States. It is reported that the proposed Nagalim includes 1,20,000 sq kilometre area which expands beyond the territorial limits of the North East into Myanmar. Even before the signing of the Framework Agreement in 2015, the Nagaland State Assembly itself endorsed the demand of the “integration of all Naga-inhabited areas on five occasions: December 1964, August 1970, September 1994, December 2003 and July 2015”. This shows how the popularly elected Nagaland Assembly is in full support of the demand for a Nagalim.

Third, though the Union Government had simply fixed October 31 this year just to conclude the Naga peace process, it completely failed to do the same. To be precise,

finalising such imaginary deadlines would not help bringing various Naga groups to agree to some watertight solutions.

Already differences are emerging between the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs.

Today, the Nagas are on a roller-coaster ride. Whatever may be the outcome of the current peace process, it would certainly not satisfy all the stakeholders involved in the process, particularly, the NSCN-IM.

The Government must take maximum caution as any attempt at sidelining or ignoring the NSCN-IM may force its cadre to take up arms or may help regrouping majority of the Naga tribes in the long run. Also playing any trick to divide the leadership of the NSCN-IM may fuel anti-India sentiments once again in the Naga dominated areas across the North-Eastern region.

The moot point is whether the Government can accept the Naga demand for a separate flag and a Constitution? Is it possible to say “yes” to a shared notion of “sovereignty” as the NSCN-IM has been demanding for a long time?

Precisely, looking at the current political strength of the Union Government, Prime Minister Modi will definitely say no to both these demands. The Government has already made it clear that these demands are not acceptable.

Considering the Modi Government's resolute decision to abrogate Article 370 — which had long guaranteed a special status, flag and a separate Constitution to the State of Jammu & Kashmir — the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs should not be too hopeful about their demand for a shared sovereignty.

However, the Union Government should take utmost caution to ensure the patience the Nagas have shown towards a amicable solution should not go in vain.

Today, most of the ultras of the region have either laid down their arms or some of them are in talks with the Government for the peaceful solution. That's why a region which was encountering fierce violence accompanied by anti-India sentiment has witnessed relatively calm and quiet

atmosphere recently. But, with globalisation and proliferation of global terrorism widening the net wide, the Government must not take any chance with the NSCN-IM and other Naga terror groups.

Much beyond external financial support and arms supply from our neighbouring countries, the global jihadi elements such as the ISIS and the al-Qaeda may pitch into such troubled spots to recreate disturbances for the country. Considering the favourable geopolitical scenario for Delhi at the moment, a global consensus to fight the menace of terrorism, and friendly neighbouring regimes on India's eastern front, the Modi Government has an absolute advantage to deal with the NNPGs and the NSCN-IM. It's time to wrap up the Naga peace process.

While talking about shared sovereignty for the Nagas, the NSCN-IM must remember: “Starting a revolution is like lighting a match; it risks becoming extinguished as quickly as it was lit. Sustaining a revolution, however, is like starting a fire, and ensuring that it has the fuel to burn as long as necessary. As an agent of change, I need that fire for as long as it takes for results to emerge. Otherwise, I risk burn out.” (Stephanie Van Hook).

However, the grit and determination that has been displayed by the Naga leadership is truly commendable. Succinctly, its survival for the last 100 years bears this testimony. But then a revolution to sustain for such a long duration must have to encounter its course of ups and downs. And, the Naga revolutionaries have faced a number of contradictions, both violent and non-violent in the long history of their movement.

The common people in Nagaland still hope for the best as the peace negotiation is going on. What makes sense for them today is the promise for an early solution even as the October 31 deadline has lapsed. Unnecessary intransigence would make the long road to freedom not only difficult but purely unattainable.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

It is over a fortnight since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. However amid hopes and apprehension, the good news is that the peace talks have not stopped



MAKHAN SAIKIA



THE REAL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS OF THE ASPIRANT IS MEASURED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE ACHIEVES INNER TRANQUILITY — SWAMI SIVANANDA



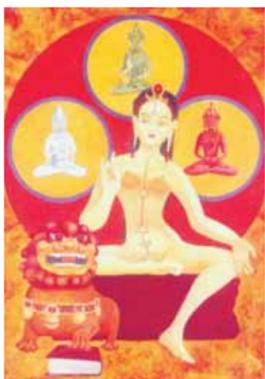
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. This is possible through regularising your routine and disciplining your senses. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be important for you. Your career shows a good indication this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain out of the blue. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated for you. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you may feel stagnated. This is the time to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors to new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get a message of love. Romance with a desired partner is on the cards. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause your BP to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. For those in a job, favour of a senior will boost their confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love and emotions, you may feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature. You will be concerned about the feelings of others around you.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
Healthwise, this week is good. You will feel an abundant flow of energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet the needs of your health and be the motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down in your career as you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted. Your addiction to alcohol, overindulging or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles wait for some time before committing to a relationship.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
This week you are full of energy, creativity and positive energy. Your health will be good. You need to utilise this balance in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain energy within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. Support from someone from opposite sex will help you achieve your desired goals. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams this week, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your seniors. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence. In terms of love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements. You will feel highly ignited and need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills, and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. You will be lucky in love and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see the perfection all around you and experience the emotionally fulfilling situation. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week you will enjoy good health, vigour and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you must maintain a practical approach and need to take some important decisions in regards to your work. There are high chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the workplace. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will experience one-sided love. Have a lot of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of important responsibilities. Married couples, you will have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
This week you will be surrounded by anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future. This will cause tension. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The good part is that you are positive and know how to control the situation. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This week, it is important that you look after your health. A visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on the career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to a desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
In the matters of health, the change is for good. Your positive outlook will bring further improvement. Mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away and you will feel relaxed. Physical exercise and being with nature will be best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. A good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In love, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. Leave the old school thinking and form a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
This week you will be moody and irritated. This may cause concern for your physical health. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards developing your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see results. Give your best efforts, the rewards are assured. The abundance of happiness is in store for you in terms of a relationship. Balance and stability in love are on the cards. Unmarried people may get marriage proposals. You will be soulful, passionate, and romantic and will leave no stone to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

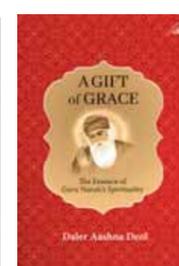
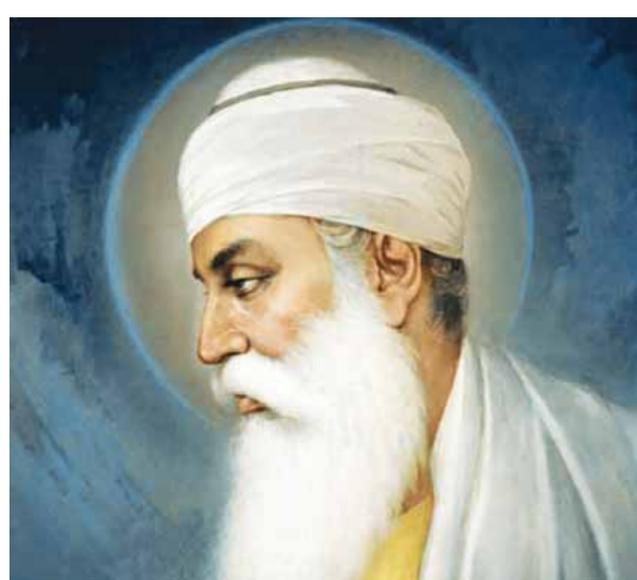
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Guru Nanak's guide to leading a virtuous life

Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were profoundly transformational and cut across the lines of religion, writes DALER AASHNA DEOL in her book, *A Gift of Grace*. The world celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru on November 12. An excerpt:

Guru Nanak divides our spiritual path into five distinct stages: moral living and rightful actions, search for divine knowledge, spiritual unfoldment, divine grace, and the final entry into the realm of Eternal Truth. Each stage is unique and vital. These stages appear as part of a sequence, and it is not possible for us to bypass any of these steps. For example, moral living is a precondition for the search of divine knowledge. A person who leads a morally decadent life will inevitably see no need to search for experiences of any kind, let alone spiritual knowledge. Also, our spirit cannot unfold unless we have accumulated sufficient spiritual energy during the first two stages. Any movement from this point onward is possible only when we receive divine grace, which is not our right but a 'reward' for good deeds. Leading a virtuous life is the very foundation of our spiritual quest. To go any further on the spiritual path, we need to make truthful and moral living an essential part of our life. It is only through such living that we make ourselves worthy of God's compassion and grace.

Growing up in a world where money can buy more comforts than it was possible at any other time in human history, how can we agree on a set of values and behaviours that would provide a reliable guide to a virtuous life? We need to acknowledge that there are some things which are moral, ethical, doable, and right under any circumstances. We may have a difference of opinion on whether it is moral to charge interest. But there should be no controversy on things like violence, falsehood, and exploitation of the poor and helpless. We need to identify some core values based on themes that cut across societal and cultural boundaries. The seven core values, based on Guru Nanak's teachings, are:
Non-violence Avoiding violence that hurts the innocent, kills, or insults (in the form of rape or other degrading actions) the victim, mass killings of innocent people in a war or a political conflict.
Truth Letting reality appear in its purest form, separating facts from opinions, not using falsehood of any kind to deceive other people, treating honest living as a sacred obligation.



Love Showing sympathy and compassion for a victim of oppression, having a sense of justice, keeping a charitable spirit, sharing one's wealth and good fortune with the poor and the needy.
Virtue The pursuit of highest personal morality in one's daily life, respecting the honour and integrity of one's partner, taking responsibility for one's children, catering to their material, emotional, and intellectual needs, caring for the needs of elders in the family.
Communitarianism Being a good citizen, participating in electoral processes, raising voice against misdeeds of those in authority, using public office for public good, protecting the natural environment, giving one's employer a fair share of one's time, talent, and ability.
Equality Treating all people as equal

despite differences of colour, race, gender, or ethnic origins, respecting cultural and spiritual traditions of other people.
Theism Having faith in the unbounded love, mercy, and compassion of the Creator for all things and all beings. It is not an attempt to define a new morality. It has not been easy for moral philosophers, who have struggled with these issues over the ages.
We can look at various opinions, or what our belief system has to say about these matters, but, in the end, we need to have an objective look at how we are coping with difficult moral and ethical choices in our life. This freedom for self-evaluation is not a blank cheque, meaning whatever serves our needs or purposes is acceptable. We need to cultivate, in the words of Albert Einstein, a moral attitude in and towards life based on the totality of our being-body, mind, and soul. Not doing this selfevaluation in a seriously mindful way would indicate our reluctance to follow a spiritual path.
A Gift of Grace: The Essence of Guru Nanak's Spirituality, written by Daler Aashna Deol is published by Niyogi Books