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Relief for Adani in coal scam

Bombay HC quashes DRI's letter rogatories; big firms hope similar treatment

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday provided a big relief to Adani group in a coal scam and also paved the way for many other corporate entities to seek similar relief. The court ordered quashing of all letter rogatories (LRs) sent by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to countries, including Singapore, against three Adani group companies accused of overvaluing Indonesian coal imports between 2011 and 2015.

A division bench of justices Ranjit More and Bharati H Dangre allowed the Adani Enterprises Ltd's (AEL) writ petition which questioned the procedural legality involved in issuing the LRs. The petitioner pointed out that LRs were issued "without any notice and hearing of the companies". It also said that at that point of time

- The court order virtually brings down the curtain on the ongoing probe against Adani group of companies and also comes handy for over three dozen other companies
- All of them are also facing DRI probe for alleged overvaluation of coal imports from Indonesia
- The DRI had demanded around ₹29,000 crore from these companies for alleged overvaluation of coal imports
- The Thursday order is big setback for the DRI and all those who had alleged that the Adanis and several other companies made huge money by overpricing the Indonesian coal imports between 2011 and 2015



The DRI had not taken any cognisance of offence under the Customs Act 1962 against the group firms.

The court order virtually brings down the curtain on the ongoing probe against Adani group of companies and also comes handy for over three dozen other companies such as Essar group, JSW Energy and

JSW Steel, Hyderabad — based NSL Group, India Cements, NTPC, MMTC, Tamil Nadu SEB and Karnataka Power Corporation. All of them are also facing DRI probe for alleged overvaluation of coal imports from Indonesia.

The DRI had demanded around ₹29,000 crore from these companies for alleged

overvaluation of coal imports. The Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal had already rejected this plea.

In June this year, the DRI charged AEL of attempting to block its probe into the over-valuation charge.

The DRI filed an affidavit in the Bombay High Court on June 13 questioning the logic

behind the AEL decision to question the "well-settled procedure of issuance of Letter Rogatory".

A letter rogatory is generally dispatched to another country by the Central Government to seek the help of foreign judicial authorities in probing an offshore entity in connection with an ongoing domestic probe.

The Thursday Bombay High Court order is big setback for the DRI and all those who had alleged that the Adanis and several other companies made huge money by overpricing the Indonesian coal imports between 2011 and 2015.

The other aspect of the coal scam probe related to allotment fraud had also generated a big controversy when the role of former CBI chief Ranjit Sinha had come under scanner for allegedly helping the accused companies.

B'desh guards kill BSF man as meet goes awry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Unprecedented move by BGB seems to be a ploy to hurt 'friendly' Hasina Govt's image

In a shocking incident, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) on Thursday killed a BSF Head Constable and injured another constable by firing at them from AK-47 assault rifles during a flag meeting on the international boundary in West Bengal. The meeting took place to discuss the arrest of an Indian fisherman by the Bangladesh paramilitary force.

Miffed over the incident, BSF chief Vivek Johri called up his BGB counterpart Major General Shafeenul, who assured him a thorough probe into the incident, officials said.

Later the BSF tweeted, "DG & all ranks #BSF salute the supreme sacrifice of Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh and offer condolences to the family members. On 17th October '19, HC Vijay Bhan Singh was martyred while on an operational duty (flag meeting with BGB) on Indo-Bangladesh Border."

"Today morning, three Indian fishermen went for fishing in River Padma in the border area. Two fishermen returned and approached BSF post Kakmarichar (Riverine border of River Padma which falls in the AOR (area of operation) of this BOP (Border Out Post) to inform that Border Guards Bangladesh had apprehended them and later released two of them to call BSF post Commander for flag meeting," the BSF said in a statement.

The BSF further stated, "Around 10.30 hours, Post Commander along with 5



An injured BSF jawan after a BGB soldier fired at them during a flag meeting along the India-Bangladesh Border in Murshidabad, West Bengal, on Thursday



HC Vijay Bhan Singh

his head and succumbed to the constable/crew (boatman) received bullet injuries on his right hand. Both injured BSF personnel were evacuated to the nearest medical facility. Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh was declared brought dead. Injured Constable has been taken to Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital."

BGB authorities have been contacted and senior officials are on the spot, it said.

The attack on the BSF trooper is primarily an indicator of some local issues in Bangladesh aimed at addressing the domestic audience through radical elements in the BGB ahead of the national elections. The incident does not reflect any design at the level of the Government there which has been friendly with India and cooperating on a number of issues including counter-terror operations, sources said.

Continued on Page 4

CM inaugurates 'Madhya Pradesh Pavilion'

PNS ■ INDORE

Chief Minister Kamal Nath, on Thursday, inaugurated the 'Madhya Pradesh Pavilion' put up by the Department of Public Relations in the premises of the Brilliant Convention Centre at Magnificent MP Summit-2019.

On this occasion, Health Minister Tulsiram Silavat, Public Works Minister Sajjan Singh Verma, Chief Secretary SR Mohanty, Principal Secretary Ashok Varnwal, Rajesh Rajaura, Divisional Commissioner Akash Tripathi and several public representatives and officials were present.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the construction works at the exhibition site. These works include Integrated Command and Control Centre, Smart Industrial Park of Pithampur, Narmada-Kshipra Link-based water supply scheme, International Bus Terminal and IT centre Sishaa at a cost of Rs 25.77 crore.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister



also visited the exhibition stalls set up by various departments and establishments of the state government in Madhya Pradesh Pavilion. These include stalls of Madhya Pradesh Warehouse Corporation, Micro and Small Industries, e-Governance Project, Shahr Sarkar -Aapke Dwar, Ayushman Bharat Niramayam Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation.

Thereafter, Chief Minister

Kamal Nath also inspected the stalls set up by the Confederation of Indian Industries and Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation. Among the industrial houses that have set up their stalls here are Vardhaman Group, Bansal Group, Trident, Prism Johnson, Vodafone, Idea, Procter and Gamble, Moira Steel Sariya, AISECT, Fortune Oil, MP Birla Cement, Shakti Pumps, Force Travelers, Indo-Oman Refinery and Eicher Companies.

Will take steps to make MP ideal State in industrial investment: CM

PNS ■ INDORE

Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that the Government will take all possible steps to make Madhya Pradesh an ideal State in the entire country for industrial investment. Nath was holding One-to-One meeting with industrialists, on the eve of Magnificent Madhya Pradesh at Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore on Thursday.

Kamal Nath said that during the last eight months, the government by its decisions has created an industrial friendly atmosphere in the state. He said that it will be our efforts to get massive investment in the state so that our youth could get employment.

During the meeting, Kamal Nath also apprised the industry's representatives of the decisions taken by the government. Nath met CEO of Impetus Technology USA Praveen Kakaria, working in the field of IT and Managing Director of Symbiotic Company Anil Satwani.

Brexit deal inked, Parliament nod a challenge for UK

Johnson Govt, EU agree on pact, but ally Northern Irish DUP against deal

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK and the European Union (EU) on Thursday declared that they have agreed a new Brexit deal for Britain's withdrawal from the 28-member

economic bloc within the October 31 deadline.

While UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the agreement as a "great new deal", EU President Jean Claude-Juncker branded it a "fair and balanced agreement" as he recommended it for member-countries to be ratified at an EU summit under-way in Brussels this week.

Continued on P4

Saved by a (big cat) whisker



A 25-year-old (above) mentally-unstable man leapt into the enclosure of a lion at the Delhi zoo on Thursday, and came face to face with the big cat and moved around unconcerned about the lurking danger, before the zoo staff rescued him after tranquilising the lion. (Left) The combo of 4 photos show the man inside the lion's enclosure at Delhi Zoo on Thursday

Karnataka tops NITI Aayog's innovation list



NITI Aayog Vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar, with others, launches the India Innovation Index prepared by NITI Aayog in New Delhi on Thursday

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka has been ranked as the most innovative State in the country while the top ten States are concentrated in southern and western India.

These rankings were released by NITI Aayog on Thursday under the India Innovation Index 2019. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the

remaining top ten major States respectively.

The top ten major States are majorly concentrated in southern and western India.

Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north-eastern & hill States, and union territories.

Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient States in translating inputs into output.

Detailed report on P10

MP Investors summit may attract ₹1.5L cr investment

PNS ■ INDORE

Before the Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Investors Summit, the State Government on Thursday claimed that there are strong possibilities of near guaranteed investments worth around ₹1.05 lakh crore from industrial investors by March 2020. While talking to media persons here on Thursday, Chief Secretary SR Mohanty said that though the new government came to power in December 2018, the actual work began in January 2019. Since then around 2-3 months were spent on conducting Lok Sabha polls.

"But within the period spanning between January and September 2019, the state has received committed investment proposals worth around Rs 31,500 crores, which is likely to result in the employment of around 1.03 lakh people in the State.

Continued on P4

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Inter-ministerial team assesses crop damage



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Inter-ministerial central team on a visit to the state for the assessment of crop damage caused by excessive rainfall in the State called on the Governor Lajji Tandon at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday.

The Governor asked the team to study the damage caused with sensitivity towards the farmers and poor hit by excess rainfall in the state. The damage should be assessed with a liberal and practical approach. He said that there are reports of loss of soybean

and other crops due to excessive rainfall in the state. He said that soybean crop is produced in a large area of the state.

Soybean crop has suffered a lot due to excess rainfall. The Governor said that soybean has a major contribution in the state's agricultural economy. Crop loss will have a very adverse effect on the rural economy.

Governor Tandon said that reports of damage to other crops like moong, urad, cotton etc. have also been received. He expected the cen-

tral team to provide appropriate relief to the people affected due to crop damage. The Central Government should provide maximum disaster relief. The central team should take positive initiative in this direction.

The State Government submitted a memorandum to the Governor regarding the damage caused by excess rainfall. Principal Secretary Revenue Manish Rastogi, Secretary to the Governor Manohar Dubey and members of the central team were present in the meeting.

Swami Vivekananda Library to organise seminar over visa rule changes



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A seminar will be organized in the Swami Vivekananda Library to change the visa policy for students in United Kingdom. The seminar will be held at Swami Vivekananda Library.

A seminar and one-to-one session will be organised to inform the students about the change the visa rules for students. Recently, the United Kingdom has changed its visa rules and decided to give 2 year-work experience visa after the completion of the course to the students.

The United Kingdom has always attracted students across the globe for its well respected standard of teaching. As an international student planning

to pursue a course of study in UK, it is important to obtain a visa to stay in the country. Students from India apply for the UK Student Visa depending upon their duration of study and age. Students applying for graduate, post-graduate, doctoral programmes usually apply for Tier 4 (general) visa.

The seminar is co-organised by Swami Vivekananda Library. Manager Yatish Bhatle said that this special seminar has been planned for the students in collaboration with the Knowledge Kingdom in the library.

The experts will hold a half-hour seminar and then one to one session. The program will start at 4 pm. This session will be open to all for free.

Regional Saras Mela 2019 organised at Bhopal Haat



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Regional Saras Mela 2019 organised at Bhopal Haat is all about traditional and trendy outfits and accessories which are loved by the shopaholics of the city. The mela is receiving a satisfactory response from the shopaholics of the city.

The females are being captivated towards the imitation jewellery and of course the trendy outfits. Moreover the beautifully embedded footwearers are another centre of attraction for the female buyers. Last but not the least the home decoration items are yet another reason for the shopaholics to visit the Regional Saras Mela.

Notably, there is an exquisite collection of dress materials, jewellery, leather, food items, terracotta and much more being exhibited by self help groups from across the country. Usually Regional Saras Mela is organised each year, to promote the self-employed artisans living under poverty line. With the help of such opportunities offered by government they get a chance to display their products.

SHGs artisans from different parts of the country have arrived in the mela to display and sale their products. These artisans earn the profit of sale directly from the customers.

There is an array of colourful kurtis, suits in various handloom materials including Maheshwari and Chanderi. Moreover, the stoles which are in trend these days are also available in the same material. The most capturing part of the mela is the handbags made out of jute with ethnic style and range.

Notably, organised by State Panchayat and Rural Development Department the mela every year receives a satisfactory response by regular buyers and this year too people take a good pleasure of the handloom materials being exhibited there.

Miscreants snatch bank official's mobile phone worth ₹20K

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Miscreants targeted a bank official and stole her mobile phone worth Rs 20000 on the Punjab National Bank premises under Bairagarh police station on Wednesday.

According to the police, the victim Monica Aswani was in her branch and kept her mobile phone over her work place which was stolen by miscreants. Police said that the victim had gone for some in the branch and when she returned the mobile phone was stolen. The victim searched for the mobile phone but failed to find it and later approached the police to lodge complaint.

The police have registered a case under section 379 of the IPC and have started further investigation. Police suspects that the victim was tracked and later when the victim left her work place the miscreants escaped with the mobile phone.



In the initial investigation police have started to check the footages of CCTV of the bank which would help in establishing the identity of the accused. The victim works with Punjab National Bank and is posted at Bairagarh branch and her mobile phone was stolen while at work.

Meanwhile, agriculture equipments worth Rs 25000 were stolen from a farm house under Ratiband police station area on Wednesday. The victim Rakesh Singh lodged complaint after he found that water motor pump and other equipments were stolen from his farm. Police have registered a case under section 379 of the IPC and started investigation.

SR Mohanty holds meet with Inter-ministerial Central Team

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A meeting with the Inter-Ministerial Central Team held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary SR Mohanty. The Central Team has been urged to provide assistance of Rs 6,621 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for the damage caused to the state due to extreme rains and floods.

Out of 149.35 lakh hectares of Kharif crop in the state, 60.52 lakh hectares have been damaged. This has affected about 55.36 lakh farmers. About 11,000 km roads have been damaged in the state. About 18,604 electric poles as well as transformers and 1.2 lakh houses have also been damaged by the excessive rains and floods.

Mohanty urged the Centre to provide immediate assistance to the state and take the situation in the state as a serious disaster.

The Inter-Ministerial Team led by the Joint Secretary of Union Home Ministry SK Shahi after visiting the 15 districts of the state, held a meeting with the officials of the state



government at Mantralaya on Wednesday. The Central Team was informed that 1348.3 MM rainfall was recorded in the state during a period from June 01 to September 30, which is 43 percent more than the average rainfall. As many as 20 districts of the state are affected by the excessive rainfall. Due to heavy rains, about 75,000 people were evacuated to the relief camps and other safe places and about 289 relief camps were organised.

It was informed in the meeting that 19,958 buildings of School Education and Tribal Affairs Department as well as 17 thousand 106 buildings of

Women and Child Development were damaged. Similarly, 2,923 buildings of Rural Development and 2,398 structures related to water supply were damaged. Along with this, the buildings of the Department of Health, Water Resources have also been affected. Repairs of damaged buildings will require Rs 2285.88 crore.

In the same order, assistance of Rs 3,742 crore to compensate damage caused to crops, Rs 579.96 crore to compensate damaged houses and life and property and Rs 13.44 crore for disaster relief etc have been demanded.

AIIMS Bhopal organises third Institute Body meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The third meeting of Institute Body (IB) of AIIMS Bhopal was held at the Institute on Thursday. In the meeting, President Prof YK Gupta along with members viz Vivek K Tankha, Member (Rajyasabha), Ramakant Bhargava, Member (Loksabha), Uday Pratap Singh,

Member (Loksabha), Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Shiv Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary, MP Government, Dr GK Rath, Head of DBRAIRCH, AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr Sita Naik, Professor (Retd), Dr Maya Chansoria, Professor (Retd) and Dr Shrimant Kumar, DGHS representative were present.

The Members of the Institute Body visited AIIMS Hospital in the morning. During the visit, the IB inaugurated the Digital OPD Registration Counter and the "Sanitary Pad Vending Machine" in IPD of the Hospital under the aegis of Swachhata Pakhwada. Later on, the third IB Meeting was held in the Board Room of Medical



College Building. The Member Secretary, Prof Sarman Singh, Director, AIIMS Bhopal submitted a report on various activities and achievements of AIIMS Bhopal.

The Members of the IB thoroughly discussed various matters relating to the Institute and took decisions for betterment of patient care services. The members expressed satisfaction on the progress made by the Institute during last year.

The IB approved the recommendations made by the Selection Committee in respect of appointments to various posts viz Deputy Medical Superintendent, Senior Dietician, Accounts Officer, Law Officer, Chief Medical Record Officer, FMT faculty, Sr Analyst, Executive Engineer

(Civil), Finance and Chief Accounts Officer. These appointments shall go a long way in effective operations in AIIMS Bhopal and aid betterment of patient care and amenities to general public.

After conclusion of the IB Meeting, prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions held under Swachhata Pakhwada. As environmental friendly gesture in the Institute, the Members of IB planted saplings in the AIIMS premises. On this occasion Shramdeep Sinha, (IRS) Dy Director (Administration), Dr Arneet Arora, Dean (Academics), Dr Manisha Shrivastava, Medical Superintendent, Jitendra Saxena, Superintending Engineer, Benny Abrahim, Registrar, Gaurav Dwivedi, Senior Administrative Officer, Soumya Anie Tripathi, PPS to Director, Nagendra Saraswat, Exe. Engineer, Vishal Kumar Gupta, Administrative Officer and other senior faculty members and officers, para-medical staff and large number of employees were present.

Nearly 17 cows die of starvation after locked in school building

PNS ■ GWALIOR

As many as 17 cows died of starvation after they were locked inside a deserted school building in a village of Dabra tehsil in Gwalior district.

The incident swept wave of anger among the locals and gau rakshaks but it is yet to be found as who had locked these animals without food and water inside the building.

Taking strong note of the incident animal husbandry minister Lakhman Singh has ordered a probe into the incident.

Police said, the incident was reported from Samudan village of Dabra in Gwalior district.

The villagers believe that any local farmer hassled with persistent intrusion of cattle inside the farm might have locked these cows inside the school room. Since, there was



no folder and water available and a single room was crammed with 17 cows, all of them died due to asphyxiation.

Police claimed that the cows were locked for around a week and had nothing to eat, due to which they died. After the foul smell of the cows' bodies spread, the locals opened the door to find cows dead.

However after the matter came to light, the panicked local administration started burying the cows but Gau Rakshak got a whiff and created a ruckus on the spot. Afterwards the administration

assured them of probe and performed proper burial of the dead animals.

Animal Husbandry Minister Lakhman Singh termed the act highly insensitive and inhuman. The Minister claimed that the matter would be probed and anyone found guilty would not be spared.

Besides, Chief Minister Kamal Nath also tweeted his disappointment and sadness over the incident. An enquiry has been ordered and guilty would not be spared from stringent action, said the chief minister.

SL Thoussen meets Syeda Tayyaba Fatima, Masooma Fatima

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Brilliant roller skating players Masooma Fatima and Syeda Tayyaba Fatima met Sports and Youth Welfare Director SL Thoussen here on Thursday.

Bhopal-Sports and Youth Welfare Madhya Pradesh Director S.L. Thoussen met Skating players Syeda Tayyaba Fatima and Masooma Fatima at the city stadium. Thoussen praised their brilliant performance in various roller skating championships.

It is to be noted that Masooma bagged a bronze medal in the CBSE Roller Skating Championship West Zone 2019. The championship was played recently.

It is also noteworthy that Tayyaba has bagged a silver medal in the demo competition at the National Skating



Championship 2019 that was held at Shirdi Maharashtra. It was organised by the Roller Skating Federation of India.

Masooma Fatima is being trained under coach Sajid Khan at TT Nagar stadium. 14-year-old skater Masooma Fatima has won 82 medals in various national, state, division and district level skating competitions.

Congratulating them on the success of the outstanding players Sports Minister Jitu Patwari wished luck Masooma and Tayyaba for their bright future.

Girl left home after tiff with mom to celebrate b'day with friends, found

PNS ■ MHOW

Three missing children of Pithampur police station area were found with prompt action in the time frame of 2 hours to 1 week. The first case is of a 14 years girl Ruby (Name changed), who had left home after getting annoyed from her mother as she wanted to celebrate her birthday with her friends outside the house.

After her mother refused and scolded her, she quietly left home and reached Bhopal by train. The parents reported to police and after the report within 2 hours police tracked her at Bhopal railway station and with the help of railway police police brought her home.

In the second case, a 17 years tribal girl Mona name changed who was residing with her parents in Pithampur as she and her parents were engaged in labour work left the house after a dispute with her parents as the parents were forcing her to marry. Mona didn't like the groom and she refused to marry and when her parents scolded her she quietly left the



home and went to Gujarat. Police recovered Mona from Gujarat and brought her to Pithampur.

In the same way, a 15 year old boy Pappu went missing as while returning from the football play ground which was located near the railway station. He felt the nature call and he climbed the bogie of the passenger train on the railway station to use the bathroom of the passenger train.

When still he was in bathroom the train moved and he reached to Ujjain in the moving train. The parents after no information of him late night reported to police. Police

tracked him from Ujjain railway station in 2 hours after the report.

TI Chandrabhan Singh Chadaar told The Pioneer that it is the clear instruction of SP Dhar Aditya Pratap Singh and SDOP Pithampur Ajay Jain as the Pithampur is an big industrial area and thousands of peoples comes from different states with their families to Pithampur industrial area for working in factories and various antisocial elements in form of labourers also move in Pithampur industrial area so the police is on high alert to track the missing children.

Govt addressing industrial grievances: Kamal Nath

PNS ■ INDORE

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has said that whatever the problems and suggestions of the Pithampur Industrial area are, the Government has already initiated action on 80 percent of its points. He said that the government is wakeful that a conducive environment for the industry should be made and they should not face problem in their work.

On the eve of the 'Magnificent Madhya Pradesh' Summit, Kamal Nath was holding the discussions with the representatives of the Pithampur Industrial Association at the Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore on Thursday.

Nath said that the government has already initiated action on the memorandum given today by the Pithampur Industrial Association. He further said that points and suggestions should be brought to his notice, the Government will act on them with priority and gradually the problems will be resolved by incorporating all those suggestions.

Nath further said that we wanted to create an environment for the development of the state, prosperity of people and to provide employment to



Every complaint and suggestion of the new investors and existing industries will be taken on priority. The Chief Minister expected from the Pithampur Industrial Association that it will apprise him of its complaints and suggestions from time to time.

The President of Pithampur Industrial Association Dr. Gautam Kothari, while handing over the 22 points memorandum to the Chief Minister, said that number of decisions have been taken in his eight months short tenure, that have encouraged the industry and investors. He also congratulated the Chief Minister Kamal Nath in this regard. The representatives of the Pithampur Industrial Association

expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister that they have been heard seriously for the first time and on several points of their memorandum, the Government has already initiated action.

The Chairman of Pithampur Industrial Association Ajay Shivekari presented a memento to the Chief Minister on behalf of the association. The Chief Minister was also presented with a portrait of Gandhi Ji on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary as memento. The Chief Secretary SR Mohanty, Principal Secretary Industry Rajesh Rajoura, Managing Director MPSIDC Vinod Porwal and other Senior Officers were present on the occasion.

National Putul Samaroh' organised at Tribal Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 'National Putul Samaroh' is being organised at the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum showcasing various styles of puppet art. In the event held here on Thursday, Mithilesh Dubey (Banaras) along with his fellow artists performed 'Mohan Se Mahatma' in the sticks effigy style on the Muktakash Manch of the museum.

The performance was about Mohan is a normal boy, who is like a normal child in reading, writing, speaking and in all kinds of activities. But still he emerges as a great person of the twentieth century. In this presentation centered on 'Mohan Mahatma' it is told that Mohan who always walks on his values ??truth and non-violence'.

It is because of walking on values ??that Mohan becomes a Mahatma and Mahatma Gandhi has inspired the whole world to follow the path of morality. In this presentation, the artists staged Mahatma Gandhi's journey from childhood to death with his artistic puppet handling skills. The presentation was staged with the help of about 150

puppets. In this presentation, the audience also got an opportunity to hear the real recorded voice of Mahatma Gandhi.

The time limit for this presentation was about 1 hour. This presentation was directed by Mithilesh Dubey. The rods control them in puppet style with a puppet cast stick from behind the screen. It is mainly popular style of Eastern India. During the presentation, Mithilesh Dubey, Anil Kumar, Suraj Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, Vishal Kumar, Harsh Ram and Harsh mesmerized the audience with their artistic puppet handling skills.

On October 18, Pradeepnath Tripathi (Lucknow) will stage 'Lavkush and Aladdin' in the sticks effigy style with his fellow artists. On October 19, Mohammed Shamim will stage 'Gulliver Travel and Our Circus' with his fellow artists in the style of sticks and thread effigies. On the last day of the ceremony, on October 20, the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal (Udaipur) will stage 'Ramayana and Kabuliwala' in thread style. All these presentations will be held daily from 7 pm.

Man held for sexually assaulting 49-yr-old woman



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Shahjehanabad police have booked a miscreant who sedated and raped a 49-year-old woman Ravi Das colony; a complaint was made by victim on Wednesday.

Navdeep Sharma who works as ward boy at Berasia hospital was booked for sexually assaulting victim after sedating her on Tuesday. The victim was sexually assaulted on Tuesday when she had gone for cleaning her house at Ravi Das colony.

The accused, who lives in the same locality came to her after he spotted the victim at

her house and offered her sweets which he brought after offering Pooja. The victim who is a resident of DIG bungalow area used to work with the accused but left the job two years ago was acquainted with the ill intents of him and took sweets which were sedated and after having sweets she went unconscious and later she was raped. After she regained conscious accused threatened her life and escaped the spot.

The victim managed to regain conscious and reached her house in DIG Bungalow area and reported the incident

to family and later approached Shahjehanabad police and lodged complaint on Wednesday.

After the preliminary investigation the police registered a case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC. Police said that the crime record of the accused would be investigated.

The accused went absconding after he got information of complaint against him. Victim was not in a position to lodge complaint as she was under the influence of drugs on Tuesday and later on Wednesday she lodged complaint.

30-yr-old man mowed down by farm machine

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 30-year-old man died after he was mowed down by a harvester machine late in the night on Wednesday at Tara Sewania.



According to the police deceased identified as Narayan Kushwaha died after he was hit by harvester machine. He was rushed to nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

In the initial investigation it was found that the deceased had hired the harvester machine for harvesting crops and was showing path to the part of the field which was having Soyabean crop and as he was moving he bowed down to move corns lying in the path and driver at the harvester moved the machine as he considered that Narayan has moved on and hit him.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and

have started further investigation.

The incident took place at around 11 in the night. Police said that case against driver would be registered if he is found negligent in driving the harvester.

Meanwhile, an 80-year-old woman died after she fell from third floor of the house at Ratnagiri under Piplani police station area on Wednesday. The deceased identified as Radha Meena fell from third floor of her house. She was trying to pull a bag filled with vegetables from a vegetable seller from the balcony of third floor and lost balance due to which she fell. Police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

Encroachment of three BHEL plants removed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

BHEL administration Thursday removed encroachments at three different places in BHEL Township. Police force was deployed to remove encroachment of local corporator Fakeera Kachke who had encroached and built a concrete platform over 1600 sqft at Govindpura D- Sector Anna Nagar.

The team of BHEL administration faced opposition as they were abused and stone pelted and situation was controlled by police. The platform was razed by JCB machine. In the past too, Kachke had made attempts to encroach upon the land in BHEL area.

Govindpura police have registered a case of deterring public servant from discharge of his duty against Kachke and his supporters. Later in the anti-encroachment



drive illegally operated flour mill over 10000 sq ft area at Barkheda C-Sector was removed.

The flour mill continued to operate even after the expiry of its license. The team finally removed pan stall behind bus stop at Vijay Market Barkheda.

In the anti-encroachment action 100 sq ft land was freed from encroachment. Even after several notices to these encroachers they continued to

encroach and operate illegally. Today in the anti-encroachment drive the anti-encroachment team of BHEL, police force of Govindpura police, security staff of BHEL and civil department of BHEL conducted the drive and remove the encroachments.

For the anti-encroachment drive one JCB machine, three trucks and 15-20 labour and employees of civil department of the BHEL were deployed.

SBI LAUNCHES 'GREEN REWARD POINTS' PROGRAMME

State Bank of India (SBI) launched a unique 'Green Reward Points' programme to onboard its YONO customers in the Sustainability journey, which has been one of the core values of the bank for the past few years. Under this programme, SBI inspire customers with pledge of earned 'Green Reward Points' to a pool created as 'YONO SBI Green Fund' which is managed by SBI Foundation. The bank through 'YONO SBI Green Fund' will initiate environment conservation activities through various programs. SBI customer will now earn 'Green Reward points' through transactions on YONO and they would be given an option to pledge these points to 'YONO SBI Green Fund'. Customers earning Rewardz points through non-YONO transaction channels like mobile & internet banking will be given an option to convert it into 'Green Reward points' which on conversion can be pledged to the fund. All the customers pledging their points to the fund will be awarded with a 'Green e-Certificate' as a token of appreciation towards their support for this initiative. SBI on the other hand has also committed to convert lapsed 'Green Reward Points' of customers by informing them for environment conservation through YONO SBI Green Fund. SBI customers can earn upto 200 Green Reward points on each eligible service provided by the bank.



PSC CHAIRMAN BHASKAR CHOUBEY VISTS GOVERNOR

Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Bhaskar Choubey paid a courtesy visit to Governor Lalji Tandon at Raj Bhavan. He submitted the annual report of the Commission to the Governor. On this occasion, member of Public Service Commission RL Mehra and Secretary Renu Pant were present.



2,858 QUINTALS FOODGRAIN ALLOCATED FOR OCTOBER

A total of 2858 quintals of food grain has been allocated for the month of October, based on the demand of the district collectors. This includes 1791 quintals of wheat and 1067 quintals of rice. Food grains will be provided to the beneficiaries of the scheme at the rate of Re 1 per kg. The Department of Food-Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection has issued instructions that only FAQ food grain and quality should be supplied to the beneficiaries after checking the quality of wheat and rice.



CM: EFFECTIVE PREVENTION OF NARCOTICS TO SAVE YOUTH

Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that effective prevention of narcotics and to save youth from its ill effects is a biggest challenge before us. Nath was releasing a report in Indore on Thursday on Prevention of use of Drugs among Youth and to make youth aware with its ill Effects, prepared by the Additional Director General of Police Indore Zone Varun Kapoor and Director UMS India Dr Vikrant Singh Tomar. Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that the Madhya Pradesh government is committed to the prevention of drugs. He said that besides freeing youth from drugs addiction, they have to be alerted that it could endanger their future.



Power companies implement Indra Griha Jyoti Yojana



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Three power distribution companies of Madhya Pradesh has implemented the State Government's ambitious Indra Griha Jyoti Yojana in a new form and have started giving its benefits to the consumers. So far 93 lakh 73 thousand 617 consumers have benefited from the scheme.

According to the billing cycle, the number of consumers is expected to increase further from this month. The electricity bills received by the consumers of the state have come down since October.

Energy Minister Priyavrat Singh has informed that 44 lakh 16 thousand 786 consumers have benefited under Purv Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company, 28 lakh 65 thousand 133 under Pashchim Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company and 20 lakh 91 thousand 698 con-

sumers under Madhya Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company have benefited in the Indra Griha Jyoti Yojana. Electricity bills are constantly being passed on to consumers.

Singh has informed that more than 87 percent consumers have received the benefits of IGJY under Purv Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company. About 80 percent of consumers under Pashchim Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company and 78 percent under Madhya Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company have benefited.

It is noteworthy that under Indra Griha Jyoti Yojana, an electricity bill of only Rs 100 is being given on consumption of electricity up to 100 units per month. All domestic electricity consumers with monthly consumption up to 150 units of the state are getting the benefit of this scheme.

Central Power Distribution Company launches new version of website

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Managing Director of Central Region Power Distribution Company Vishesh Garhpale informed the media that the new version of sankalp.mpcz.in has been released by the company for online high tension connection. This portal has been made more consumer-oriented than before.

Now high-tension power consumers will get information about the process of connection easily on this portal. Garhpale said that high tension electricity connections will be available in the company soon and the process will be completely transparent. He said that there are more than 2,400 high-tension consumers in the company's jurisdiction, from whom the company receives half of the total revenue. Ensuring better services and quality power supply to high-tension consumers is the company's priority.

In the online process, the applicant will get a password on his email and mobile number after registering on the company's website sankalp.mpcz.in. The applicant can login in with his registered ID password



and register by entering the information required for high-tension connection online. According to the load demanded by the applicant, the registration fee, supply affording and security fund fee will be calculated by the system, which will be deposited online in the bank account of the company.

The application will be sent online to the Deputy General Manager / Executive Engineer of the concerned division, from where it will be further sent online to higher authorities for approval. After the estimate is approved, the applicant will determine according to the amount shown in the estimate whether he wants the company to work or get it done by the contractor

himself. Accordingly 5 percent supervision charge or estimated 100 percent of the amount will be credited to the account in the form of deposit work.

According to the application, after the completion of the construction work, the applicant will have to take charging permission from the Electrical Inspector and upload it online on the company's website. Thereafter, a high tension connection will be started by installing a metering system in the applicant's premises. This process will not cause unnecessary delay in obtaining high tension connection within the time limit prescribed by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission.

BHEL BHOPAL ORGANISES VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK-2019
Vigilance and Township Administration divisions of BHEL Bhopal organized an Awareness Gram Sabha in village Adampur Chhawani near Bhopal on Thursday under Vigilance Awareness Week-2019. On this occasion, AGM (Vigilance) Amit Sharma

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM

HDFC Mutual Fund is organising an Investor Awareness Program at Gwalior to educate investors about Mutual Funds. Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:
Sunday, 20th October, 2019, 7:00 p.m. onwards, at Hotel Landmark NX, City Center, Gwalior - 474 001. For registration, please contact: Harish Ghodki, Mobile: 9424418428.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

Guv asks varsities to guide society

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Lalji Tandon has asked the universities of the state to come forward to guide the society. He has said that it is necessary to have cleanliness in the system and environment. Basic efforts for building a new system should be given priority, only then will there be effective progress.

Tandon was speaking in a discussion with the vice-chancellors of four universities at Raj Bhavan on Thursday.

Tandon said that universities should be made the centre to familiarize students with the practical benefits of new research and methods in the field of environmental protection and economic development. The universities must present a model of self-reliance. He said that extensive plantation should be carried out in the campus.

Planting saplings of trees for commercial purpose on protected land will be an investment for future financial needs. Later, the university will receive a large amount of funds. Similarly, the use of solar energy will also save electricity. Water conservation works will pave the way for



solving the global problem of water crisis. Similarly, the production of organic manure from campus waste will serve as compost for the plants. Sufficient funds will also be available to meet the future needs of the university without any expenditure.

The Governor has cautioned the universities that in the new academic year, the only criteria for review would be decision and its adherence. He said that the problems and needs of universities have been resolved. It should be ensured now itself as to who will be responsible for not getting outcome. He said that now if

the result of the examination is delayed, it will be the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor to take action against the concerned and declare the result on time. If this does not happen, the Chancellor will be held responsible.

Tandon said that the chancellors would have to take initiative for the academic environment. Their motivation will influence teachers and students. He said that it is mandatory to maintain cleanliness in the system along with the campus. Not conducting an audit is like not justifying expenditure. This is a serious economic crime.

Two carrying rewards of ₹5K each held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Two wanted criminals carrying reward of Rs 5000 each were nabbed by Parwalia police and recovered four motorbikes worth Rs 2 lakh on Wednesday.

The two were wanted in case of planning dacoity three months ago. According to the police, acting on a tip-off, two men were detained who were identified as wanted absconder accused as Javed Khan and Banne Khan of Sehore.

During the investigation, police recovered four bikes from their possession. In the month of August police failed a dacoity bid but the two accused managed to escape. Police started to search for the two and later a cash reward of Rs 5000 each was declared for providing the information of the two absconding accused.

Meanwhile, Teelajamalpur police have nabbed a 21-year-old absconder accused who was involved in kidnapping and raped a



minor three months ago. The police nabbed Sahir Khan of Lalaria who works as driver and was involved in kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor girl in the month of August.

In charge of Teelajamalpur police SI DP Singh said that the main accused Nadeem kidnapped the victim with Sahir Khan who was nabbed on Thursday from Lalaria. Nadeem was nabbed on September 11 and girl was rescued but Sahir remained absconder who was nabbed after police received information that he was trying to escape from his home in Lalaria. Police have registered a case under sections 366, 376 (2), 506 and 34 of the IPC and section 5 and 6 of the POCSO Act.

MP Investors summit may attract ₹1.5L cr investment



From Page 1

These are the committed proposals where the industrialists have already begun the work of establishing their units in the state," Mohanty said.

"Added to them are investment proposals worth around Rs 74,260 crore, where the investors have already identified land for starting their units and have also completed other related processes. We expect the conversion rate of these proposals to be over 75 per cent and are hopeful of around 1.08 lakh employment being generated once they are actualized on ground. In total, we expect near guaranteed investments worth over Rs 1.05 lakh crore by March 2020, which is likely to lead to 2.10 lakh-plus employment," he added.

B'desh guards kill BSF man as meet....

From Page 1

Martyred Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh, born in 1968, joined the BSF in 1990 and is survived by two sons. Singh hailed from Chamaroli Sadapur, Sikliwabad under Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

The incident has shocked the BSF as relations between the two forces that guard the 4,096-km long international border have been very cordial and no bullet has been fired between them for decades. Prima facie, the incident seems to be an aberration and efforts are being made to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate further, sources said.

Govt keen to provide all facilities to industries: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State government wants to provide better base for investment of industries and is committed to provide all possible facilities to industries with jobs to ensure inclusive development of the state said Chief Minister Kamal Nath at the Business Leader of Madhya Pradesh programme in the state capital on Thursday.

Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation (NHDC) was awarded with best Public Sector Undertaking (PSU). Chief Minister Kamalnath presented the award to NHDC MD AK Mishra at the event.

Director of IIM Indore Professor Himanshu Rai, Partner and Leader Smart City PWC India SN Murthy, President Madhya Pradesh CII Rathyasharan Goswami selected the winner among 1000 companies in 9 categories based on quantitative and qualitative evaluation.

Brexit deal inked...

From Page 1

However, the new deal continues to hang in the balance as it remains to be seen if Johnson would have the required numbers in Parliament to get it through. He is faced with an open revolt by the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which supports his Conservative Party Government in the Commons.

"We've got a great new deal that takes back control," Johnson tweeted, just before heading to Brussels to join other EU leaders for the crucial summit.

Juncker took to Twitter to say, "Where there is a will, there is a way — we have one! It's a fair and balanced agreement for the EU and the UK and it is testament to our commitment to find solutions."

In a letter recommending the deal to European Council President Donald Tusk, Juncker wrote: "It is high time to complete the withdrawal process and move on, as swiftly as possible, to the negotiation on the European Union's future partnership with the United Kingdom."

Both leaders have urged their respective Parliaments, in the UK and EU, to back the new deal — which is heavily similar to the agreement struck by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May.

The crucial difference lies in the missing controversial backstop, which hard Brexiters had opposed as a threat of being tied to EU rules long after Brexit.

Low margins of victory in Haryana polls

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

In Haryana, the State Assembly polls have witnessed victories with vote margins as low as 0.008 per cent and as high as 64.05 per cent.

The small state of Haryana, which goes to assembly polls on October 21, showcases an interesting trend of electoral contests going right down to the wire and also, witnessing widest victory margins.

The classic case of 'closest election' in Rai assembly constituency (Sonapat district) from where Congress MLA Jai Tirath Dahiya had won by just three votes against his

rival Inderjit Dahiya of Indian National Lok Dal in 2014 assembly polls, still remains fresh in people's mind.

Winning 'by a whisker', Jai Tirath had entered the books of records for lowest margin victory but his election victory became controversial only recently with the Punjab and Haryana High Court declaring his election as 'void'.

Interestingly, the HC verdict came at the fag end of Jai Tirath's term in September when the Election Commission had already declared the October 21 Haryana Assembly polls. The Court had stated, "It has been proved that nine void votes were cast in favour of the returned candidate (Jai

Tirath) and two void votes were cast in favour of the petitioner, Inderjit.

After the deduction of the void votes from their tally, valid votes polled by the returned candidate were 36,694 and the votes polled by the petitioner were 36,698."

Another instance of lowest victory margin in Haryana was witnessed in 1982 assembly polls when the BJP's candidate Bhagmal (20981 votes) had won by just 10 votes against his Congress rival Parbhu Ram (20971 votes) from Sadhaura (SC) assembly seat.

Yet another interesting case is of Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Ramesh, who had defeated his 'namesake'

Ramesh Kumar Rana of Samta Party by just 11 votes on Gharanda assembly constituency in the 1996 assembly elections.

Gharanda assembly seat in the state has an exception of witnessing three election victories with lowest margins in various elections so far. INLD's candidate Rekha Rana had defeated independent Jai Pal Sharma by just 21 votes from the constituency in 2005 assembly polls. Similarly in 1968, Haryana's Gharanda assembly constituency had seen closest contest, with the Bharatiya Jan Sangh's Randhir Singh snatching the seat from Swatantra party's Rulya Ram by just 12 votes.

Two assembly con-

stituencies namely Narnaud and Rohat had recorded the lowest victory margin i.e. 38 votes each in 1991 assembly polls. Congress' Hukam Singh had managed to taste the victory against his rival Janata Party's Mohinder Singh in Rohat assembly constituency while JP's Verender Singh had defeated Congress' Jaswant Singh from Narnaud by 38 votes. In 2009 elections, the lowest victory margin was recorded in Dadri constituency, from where Haryana Janhit Congress's Satpal had defeated his rival Rajdeep of INLD by 145 votes.

While the lowest victory margins clearly outline the importance of every single

vote in the elections, the state has also registered record highest victory margins.

BJP's Umesh Aggarwal, who has been denied ticket to re-contest from Gurgaon assembly constituency had recorded highest ever winning margin of 84095 votes in Haryana assembly polls.

He was polled 106106 votes against his INLD's rival Gopi Chand Gahlot in 2014 assembly elections.

Making his poll debut from Karnal assembly seat in 2014, Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana had registered victory in style by recording second highest victory margin of 63773 votes against an independent candidate Jai Parkash Gupta.

Hooda, Khattar intensify campaign



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

They are the show stoppers for their respective parties BJP and Congress—Manohar Lal Khattar and Bhupinder Singh Hooda—in Haryana and they are leaving nothing to chance as they intensify their campaign ahead of the October 21 elections.

Khattar on Thursday addressed as many as eight rallies starting from 10.20 am to 9.30 pm from various parts of the State including Ateli, Loharu, Kilo, Pundri, Siwan, Kaithal, Asandh and Karnal.

In his rallies, Chief Minister Khattar is focussing on equal development of state without any regional discrimination claiming that even opposition leaders are astonished the way development in Haryana has taken place in the last five years.

that Unemployment is the biggest issue and has increased 10 times to 28 per cent, highest in the country. He says no new industry is coming up and the government is busy in event management.

EQUAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE STATE, SAYS KHATTAR

Chief Minister Khattar, speaking at a Vijay Sankalp Rally in Mahendragarh to support party candidate Sitaram Yadav said that on forming the government in Haryana, all the MLAs of 90 constituencies were asked to make a list of development projects they wish to execute in their areas within a range of Rs five crores. Since, the allocation was made without any discrimination, all the opposition leaders were surprised on the way of working of this government. Even the supporters and volunteers of BJP were surprised because no one had earlier seen this model of development. He said that the policy of development was equal for the people of BJP

as well as for the MLAs of other parties.

Drawing the attention of the gathering towards the performance of his government, Khattar said that in the state there have been governments of many parties including some of the alliance governments, but if the comparison is made in the development of the state these five years would certainly be leaving behind the performance of the previous governments in 48 years. He said that he has changed the meaning of politics altogether. Corruption has been totally removed from the state and the poor man is living a comfortable life in the state.

He said that while the congress party kept shouting slogans of "Garibi Hatao" it actually never worked in this direction. In fact, they should have taken steps to educate the poor so that they can try to explore employment opportunities. He said the government has provided LPG gas in 9 lakhs households. He said in spite of code of conduct being in force at present, still anyone not hav-

ing LPG cylinder in the state can apply and it is assured that the LPG would be provided to him in a matter of 48 hours. He further stepped forward and said that since it is the festival of lights on 27th, if any application of LPG is not taken care of, he will take the official concerned to task on 28th itself.

CM said that there are 300 end points of the water drains that carries the water to fields. Nothing happened in the last 48 years. However, in the rule of BJP the matter was taken on priority and now all these three points are getting water.

He said that his government is committed to provide water and electricity to every field. Comparing the commitment towards social good, Khattar informed the gathering that while the BJP government in Haryana has announced 7900 people centric schemes in its five year tenure, Congress made only 6000 announcements that too in the period of ten years. Regarding actual implementation 80 per cent of all the announcements made reached actual implementation and others to be followed soon.

Accusing the congress party for shattering the education system in the state, CM said that one of the major reasons of the debacle of system was that the teachers were not happy with the transfer policy of the congress government. He said that in Congress regime, any teacher not casting vote to Congress was transferred to some remote area. On the contrary, the BJP government has made necessary changes to the transfer and posting policy in which the basic principle is to

transfer the teachers to the place of their choice. This will make them happy and they will devote much attention to their work, which, in-turn will strengthen the education system.

CM Manoharlal said that the BJP government in state is working in the direction to enhance the income of the farmers to double. He said that if the people of Haryana want to witness the growth of the state continuing in future also, they should vote to BJP only.

HOODA COUNTERS NATIONALISM PITCH OF BJP

Countering BJP's nationalism pitch in the Haryana Assembly polls, former chief minister Hooda says the Congress is the party which secured Independence and it was under its rule that Pakistan split into two. Hooda said the October 21 assembly polls are a direct fight between the Congress and the BJP in the Haryana polls as both the JJP and the INLD have become "irrelevant".

Hooda's remarks dismissing the Jannayak Janta Party and the Indian National Lok Dal as having 'no role' post polls comes after Congress' former Haryana unit president Ashok Tanwar announced his support for Dushyant Chautala-led JJP.

On BJP's claims of getting 75 plus seats in the 90-member assembly, Hooda said, "Hawa palat chuki hai (the wind has changed direction)." The Congress' election management committee chief also asserted that his party would get an "absolute majority" and form the next government.

"There is a wave in favour



of the Congress. Based on the support the party is getting, I believe a Congress government is going to be formed in Haryana," he said.

On BJP aggressively raising the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in the state polls, Hooda said, "As far as Article 370 is concerned, the whole country knows about my views. But it is not an election issue as it has now become a law." It is the law of the land and nobody is opposing it, the two-time chief minister said, adding that there is only one issue now and that is establishing peace in Kashmir.

On the BJP making nationalism and Article 370 its main poll plank, he said, "Congress ke samay mein toh Pakistan ke do tukde ho gaye the (Under the Congress rule, Pakistan split into two). This (Article 370) is not an issue."

"The issues for electing Members of Parliament were different while the issues of these polls are different... local issues are important. The BJP government had made 154

promises, but it has not even fulfilled even one and because of this all sections be it farmers, traders, officials, labourers -- are not happy," the senior Congress leader said.

"Everyone is a nationalist. Who is not a nationalist in this country? My father was a nationalist, my grandfather was a freedom fighter. It was the Congress that secured independence for the country," he said.

When asked if he could be the next chief minister of the state, Hooda evaded a direct answer, saying the aim right now is to form a Congress government.

"In national parties, the sitting chief minister is the face. And in the case of someone who is not the sitting CM, the MLAs and the high command decide. This is true for both the Congress and the BJP," he asserted.

On people at rallies saying he is their CM choice, he remarked that it was "people's sentiments".

Dismissing Tanwar's backing to the JJP, he said a person

who has resigned from the party can go anywhere he wants and support anybody.

The veteran leader also dismissed the "Modi factor" in polls, saying people are talking about the failures of the Haryana government and the achievements of his government between 2005-14. "People will not get diverted, they are intelligent," he asserted. Highlighting the promises made by his party in its manifesto, Hooda said loans of farmers will be waived. Hooda said, "Unemployment is the biggest issue. Unemployment rate that was at 2.8 per cent has increased 10 times to 28 per cent, highest in the country. No new industry is coming up. The government is busy in event management." Hitting out at Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for his remarks against Sonia Gandhi recently, Hooda said a person sitting in a position of responsibility should make responsible comments. Anyone making irresponsible statements should be condemned, he added.

Nitish to lead JD(U)-BJP in Bihar polls, says Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Questions raised by some of the BJP leaders in Bihar recently over the party not taking leadership in the State and playing a second fiddle to the JD(U) were unambiguously set aside by the BJP president Amit Shah, who, on Thursday, affirmed that the JD(U)-BJP alliance would contest Assembly polls together under the leadership of incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.



Shah asserted that their alliance is 'atal' (firm) and that it will fight the Bihar Assembly elections next year under Kumar.

A section of BJP leaders from Bihar pitched for Kumar making way for a BJP leader at the helm in the State. Union Minister Giriraj Singh has been

repeatedly criticising the Bihar Government for its 'inept' handling of water-logging in several parts of Patna following heavy rainfall to which he also received an acid retort from the JD(U) leaders who sought him to mind his own central Ministry.

"The JD(U)-BJP alliance is 'atal'. Both parties will go to the elections together and we will fight under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. This is clear as far as Bihar is concerned," Shah told a news channel.

He was asked if the BJP is considering fighting the State election, slated to be held by the

end of next year, on its own. Shah played down the unease in the alliance, saying it is natural for some differences to crop up at the local level and that this is an indication of a healthy alliance.

"Matbhed" (difference of opinion) has not changed into 'manbhed' (change of heart), he said. JD(U) has been on an uneasy term with the BJP after it opted out from the Modi Government for it not including two of its leaders in the union cabinet and making space for only one cabinet berth for its alliance partner. JD(U) has also not been backing triple taluq bill and objected to the criminalization clause in it. The discord between the two had at one time set off speculations of Kumar again drifting to the opposition camp.

Let 7L jawans spend 100 days with families annually: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed the Central paramilitary forces including CRPF, BSF, ITBP and others to undertake a mega manpower planning and ensure that around 7 lakh jawans get to spend at least 100 days with their families in a year.

Shah was given a presentation last month about the functioning of the Forces in the Ministry, following which he directed that the deployment details of the troops of these forces should be "digitised" so that better manpower rationalisation can be done, officials said.

The Union Home Ministry has now asked all the Directors General of the Forces to undertake the exercise and implement a regime where a jawan or a con-

stable gets to stay with his family for about 100 days, they said.

The directive, when implemented, will ensure that the jawans will be posted to their nearest units and they can travel and stay with their families when there are no operational exigencies, an official said.

The forces' chiefs have been asked to assess and prepare reports of their additional manpower so that the overall deployment of a paramilitary unit is not affected. Unlike the paper file format, digitized data will make force headquarters' job easier to rotate

and deploy their troops.

The digital format will also help in ensuring that a large grievance of personnel regarding their transfer and posting to a place near to their parents or family home will be addressed up to a limit, he said.

The forces have been given a deadline of two months to implement the directive.

According to reports, an average jawan spends 75 days with his family in the BSF. Similar situation prevails in other forces due to lack of reserve component and continuous deployment. Lack of family connect has been attributed to one of the many reasons putting the jawans under stress. Stressed out jawans also, at times, tend to indulge in fratricidal incidents even leading to casualties.

The move will give a significant relief to the jawans.

Fadnavis Govt fulfilled over 96% poll promises, claims BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Devendra Fadnavis Government in Maharashtra has "fulfilled over 96 per cent of the promises" made by the party in its 2014 Assembly elections manifesto, the BJP claimed on Thursday asserting that good Governance has been the cornerstone of the ruling dispensation.

Releasing a report by the Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC), which analysed implementation of the BJP's 2014 assembly elections manifesto, days before the polling in the state, BJP vice-president Vinay Sahasrabudhe said the BJP-led government gave the State stability which created an environment for unleashing the economic transformation.

INSHORT

RAHUL ACCUSES MODI OF SELLING PSUs



New Delhi: Using the moniker 'BechendraModi', Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that he is sharing the "spoils" of PSUs with his "suit-boot" friends. He posted a cartoon of the Prime Minister 'selling' Air India, BPL and India. "#BechendraModi" is sharing spoils (bandar baant) of PSUs with his suit-boot friends. The PSUs (public sector undertakings) were set up by the country after years of hard work," he said in a tweet in Hindi, using 'Bechendra' as a play on the Hindi word 'bechna' or selling.

IAF EXERCISES WITH OMANI AIR FORCE

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in a 10-day bilateral exercise with its Omani counterpart at the Air Force base Masirah on Thursday, the IAF said. The IAF contingent comprises MIG-29 fighter jet and C-17 transport aircraft. It is for the first time that the MIG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an international exercise outside India. MIG-29 will be exercising from October 17 to 26 with Royal Air Force Oman's Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and Hawk.

SC TO HEAR JAYPEE GROUP'S APPEAL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday said it would first hear the appeal of Jaypee Group against the NCLAT order that barred it from participating in the auction of its debt-ridden group firm, Jaypee Infratech Ltd (JIL). The bench, comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari, said it would deal later with the revised proposal of state-owned NBCC to complete the stalled projects of debt-laden Jaypee Group to address the grievances of thousands of harassed homebuyers.

Cut road construction costs: Road Ministry to NHA

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of funds crunch hitting major road projects, the Road Ministry has asked the Central road making agency NHA (National Highways Authority of India) to explore reducing the road infrastructure construction costs through new technology and innovative means in a bid to make projects financially viable.

The moves comes after Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in a review meeting last week suggested the Ministry and NHA officials to ponder over the idea of rationalising the construction costs.

According to official sources, in an effort to boost the morale of officials involved in highway constructions, Gadkari conveyed them to focus on delivering projects rather than getting stuck in procedures.

In the current fiscal, NHA has set a target of constructing 4,200 kms of roads and awarding projects of cumulative 6,000 kms. The Ministry has projected a revenue deficit of over ₹37,000 crore to the finance ministry.

According to the Ministry, per-kilometre cost of developing a two-lane highway was between ₹11-12 crore, while four-lane highway was around ₹30 crore per km till three years ago and this costing has cumulatively gone up by 30 per cent.

"The Minister assured us (officers) there is no dearth of funds for projects, and even long-term financial institutions are willing to lend to the authority and don't get demotivated by baseless rumours with no substance. He (Gadkari) shared that that PMO is in full cooperation and that they want delivery," said the official.

The PMO in August this year had questioned the

Gadkari led Ministry for unplanned and excessive expansion of roads by declaring state highways as national highways which ultimately impacted the central exchequer.

Ministry sources said NHA has initiated discussions with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for research and development to bring down the cost of road construction with improved quality.

IITs will do a comprehensive study on the alternative environment friendly methods for road and highway constructions and simultaneously maintaining the quality. In the last couple of years construction cost has increased by almost 30 percent by the given materials, substances and methods in practice now.

To keep up with the pace of highway development of 40 km a day the road Ministry sources said that projects spread across 10 states will now come up on the public-private partnership (PPP)

model on build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis. The stretches have been selected after consultations with bidders in States including Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

This exercise is NHA's attempt at reviving the BOT model of construction. Under BOT, private players build, operate and maintain the road for a specified period of time before transferring the asset back to the Government. In the case of HAM, the central Government bears 40 per cent of the project cost and the remaining amount is arranged by the developer.

The Centre has made fund allocation to NHA for works under the Bharatmala Project and the money will come from the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), Permanent Bridges Fee Fund (PBBF) and Monetisation of National Highways Fund (MNHFF).

Action sought against Dhavan for tearing Ayodhya map

New Delhi: A Hindu party Thursday sought action from the Bar Council against senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing Muslim litigants in the Ayodhya case, for his 'highly unethical act' of tearing the pictorial map purportedly showing the birthplace of Lord Ram during the Supreme Court hearing on Wednesday.

One of the factions of the All India Hindu Mahasabha (AIHM) wrote to the Bar Council of India condemning Dhavan's action on the concluding day of the 40-day hearing in the Ram-Jambhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case before a 5-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi. PTI

INX MEDIA CASE Trial court sends PC to 7 days ED custody

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The trial court on Thursday sent former Finance Minister P Chidambaram to seven days of custody of Enforcement Directorate in the INX Media bribery case. This visibly upset Chidambaram, who would have to spend the time in the Tughlak Road police station lock-up room during the ED's custody as the agency has no custody room facilities. Chidambaram thus sought air conditioning facility and even requested that he be sent to CBI's custody room.

The Special Court Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar, however, rejected the demand and approved other requests like provision of home-cooked food, western toilet and medicine etc to the former Finance Minister who has to be in the ED's custody till October 24.

Arguing for Chidambaram, noted lawyer

Kapil Sibal accused ED and the Government for cleverly timing up the ED arrest to settle political vendetta. He said that ED even told the court that they don't want to arrest Chidambaram few weeks back when former Finance Minister filed a surrender application.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta countered that the accused person doesn't decide the timings of the investigating agencies. He said that ED's case is different from CBI and the agency was preparing to get some statements from crucial witnesses to confront Chidambaram regarding the money laundering.

Mehta objected to Chidambaram's demand for air conditioning facility in ED custody and said that they should provide all security and has no objection in allowing home cooked food and meeting of family members.

Govt banks on researchers to end malaria by 2030

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Faced with an ambitious target to end malaria by 2030, the Union Health Ministry is looking towards researchers to help address gaps and challenges to tackle the vector-borne disease.

For instance, it has asked the researchers to conduct studies on the changing behaviour of mosquito vectors such as feeding and resting behaviour, to find out frequency and level of vector resistance to the insecticides that are in use for malaria vector control in high risk and residual transmission areas.

According to the Government, a total of 842,095 cases and 104 deaths were reported in 2017. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) in its 2017 Global Report has put the estimation at 13.1 million cases and 23,990 malarial deaths in India for the same year.

In fact, as per the WHO, in 2017, five countries accounted for nearly half of all malaria cases worldwide: Nigeria (25 per cent), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 per cent), Mozambique (5 per cent) and India and Uganada (4 per cent each). India is high-



ly endemic to malaria and shoulders the burden of two major malaria parasites, Plasmodium falciparum and P. vivax.

A senior official from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said that a programme has been launched with an aim to bring the various stakeholders on a single platform to identify and prioritise research work needed to meet the target to eliminate the disease by 2030.

Called Malaria Elimination Research Alliance India (MERA India), the programme took off on April 24 under which various innovative stud-

ies and tools are being sought to take the vector headon.

As the emergence and spread of drug and insecticide resistance is undermining the efficacy of existing tools, the ICMR is seeking new improved tools and approaches for disease surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and tackle the vector. Proposals have been sought to conduct studies to assess and quantify outdoor/residual transmission by vectors that feed outdoors or biting early in the evening or are resistant to insecticides.

Also, the researchers have been asked to look into socio-cultural behavior of the human

population residing permanently or temporarily in forest ecosystem in relation to malaria transmission and vector control interventions.

Studies on community behavior, accessibility and utilization of current vector control operations under the national programme, including study of logistic supply chain.

The ICMR is also looking towards development and testing of new insecticides and formulations to increase efficacy of sprays/LLIN/larviciding assessment of feasibility and cost effectiveness of new vector control strategies/products that are at the development stage.

Also, field testing of novel tools such as toxic sugar-baited traps, endectocides, and targeted larviciding has been proposed for interrupting residual (outdoor) transmission or reducing the receptivity.

According to the Ministry, nearly 70 per cent malaria cases in India are contributed by five of 36 States and Union Territories. These include Odisha (36 per cent), Chhattisgarh (12 per cent), Jharkhand (9 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (9 per cent) and Maharashtra (5 per cent).

Collegium recommends transfer of Patna High Court judge

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the transfer of Patna High Court judge Rakesh Kumar, who had recently courted controversy following his stinging observations over alleged corruption in the judiciary, to the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The Collegium has also recommended transfer of Patna High Court Chief Justice A P Sahi to the Madras High Court as its chief justice.

The apex court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, held a meeting this week and decided to recommend the transfer of chief justice Sahi and justice Kumar.

"The Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on October 15, 2019, has decided to recommend transfer of Justice Rakesh Kumar, Judge, Patna High Court to Andhra Pradesh High Court," a statement uploaded on the apex court website said.

Justice Kumar had made stinging observation over the alleged corruption in judiciary

and had ordered a CBI probe and an inquiry by the Patna district judge into how a former IAS officer, whom he had denied anticipatory bail in a corruption case last year, was granted regular bail by a trial court.

Justice Kumar had also directed that copies of his August 28 order be sent to the Chief Justice of India, the apex court Collegium and the Prime Minister's Office besides the Union Law Ministry.

Later, a full bench of the Patna High Court, headed by Chief Justice A P Sahi, had set aside Justice Kumar's order, terming it as an instance of judicial and administrative overreach and a complete nullity.

Justice Kumar was divested of his judicial work by the high court administration on the day he had passed the order. However, a day later his judicial work was restored by a special 11-judge bench. PTI

Collegium recommends names for elevation as CJs of Jharkhand, Meghalaya HCs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of two high court judges — Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice Mohammad Rafiq — as the chief justices of the Jharkhand and Meghalaya High Courts respectively.

While Justice Ranjan is a sitting judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Rafiq is posted at the Rajasthan High Court.

The apex court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, decided this in its meeting held on October 15, a statement uploaded on the top court website said.

The Collegium also recommended transfer of Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice A K Mittal to the Madhya Pradesh High Court as its chief justice.

It had earlier recommended that Justice Mittal be transferred to the Madras High Court as chief justice. PTI

His name was recommended to replace the then Chief Justice of Madras High Court V K Tahilramani, who was transferred to the Meghalaya High Court. However, she refused to go there and tendered her resignation which was accepted.

The Collegium has also recommended the transfer of Tripura High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Karol to Patna High Court as its chief justice.

The Collegium also approved the proposal for elevation of advocates Moksha Kazmi (Khajuria) and Rajnesh Oswal as judges of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court.

It also approved the proposal for elevation of judicial officers — Parthiviyoti Saikia and S Hukot Swu — and advocate Soumitra Saikia as judges of the Gauhati High Court.

It approved the proposal for elevation of judicial officer Wanlura Diengdoh as a judge of the Meghalaya High Court. PTI

PG medical students may have to serve in district hospitals to be eligible to appear in final exam

New Delhi: All postgraduate medical students will have to serve in district hospitals for at least three months in order to be eligible to appear in the final exam, the Board of Governors (BoG), vested with the powers of the Medical Council of India (MCI), has proposed.

Currently, students pursuing undergraduate medical courses are attached to primary health centres or urban health centres for three months as part of a compulsory rotating internship.

The BoG has written to the Health Ministry to develop guidelines for implementation of the proposal for postgraduate students in partnership with it and the state governments. It has also sought that this provision comes into force from the next academic session.

"The move is aimed at providing practical experience to future specialists in real-life setting of the country's public health system. Also, this will help address shortage of specialist doctors in district hospitals of rural and remote areas, and help strengthen services at such hospitals," a senior Government official said.

The note sent to the Union Health Ministry said all postgraduate students shall undertake a rotation in designated district hospitals/health system for a period of three months as a part of the course curriculum.

For postgraduate students of community medicine, the requirement can be posting at primary health centres and field experience in addition to activities at the district hospital.

"Satisfactory completion of this rotation shall be an essential condition before the candidate is allowed to appear in the final examination of the respective postgraduate course. The Ministry of Health is requested to develop guidelines for the scheme in partnership with the State Government and BoG in three months," it read.

For the purpose of the proposed programme, a district hospital will be defined broadly as a functional public sector or publicly-funded hospital of about 200 beds or more, with facilities for specified specialties, designated by the Centre or State Governments.

Medical colleges, both government as well as private, will place their post-graduates at the disposal of the government for rotation/posting for the duration of the course. PTI

Pakistan sent two F-16 fighter planes last month to intercept SpiceJet flight to Kabul

New Delhi: Pakistan last month scrambled two F-16 jets in its airspace to intercept a SpiceJet plane, assuming it to be a military aircraft, which was heading to Kabul from Delhi with around 120 passengers, a senior Government official said.

The incident came in the backdrop of tension between India and Pakistan that had escalated after the Indian Government revoked Jammu & Kashmir's special status on August 5 and bifurcated it into union territories.

"On the morning of September 23, the SpiceJet flight SG 21 left Delhi airport and was going through Pakistan's airspace to Kabul. Pakistan scrambled two F-16 planes and intercepted the flight mid-air," said the official.



The SpiceJet pilot was asked by F-16 pilots to lower the altitude and give flight details, the official added.

Another senior Government official said, "On September 23, Pakistan assumed that the SpiceJet flight, which had around 120 passengers, is an Indian Air Force plane. Once Pakistan realised that it is commercial flight, the F-16s escorted the SpiceJet plane till the Afghanistan airspace."

"There was some mix up at the end of Pakistan's Air Traffic Control (ATC)," the second official added. SpiceJet did not respond to the query sent by PTI on this matter.

Pakistan had fully closed its airspace on February 26 after the Indian Air Force (IAF) struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot in retaliation to the Pulwama attack on February 14 and fully opened it for all civilian traffic on July 16. PTI

India asks Pak not to levy \$20 fee on Kartarpur pilgrims

New Delhi: India on Thursday asked Pakistan not to insist on levying a fee of USD 20 per Indian pilgrim and hoped that an agreement to operationalise the Kartarpur corridor will be inked soon between the two countries.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said both India and Pakistan reached an agreement on the matter of the service fee.

"After several rounds of discussion with Pakistan, we have reached an agreement on all other issues, except the matter of service fee. Pakistan insists on levying a fee of USD 20 (approx. ₹1420) on all pil-

grims," he said. Kumar said India has urged Pakistan not to levy the fee in the interests of devotees, and also because the opening of the corridor is a people-to-people initiative.

"We hope that the agreement can be concluded and signed in time for the great event," said Kumar.

Pakistan has been insisting on levying the service fee of USD 20 per pilgrim to meet the operational costs of the corridor linking the historic Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district in Punjab. PTI

PAPER WITH PASSION

Ayodhya closure

The issue can hardly churn up emotions the way it did in the 1990s. Now that it has been flogged enough, what next?



A context effect is an aspect of cognitive psychology that describes the influence of environmental factors on one's perception of a stimulus. That's exactly what has happened in the Ram-Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid tussle at Ayodhya. At one time, it embodied the beginning of identity politics, the accommodative Hindu *versus* the appeased Muslim swiftly turning into a disparate equation based on denial for a new narrative. Therefore, the "rightist" Hindu wanted a historical revision of being the original claimants

of civilisational land, in this case the birthplace of one who defined the ultimate ethics of being human and behavioural propriety, *Maryada Purushottam*, or Lord Ram. One that had been ordained by faith than historical evidence and the mysticism of which, many felt, should override every human construct and degradation, in this case a mosque built in the Mughal era of Babar. That thought process, claimed by the BJP, posited itself against the liberal-secular matrix of the time as a bequeathed colonial legacy. It codified nationalism or *Bharatiyata* for a generation that was far removed from the freedom struggle and was fast finding its feet in a globalised world. What it also did was separate Hinduism, the philosophy, from Hindutva, the practice of it. That has come full circle and now that the BJP has got a mammoth verdict, it has legitimised the majoritarian discourse. To that extent, there is a general acceptance of the reality of the temple. Even residents of Ayodhya are tired of being circumscribed by a political context that doesn't help their aspirations and are accepting of any solution, so long as there is closure. With jobs and education on their mind, an entire generation, be it Hindu or Muslim, born under the shadow of the dispute is ready to cast away a beast of burden. This changed perspective then has dulled much of the appeal of Ayodhya.

Of course, the Supreme Court must be appreciated for stripping down the complexity of religiosity to the titular nature of land ownership and attempting a mediation. The three main parties — the Nirmohi Akhara, Ram Lala Virajman and the Sunni Waqf Board — have presented their points of view. Nirmohi Akhara lays its claim by virtue of being servitors of Lord Ram for generations while the Sunni Waqf Board has based its case on the fact that the Babri Masjid stood till 1992. Yet some of its members have reportedly softened up to settle for an alternative mosque, a counter assurance that no other mosque will be touched and that ASI would restore other mosques in the area. Ram Lala, who became a legal party in the title suit only in 1989 when former Allahabad High Court judge Deoki Nandan Agrawal moved the High Court, claimed the entire birthplace as divinity reincarnate. So, now the court has to sift through issues like memory, continuity, belief systems, tradition and historical evidence, howsoever little of the last. But weighing abstractions and perceptions may be an extremely delicate matter. The Ram Mandir was an emotionally galvanising force that had got the Sangh Parivar close to claiming political power through the BJP. And though the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era, by virtue of its coalition pressures, demanded pragmatism in governance, the current Narendra Modi regime has no such reason to compromise. There are also expectations of it to translate ideological reverence into action, considering it has to justify the core of its being, the committed Sangh Parivar cadres. The party brass is hoping it will at least be seen as attempting a closure within legal perimeters, even if not entirely successful. Perhaps, Modi is in a rush to foreground Hindutva concerns like abrogation of Article 370, Ram temple, immigrants and uniform civil code so that they do not remain irritants to his definition of the Hindu Rashtra and by implication development. That itself is fraught with grave challenges as without sales pitches and illusionary diversions, he will have to now walk the talk on real issues. Modi's bigger concern is the electorate which feels betrayed on livelihood and comprises the poor, both rural and urban, and the middle classes. That job is tougher if indeed the BJP pursues the idea of Ram Rajya. For Lord Ram willingly sacrificed Ayodhya's throne for harmony in the kingdom, avoided any criticism and stood firm on his principles. He also gave back Lankans their land after the war with Ravana. Yet the Ayodhya dispute has only entrenched divisiveness in the country. Perceived justice over historical injustice may not be walking in his path.

Still too hungry

India has slipped from the 95th to the 102nd rank behind neighbours on a global index of nutrition



Digest this! According to estimates by the United Nations Development Programme, nearly 40 per cent of the food produced in India is wasted or lost and this costs the country one lakh crore rupees every year. And, yet, according to the Global Hunger Index (GHI), that measures the level of hunger and under-nutrition worldwide, India has slipped from the 95th rank in 2010 to the 102nd in 2019, behind its neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The four indicators for the index are undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality. Alarmingly over one in every five children in India is "wasted" (low weight for height), the highest for any country. This damning report is full of irony as from being an importer of food in the 1960s, when India had to rely on shipments from the US, today the country has become the largest exporter of rice in the world. We are the second-largest producer of both rice and wheat. Between 2012 and 2015, three years, India exported 63 million tonnes of grains. Besides, now we have a smart buffering capacity to deal with shortages and crisis. Why then are we slipping on hunger targets?

First, we need to adopt better strategies for storage and avoid rotting. Latest data shows 4,135,224 metric tonnes of foodgrains were wasted. We could learn from advance food strategies of China, which has invested in state-of-the-art storage facilities. We need to curb food wastage at every level, right from harvesting, transporting, processing, packaging to consuming that is caused due to the loopholes in the transport and infrastructure system. Plus, we have the archaic public distribution system to blame for the inadequate and patchy supplies. Many times, even those who are the right candidates for the food subsidy are excluded on the basis of differential BPL (Below Poverty Line) status as the criteria for identifying a household is arbitrary and varies from State to State. Undoubtedly, several nutrition schemes are in operation but aren't properly implemented. For instance, in Bihar and Odisha, where the poverty ratio is very high, poor implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme has a major impact on food security. After 2024 we will have the largest population on this planet. The average household spends 40 to 45 per cent of its budget on food. So, for the next 30 years, the demand for food will spiral. If nothing is done at the policy level in terms of coordination and rationalisation, we will continue to hang our heads in shame and never be able to shed the tag of a nation with starving millions.

ing, child wasting and child mortality. Alarmingly over one in every five children in India is "wasted" (low weight for height), the highest for any country. This damning report is full of irony as from being an importer of food in the 1960s, when India had to rely on shipments from the US, today the country has become the largest exporter of rice in the world. We are the second-largest producer of both rice and wheat. Between 2012 and 2015, three years, India exported 63 million tonnes of grains. Besides, now we have a smart buffering capacity to deal with shortages and crisis. Why then are we slipping on hunger targets?

Who is an Indian?

Ghulam Dastagir, who saved hundreds of lives during the Bhopal gas tragedy, and Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee are true Indians who continue to inspire us



AJOY KUMAR

One of my favourite ways to travel around the country is to board a train. Unfortunately, due to pressing engagements and the urgency of modern life, I have not been able to take as much advantage as I would want of this uniquely Indian way of travelling. There's something quintessentially Indian about taking the train, getting to know the fellow passengers and chatting with them over a cup of tea as they head to their respective destinations. While writing these lines, there is a vivid image in my mind of one such journey I made and I'm certain, a similar image must have appeared in the minds of the readers, too.

An interesting aspect of train travel is the diversity on display during the journey. One gets to hear of so many languages, accents, smell a variety of food and absorb different perspectives. Once, it got me thinking about what it means to be an Indian.

Unlike other nations like Pakistan, India is not defined by a particular religion. Some may argue that being a Hindu-majority country, an Indian's identity is primarily driven by this majoritarian outlook. Such an argument does not hold ground because not only does India contain a multiplicity of religions but significantly also a multiplicity of castes. Therefore, a Brahmin Hindu (approximately five per cent of the Hindu community) can hardly claim to represent all Hindus. It's the same with languages as well.

The recent debate about Hindi becoming a "national" language does not hold water because of the variety of languages spoken in our country. If you do not believe me, just ask a Maharashtrian or a Tamilian about how they feel about "Hindi" being a national language. The truth really is that "Indian identity is forged in diversity and everyone of us is a minority", as Congress leader Shashi Tharoor put it eloquently.

But this still doesn't explain what it means to be an Indian. The story of Ghulam Dastagir, however, does. Dastagir was the deputy station superintendent on duty at the Bhopal Railway station on December 2, 1984 — the day when the Bhopal gas tragedy took place. By midnight, the railway station, which was extremely close to the Union Carbide plant, was filled with poisonous gases that killed everything in its path.

On that fateful night, the brave deputy station master stepped on the platform with itchy feeling in the throat and a burning sensation in his eyes. Immediately, he knew something was wrong. Unaware that 23 of his colleagues had already succumbed to the gas leak, he tried to get clarity on what was happening and sought further instructions.



With none forthcoming, Dastagir took matters into his own hands and informed his superiors to suspend all trains that were headed to Bhopal. He then summoned his staff. While he was barely able to stand or breathe and against all protocol, he directed his staff to clear the Gorakhpur train for departure even though 25 minutes were left for it to roll out. He assured his staff that he would take full responsibility for any blowback that may follow.

In doing so, Dastagir saved hundreds of lives. He did not, however, stop here. As terror spread across Bhopal, large crowds of the affected population descended on to the station in an attempt to escape the gas chamber. Dastagir went from platform to platform, attending to and consoling victims and sent an SOS to all nearby railway stations to send ambulances and doctors.

He himself suffered terribly due to the gas leaks. He died in 2003 and a large part of his life was spent in the hospital due to exposure to toxic fumes. He also lost his son in the tragedy. However, through his bravery and courage, he

ensured that hundreds of fathers didn't suffer the same fate as he did.

Dastagir was a true Indian. In such moments, we forget about which religion a person belongs to, which caste he was born into or which language he speaks. All that we care about and all that we remember is the great sacrifice of an Indian brother. In reality, this is what it means to be an Indian. It means recognising that at the time of independence, we promised ourselves and our future generations that we would set aside all that divides, to forge a better India. The poignant story of Dastagir reminds us of this core value.

Another value that forms the core of being an Indian is the respect and admiration for knowledge. This is evident from the fact that whenever a book falls down to the ground, we almost unknowingly touch it to our forehead as a sign of respect. It is this core value that has enabled India to be blessed with brilliant minds. We have had leaders in the field of mathematics, literature, technology and philosophy among others and I believe that one of the prima-

ry reasons for our intellectual prowess is the manner in which our culture respects knowledge and the pursuit of the same.

The most recent example is that of Indian-origin economist Abhijit Banerjee, one of the winners of the Nobel Prize for economics. His win adds to a very rich list of Indian luminaries.

Sadly, however, some of our leaders attempt to replace these values with those that are antithetical to Indian core values. We are told now to focus on our differences rather than strengths and our leaders repeatedly show disdain for knowledge with an affinity for dogma. This is not the idea of India we cherish and it is not what it means to be an Indian.

I imagine most of us swell with pride when we recount the story of Dastagir or when we talk about the contributions made by Banerjee to the field of economics. We must ensure that we retain our core values and try to inspire similar pride in others. After all, that's what it means to be an Indian.

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

“ WE ARE TOLD TO FOCUS ON OUR DIFFERENCES RATHER THAN STRENGTHS AND OUR LEADERS REPEATEDLY SHOW DISDAIN FOR KNOWLEDGE WITH AN AFFINITY FOR DOGMA. THIS IS NOT THE IDEA OF INDIA WE CHERISH AND IT IS NOT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN INDIAN ”

SOUNDBITE

Both, me and Kantilal Bhuria have reached an age where we should retire. The time has come for youngsters to come forward.



Senior Congress leader — Digvijaya Singh

I am proud that whether it's Farhan's first film *Dil Chahata Hai* or Zoya's first, they don't have any reflection of my poetry. They are their own voices.



Screenwriter — Javed Akhtar

We've got a great new deal that takes back control. Now, Parliament should get Brexit done so that we can move on to other priorities.



UK Prime Minister — Boris Johnson

Parliament of India will not allow malicious efforts to succeed. We expect better from parliamentarians than vituperative mudslinging.



Congress leader — Shashi Tharoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bridge the gap

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Bangla pride" (October 15). The Nobel Prize for Economics awarded to Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, his French-American wife Esther Dufflo and Michael Kremer for "their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty" underlines the renewed concern over global poverty and ways to alleviate it. The husband and wife have spent considerable time studying various poverty alleviation programmes. Welcome as much this is, we will perennially regret the decision of the wise men to deny a Nobel prize to the Mahatma despite the fact that he was nominated thrice.

We revel in the general feeling of happiness among Indians that one of them, albeit with an American passport, is a Nobel laureate yet again. Indians are competent to excel in any field but for that, a conducive environment is required, which unfortunately is not available in our universities. It is a sad fact that needs serious introspection by our politicians, academicians and policy makers.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Ganguly has an onerous task at hand

This refers to the editorial, "Bangla pride" (October 15). Sourav Ganguly is described as a good cricketer tactician. His experience on the cricket field — as a batsman who played the game fearlessly and as a captain who groomed many a talent — has made him a legend. His aura can be gauged from the love and respect he commanded both on and off the field. Given his talent to spot and groom cricketers, his elevation as the head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) bodes well for Indian cricket. Though his tenure is short, he can work wonders even in the 10 months he has at hand.

Ganguly's election has come at a crucial time when the BCCI's functioning needs to be streamlined. The cricket body has been hit by scandals, infighting and shortsightedness. Consolidation of affairs is what is required. The issue of "conflict of interest" has become a stick to ridicule and browbeat some famed cricketers. Imagine a man like Rahul Dravid being asked to quit his job at India Cements to retain the junior head coach post. What and what not constitutes a job for profit must be defined clearly. However, bringing in the much-required "trans-



parency" and "accountability" into the daily functioning of the BCCI must be Ganguly's priority. One hopes only professionals occupy the BCCI top post. Most importantly, Dada, as he is fondly referred to, has an onerous task of taking all stakeholders — players, coaches, State-level bodies and administrators — together.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

sector can go up, too, by retrieving unaccounted money through the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, whereby those declaring may be asked to invest 50 per cent of the amount in other long-term infrastructural bonds with nominal interest to be issued by public sector undertakings like the IRCTC.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Poll rhetoric

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement at an election rally that India will not allow its water to flow to Pakistan and instead put it to use here is yet another example of empty "poll promise." The Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan makes it clear that the former is bound to release water to the latter. It is strange that the Prime Minister raised an emotive issue just for votes, to the extent of showing no respect to existing bilateral agreements.

Swadha
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

IRCTC's market debut

Sir — The great success of IRCTC, where its shares doubled overnight, calls for the issuance of long-term bonds by it to set up large-scale production units in every district of the country

for packaged water, confectionery items and other food products to replace cooked meal in trains and schools, where complaints of sub-standard food in unhygienic conditions are quite common.

The setting up of such big units in large numbers by IRCTC

with the help of long-term bonds will provide huge employment in the public sector, apart from giving sizeable profits to the public exchequer. Products can be sold in the open market so as to ensure that private players bring down their prices.

Employment in the public

FIRST COLUMN

Time for some 'Freakonomics'

Would tweaking a few procedures actually help the country's economy recover? Maybe the answer lies in field trials



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have cut down India's growth forecasts to six per cent for the fiscal year 2019-20, from nearly seven per cent, riding on a weakening domestic demand. Industrial growth shrank 1.1 per cent in August, after a gap of 26 months, reinforcing fears of a slowing economy and deteriorating consumer sentiment. Industrial production, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had grown 4.8 per cent in August last year. Data released by the statistics office showed the April-August factory output growth at 2.4 per cent, well below the 5.3 per cent for the same period in the last fiscal. These numbers paint a rather grim picture of a long winter ahead for the economy of the country. So, is it time to use Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT) to test and/or tweak policies in select pockets to bring out better results?

For the uninitiated, RCTs are most commonly used in the field of medicine to check the impact of a particular chemical concoction on a randomly chosen group of patients with a condition. Two or three sets are "administered" or "not administered" different variations of the drug to see the beneficiary impact on health.

Coming from the creative soil of Kolkata, Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee chose to apply a similar model for solving big picture issues at the ground level. The economist and his co-awardees, through their trials, studies and experiments, argue that it is possible to arrive at optimal policy solutions based on empirical evidence, having tested their variables in controlled trials on a small target. This means breaking down macro problems such as poverty, malnutrition or an economic slowdown into smaller packets. Then pockets of focus target groups are subjected to policy trials, allowing faster results and direct solutions. It seems to be opening a host of possibilities for lawmakers and policy formulators, not to forget those who have to implement them.

Coming back to the deepening economic slowdown issues — if we consider this to be the real challenge for India in the short term — it would, with the will of the policy-makers, be possible to allow some controlled trials on select groups for a short period. This would be a test case for boosting demand in the particular micro-pocket of the economy. For example, if the Government wants to increase rural offtake for houses and two-wheelers or even four-wheelers, it can (at least in theory) offer a cashback/interest-free limited equated monthly installment (EMI) or an insurance free, with every loan sanctioned at the much talked about Loan Mela.

A particular pocket can be subjected to this or a variation (either all of the options or some) loan mela bonanza during the festival season, while the other can have plain vanilla bank offers meant for this region and sub-group of customers. The results emerging from this limited trial can throw some long-term solutions to tackling ghosting small-time borrowers and impacting or predicting consumption behaviour. Who knows, some far-reaching insights on the impact of demonetisation and the digital economy can also be found in the side alleys? Yes, it needs an economic scientist to honey-comb tons of data on consumer behaviour, have a clarity of thought and principle to arrive at effective solutions, before being put across the bureaucrat's desk to be formulated into a meaningful macro policy document.

Herein lies the critique of the now Nobel-awarded proof of breaking big problems into smaller, manageable questions and solving parts, for the "whole matrix", in short, RCT.

The first being that such experiments reduce the scope of economic uncertainties by eliminating the possibility of manual selection. The second and perhaps more apt (if we were to look at the problem of the economic slowdown) is that small interventions and policy tweaks or a bit of additional benefits with a loan may increase offtake in the short-term and also perk up consumption. But it hasn't been proven to be of benefit for the larger economy. Perhaps the impact of a large population could be disastrous, which may delay consumption, for want of a better sop or cashback (if you will). Also the question of whether this will ultimately lead to overall prosperity and not really impact the macro monetary decisions of the Government will need hard thinking.

Now, with all this "Freakonomics" possibilities, we jump back to the consumption economy which is fast becoming a Domsday prediction coming true. The Government is seen taking widespread reforms (not randomised) agenda, giving tax sops and announcing sectoral booster packages but the consumer is reluctant. Is it time for senior policy makers to actually start doing the rounds of the country to see the impact of the fiscal reforms on the ground? Would tweaking a few procedures actually help the economy recover? Maybe the answer lies in field trials.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS DID NOT HAVE A WORST PHASE THAN WHEN THE COMBINATION OF SINGH AND RAJAN, AS PM AND RBI GOVERNOR, HAD.

—FINANCE MINISTER
 NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



THE GOVERNMENT IS OBSESSED WITH TRYING TO BLAME ITS OPPONENTS, THUS IT IS UNABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR REVIVAL OF THE ECONOMY.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER
 MANMOHAN SINGH

A stirred and shaken India

By pursuing an ultra-nationalist agenda, Modi has validated the two-nation theory that formed the rationale of dividing British India to create Pakistan as a Muslim homeland



BZ KHASRU

Colonial India's Muslim leaders shivered at the thought of being perpetually controlled by Hindus in a united India once the British left the country, unless there were safeguards enshrined in the Constitution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proven them right. By pursuing a populist ultra-nationalist agenda, he has unwittingly validated the much-maligned "two-nation" theory that formed the rationale behind dividing British India to create Pakistan as a Muslim homeland.

His policy pits Hindus against Muslims, an unfortunate schism that all of his predecessors fought against. Seven decades after the blood-soaked Partition, hyper-nationalist Modi won a landslide re-election victory in May, donning the saffron-coloured garb of Hindu gurus and allowing divisiveness based on Islamophobia.

His crown is made of two emotion-filled explosive elements: Kashmir and migration, both having a common thread of bias and suspicion against Muslims. They have roots in the century-old vision of Hindutva, or Hinduness, outlined in the 1920s by VD Savarkar, a violent revolutionary-turned-ultra-nationalist. Savarkar, a British-trained lawyer and avowed atheist, espoused several ideas to deal with India's minorities, mimicking Adolf Hitler's racist solution to Germany's Jewish question.

Since his re-election, Modi's administration has aggressively moved on both Kashmir and the alleged illegal migration from Bangladesh, which is India's most friendly neighbour. In early August, keeping local leaders in detention and deploying nearly a million security personnel in Kashmir, it abolished a decades-old law that granted Kashmiris special rights — their own flag, own laws and land rights. Meanwhile, India's Home Minister Amit Shah, who heads Modi's nationalist BJP and is widely expected to succeed him as Prime Minister, is pressing ahead with his agenda to deport fictitious 40 million illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

Clash over Muslim migrants: This idea has provoked a sharp backlash from Bangladesh. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has dismissed the BJP's assertion, noting that Bangladesh's economy is at par with India's, so no one from his country's stays illegally in India. Still the matter turned acrimonious enough during Shah-Khan talks in Delhi in August to prevent them from issuing a customary joint statement.

India, nevertheless, seems determined to push ahead its agenda. It has started a campaign to round up Muslims unless they can prove they have lived in India way before 1971 when Bangladesh was created. They will be put in concentration camps, which ironically the migrants themselves are building now.

Of India's 1.3 billion people, 14 per cent are Muslim. Modi's party does not target migrant Bangladeshi Hindus, classifying them as refugees and minorities from neighbouring countries. But it seeks to deport Muslims. In fact, India has already deported Rohingya Muslim refugees to Myanmar and detained hundreds of them. Modi faced global criticism for the Godhra massacre in 2002 in his home State of Gujarat. He ruled Gujarat for 13 years before becoming Prime Minister in 2014.

What is most disturbing in this government's



FOLLOWING HIS RE-ELECTION, THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS, WHICH VERIFIES CITIZENSHIP, AFTER SEVERAL FLAWED COUNTS, HAS CLASSIFIED NEARLY TWO MILLION LONG-TERM RESIDENTS AS NON-CITIZENS OR STATELESS. MOST OF THEM ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ECONOMIC LADDER. THEY WILL BE DETAINED IN CAMPS WITH LIMITED RIGHTS

policy is its anti-minority agenda. It is this very posture of the professedly secular Indian National Congress party and its paramount leaders — Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — that propelled British India's Muslims to demand a separate homeland as they feared that the Hindus would perpetually control the Muslims once the British left.

The Congress balked at granting special rights and Britain created Pakistan in 1947. But problems surfaced soon afterward with semi-autonomous princely States, including Kashmir. The picturesquely Himalayan region encompasses roughly 135,000 square miles, almost Germany's size, with about 18 million people. India controls 85,000 square miles, Pakistan 33,000 and China 17,000. Both Pakistan and India claim the entire area as their own.

In 1948, after an Indo-Pakistan fight, India raised Kashmir in the United Nations Security Council, which called for a referendum on the territory's status. It asked Pakistan to withdraw troops and India to cut military presence to a minimum. A ceasefire came into force but Pakistan refused to pull out. Kashmir has remained partitioned ever since.

Until Hindutva swept Modi to power, India assuaged minorities by pursuing a policy that emphasised on national unity. In contrast, Modi began his tenure by killing a centuries-old Muslim marriage law. Even the Muslims and the British left Indian personal law untouched. The government voided the Muslim law but kept simi-

lar laws for other minorities intact.

What's behind Hindutva politics? To boost his re-election bid, Modi fired up his anti-Muslim rhetoric and took the crusade to India's north-eastern State of Assam, plagued by a half-century-long hate-based politics. The politics that originated with a demand to drive out non-Assamese quickly turned into an anti-Bangladeshi outcry at the BJP's instigation. Modi has vowed to rid the State of all the alleged Bangladeshi migrants.

Following his re-election, the National Register of Citizens, which verifies citizenship, after several flawed counts, has classified nearly two million long-term residents as non-citizens or stateless. Most of them are at the bottom of the economic ladder. They will be detained in camps with limited rights, considering that the government has promised not to send anybody back to Bangladesh, which fears a reverse influx.

Unfortunately for the Hindutva brigade, the citizenship count has become a boomerang. Of the two million designated non-citizens, 1.2 million unexpectedly turned out to be Hindu. Modi's followers are now crying foul, demanding a recount. The BJP had expected to find four million migrants in Assam, most of them Muslim.

Assam's neighbour West Bengal, which shares a common language and a rich culture with Bangladesh, is gearing up to play political hotball against the BJP. The hardliners want to replicate the citizenship drill in West Bengal but Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's

party has vowed to fight it. State BJP chief Dilip Ghosh, who is seeking to deport the alleged migrants, remains adamant because rhetoric is the magic wand for his party to win votes.

Muslims foresee the BJP's game: Ironically, while Ghosh wishes to expel them to an unnamed country — presumably Bangladesh — Modi is urging Hindus to flock to Muslim-majority Kashmir, which barred non-Kashmiris from owning land until New Delhi scrapped its autonomy in August.

The BJP prescription to push more Hindus into Kashmir is intended to change the demographic balance in the restive territory of 12 million people. Modi's arbitrary action is the mother of several repugnant ideas. This is exactly the kind of capriciousness on the part of the overwhelming Hindu majority that British India's Muslim leaders feared most.

One of those leaders, Liaquat Ali Khan, the right-hand man of Pakistan's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, articulated this concern while talking with George Merrell, then America's highest-ranking diplomat in India, on December 27, 1946. Liaquat believed that the Congress was "determined to seize power without regard for Muslim rights." Now, 73 years later, Modi's Hindutva agenda, which calls for a Muslim-free India, has proven Liaquat right. By scrapping Kashmir's status, the Prime Minister has taken a highly risky gamble in challenging the secular matrix and embedding a majoritarian consciousness.

(The writer is an established author on Bangladesh-related issues.)

Can Delhi GRAPple with pollution?

In the absence of a cohesive collaboration strategy with neighbouring States, the Graded Response Action Plan might end up being just another knee-jerk reaction to the pollution onslaught in winters



KOTA SRIRAJ

The fast-approaching winter months have now become synonymous with a worsening air quality in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). The pollution reaches unmanageable levels, largely due to the smoke emanating from crop residue burning in the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (UP), blowing over to Delhi-NCR.

Incidents of stubble burning have already begun increasing in Punjab and Haryana and are likely to peak in the next 10-12 days as the harvest season picks up in Sangrur, Patiala, Ludhiana and Fatehabad districts. Hence, the tradition of open field burning is rampant and contin-

ues unabated in spite of the activity being deemed illegal. According to a report by the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), this biomass burning is likely to add nine per cent to Delhi's PM 2.5 concentration.

In spite of all this, enforcement of the law pertaining to crop burning in Punjab has been lax, to say the least. This toxic mix of smoke and vehicular pollution has resulted in Delhi-NCR's Air Quality Index (AQI) plummeting to alarming levels. However, all is not lost as a bevy of efforts undertaken by the Government and authorities concerned has had a positive impact on an otherwise grim scenario.

First, awareness regarding the quality of the air we breathe in through regular publicity of the AQI has made people conscious. Second, the introduction of the much-cleaner BS-VI fuel ahead of schedule has also instilled confidence among the citizens. Furthermore, the closure of coal-based power plants and fall in



the sales of diesel vehicles have helped salvage the situation in Delhi and the situation now is much better than what it was five years ago.

But clearly much more needs to be done. Probably, keeping this in mind, the Delhi Government has introduced the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) early this year to handle pollution in an incremental manner, depending on the level of severity, especially in the winters.

GRAP came into force from October 14 with the objective to curb

air pollution in Delhi-NCR, by proactively rolling out measures like discouraging private vehicles on the city's roads, stopping trucks from outside, using diesel generators, closing brick kilns and stone crushing units. It seemed a timely step as on October 13, the AQI was "very poor" with the level going beyond the 300-mark. On October 14, the AQI improved by around 50 points but the situation has continued to oscillate between "poor" and "very poor" over the last few days.

Even though experts have hailed GRAP for the gradual reduction in pollution levels over the years and for fixing accountability — as it clearly marks the agency responsible for each action to be taken — the efficacy of the plan is yet to be proven.

This is because many of the pollution-triggering factors are beyond the purview of the Arvind Kejriwal administration and the Delhi Government needs active cooperation and collaboration of the State Governments of UP, Haryana and Punjab. In the absence of a cohesive collaboration strategy, the GRAP might just end up being a knee-jerk reaction to the pollution onslaught.

The gaps in the fight against pollution are becoming visible with generators being used in Gurugram with impunity due to the exceptional power cuts the city faces. Similarly, many questions were raised on the GRAP's efficacy in January 2019.

This is because toxic levels of air pollution monitored over Delhi almost every week, from November

1, 2018 to January 6 this year, showed that the Government's emergency plans to tackle the city's annual crisis had failed, according to a report of the United Residents' Joint Action (URJA), a collective of the city's resident welfare associations.

The report summarised the findings of 45 Right to Information (RTI) applications filed at 14 Government departments. Responses were sought from Central, State and municipal bodies to assess the effectiveness of GRAP. The analysis of data collected by URJA for 68 days showed that except for one day in Central Delhi's ITO, the national Capital's air quality was continually above permissible limits.

The GRAP initiative for this year cannot be allowed to be a rerun of last year. The Government must undertake necessary steps to overcome possibilities of failure and achieve the objective of curbing pollution levels effectively.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



BREXIT DEAL NOT A GAME OF CHESS

Brexit involves choices that will shape the strategic direction of Britain for generations and affect millions of livelihoods. Any deal Prime Minister Boris Johnson can strike now is just the vehicle for withdrawal; what matters most is the eventual destination. The rhetoric he has relied upon, the fanatics he flatters and the political trajectory of his career all indicate a plan to take Britain in the wrong direction.

(The Guardian editorial)

IN WAKE OF POTENTIAL THREATS

Bengal Govt accorded 'Z' class security cover

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has accorded West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar 'Z' category VIP security cover in the wake of "potential threats" to him.

Union Home Ministry has issued an order and directed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to take charge of Dhankar's security that will be valid in all parts of the country and not remained confined to his cover in West Bengal.

Under the "Z" category, the West Bengal Governor will have about 8-10 armed security personnel with him when he travels apart from an escort car. The CRPF will take over the charge soon, officials said.

CRPF cover came as a threat assessment report prepared by central security and intelligence agencies found that Dhankar needs to be secured by a professional team of personnel especially in the wake of the recent incident at Jadavpur University where Union Minister Babul Supriyo was heckled and he had rushed to save him.

The CRPF guards a number of VIPs



including Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Governor had on Tuesday said that he was deeply hurt at the treatment allegedly meted out to him at the Durga Puja Carnival on Red Road on October 11. Usually governors are given state police cover.

VIP security cover entails four categories: "Z-plus" (34 guards); "Z" (22 guards); "Y" (11 guards) and "X" (2 guards).

Forced NRC will give mileage to Didi: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Any forced implementation of National Register for Citizens in Bengal will help Mamata Banerjee in the ultimate run, the ruling Trinamool Congress feels. Senior Bengal Minister Subroto Mukherjee on Thursday said that it would be a political blunder for the BJP-ruled Centre to implement NRC in Bengal.

"If the BJP tries to force NRC in Bengal it will be a big political blunder committed by them," Mukherjee one of the founder members of the TMC said adding "the BJP will not only lose the advantage it extracted in the Lok Sabha polls but also it will be routed in the Assembly elections."

The people irrespective of caste and religion had become highly skeptical of the NRC after its "fraudulent implementation" in Assam where the future of more than 19 lakh people is in stake, he said.



"In Bengal if they try to implement NRC then it will go in favour of the Trinamool Congress. Its implementation will turn out to be a hundred percent gain for Mamata Banerjee," the septuagenarian Minister said.

The TMC's views found reflection in the Left Front camp too as State Left Legislature party member and CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said, "NRC will not be accepted by the people of Bengal. Whole State will oppose it tooth and nail."

On the BJP leaders' repeated assertion in favour of NRC should that party came to power in the State Chakrabarty

said, "it is the political build up against NRC that the Centre has been forced to retrace its step saying they will consider introducing it post 2024."

In fact the Left will resist NRC tooth and nail. We will prepare the entire population of the State against the enlarging black shadow of Hitler."

On the Delhi's move to construct detention centres throughout the country, Chakrabarty said let them try and build one in Bengal. I can assure you that the people of the State will smash all those illegal structures designed after concentration camp of Hitler."

Reacting to the TMC and Left leaders' statement BJP leader Mukul Roy said that there was no escaping NRC in Bengal. "Implementation of NRC is a foregone conclusion. The people want NRC in Bengal." Any such move would take place "in line with the United Nation's regulations."

Shah day-dreaming of winning two-third majority in WB: TMC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress on Thursday mocked BJP president Amit Shah for "day dreaming" about forming the next Government in Bengal with two-thirds majority and said he and his saffron camp should instead concentrate on reviving the economy.

Shah, also Union Home Minister, had told a news channel during the day that BJP is going to form the Government in West Bengal with two-thirds majority in the 2021 Assembly polls.

Reacting to Shah's claim, senior TMC leader Subrata Mukherjee said Shah should stop "day dreaming" about forming the Government in the state.

"Instead of day dreaming and making tall claims the BJP leader should first concentrate on his own party and

good governance at the Centre. The country's economy has gone for a toss due to the faulty economic policies of the Modi Government and BJP should first look into reviving it," he said.

TMC also hit out at the BJP government at the Centre for allegedly trying to drive out Bengalis from Assam in the name of implementation of the National Register of Citizens.

The saffron party is planning to replicate the NRC exercise in Bengal but as long as TMC is in power in the State it will never allow such an "divisive exercise" to take place, TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said.

"The BJP is trying to create a panic in Bengal in the name of NRC. Eleven people have already died in the state due to NRC panic. The people of Bengal will give BJP a befitting reply in the next Assembly polls in the State," he said.

Bengal Govt committed to alleviating poverty: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said her government is committed to alleviating poverty and the theory by Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee on it will go a long way in helping the poor.

Banerjee took to the Twitter to express her views and posted some photographs of her visit to the residence of the Nobel laureate's mother Nirmala Banerjee Wednesday evening in the city.

"Yesterday, I spent time with the family of our very own Nobel Prize winning economist, Abhijit Banerjee. His contribution to the experimental theory of poverty alleviation will go a long way in helping people #Bangla is very proud of him!" Banerjee tweet-



ed.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Thursday, Banerjee in a tweet earlier in the day said, "...Our Govt in #Bangla is committed to alleviating poverty, reducing unemployment, combating illiteracy and upholding human rights."

The United Nations General Assembly had in 1987 designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty to promote awareness about the need to eradicate poverty and destitution.

BJP using NRC, CAB to unleash a reign of fear and distrust: Yechury

PTI ■ KOLKATA

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday accused BJP and the RSS of trying to destroy the country's secular fabric and letting loose a "reign of fear and distrust" across the country by implementing the contentious NRC and CAB.

Yechury said BJP is trying to propagate its ideology of Hindu nationalism by replacing the principles of Indian nationalism, which had its roots in the Independence movement.

"The communal forces have increased their activities by leaps and bounds and they are trying to flare communal passions across the country. Now the BJP is taking about NRC and CAB. It will now decide who are citizens and who are not," he said while addressing a programme to commemorate 100 years of the Communist Party of

India (CPI).

The CPI was formed on 17 October 1920 at Tashkent in Uzbekistan, then part of USSR.

Yechury said the updation of the NRC in the rest of the country after Assam is against the interests of the people as BJP intends to use it for its "divisive communal agenda".

"The BJP government is talking about extending the NRC process in the whole of India. This is uncalled for and it is being done only with the aim of targeting certain sections of people and to create polarization," he said.

He criticised the BJP Government at the Centre for omitting Muslims from the list of religious denominations eligible for getting citizenship in the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and called it a "complete violation" of the Constitution.

The Citizenship (Amendment)

Bill provides for according Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after seven years of residence in India instead of 12 years currently even if they do not possess any document.

Expressing concern over alleged attempts by BJP and several other Hindutva outfits to build up communal frenzy over NRC and CAB, the former Rajya Sabha MP said the saffron party sees the sharpening of communal polarization as the only way to consolidate its Hindutva vote bank.

It has been acknowledged since Independence that the unity of India lies in its diversity.

The BJP-RSS cannot tolerate the diversity and federal principle and want to create a Hindu Rashtra, he alleged.

Will take over BJP controlled Bhatpara municipality soon: TMC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A day after taking control of Naihati Municipality, which it had earlier lost to BJP, the ruling TMC on Thursday claimed it will soon take over Bhatpara civic body, the only one in the State which is being ruled by the saffron party.

TMC will soon bring a no confidence motion against the present board of the Bhatpara municipality, party senior leader Jyoti Priya Mullick said.

Bhatpara municipality was the first civic body to be taken over by BJP in June after a majority of its Trinamool Congress councillors switched over to the saffron party days after the Lok Sabha polls results were announced.

BJP had then bagged 26 of the 34 wards of the municipality in a trust vote after 15 TMC councillors switched to it and Bhatpara became a trouble-torn area witnessing frequent violence between the two parties.

The tenure of the present civic body is till 2020, when it will go to the polls.

"We will soon bring a no confidence motion against the present BJP board. Several of our councillors who had switched over to BJP are in touch with us and want to rejoin the party. They had defected under threat and intimidation from BJP," Mullick, the party's North 24 Parganas district president said.

Reacting to TMC's claim, senior BJP leader Mukul Roy, who had played a key role in the defections, Thursday accused Mamata Banerjee's party of using political and administrative powers to force the councillors to rejoin it.

"They (the councillors) had joined BJP as they were fed up with TMC's functioning. Since then they are being threatened by the police and goons. TMC is now forcing them to rejoin it. The same has been done in other municipal bodies too," he added.

Located in the northern fringes of Kolkata, Bhatpara municipality falls under Barrackpore Lok Sabha constituency, which is now represented by Arjun Singh of BJP.



Sadhus look at stone slabs, carved-out for the construction of Ram Temple, at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Karyashala (workshop) in Karsewakpuram, Ayodhya on Thursday

Need to rewrite history from India's point of view: Shah

PTI ■ VARANASI

The First War of Independence in 1857 would have been regarded as a revolt had it not been for Veer Savarkar, said Home Minister Amit Shah here on Thursday amid a row over the BJP suggesting that the Hindutva icon be given the Bharat Ratna.

Stressing the need to rewrite history from India's point of view, Shah credited Savarkar for calling the 1857 rebellion as India's first independence struggle.

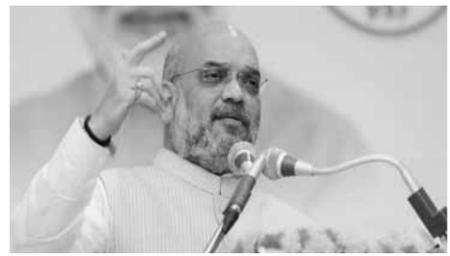
Shah said had it not been for him, the rebellion of 1857 would have become history and India would have seen it from the British point of view.

His remarks came two days after the Maharashtra BJP

unit said in its election manifesto that the party would ask the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar.

"Had it not been Veer Savarkar, the 1857 'kranti' (revolt) would not have become history and we would have been seeing it from the British point of view," the home minister said.

"It was Savarkar who gave the name First War of Independence to the 1857 'kranti', otherwise, our children would have known it as a revolt," he said, inaugurating a two-day international seminar here on 'Guptvanshak-Veer: Skandgupta Vikramaditya' at Banaras Hindu University



(BHU).

A large number of historians, scholars and political thinkers from India and abroad attended the seminar.

Referring to eminent historians in the audience and on the dais, he said, "It is my request to all that there is a need to rewrite the Indian his-

tory from India's point of view but without blaming anyone."

"It is our responsibility to write our history. How long are we going to blame the British? We don't have to dispute anyone, only write what is truth and it will stand the test of time," the Union Home Minister said.

The Gupta period is called the golden period of Indian history and Skandagupta is known for fighting against Hunas.

Shah also praised Madan Mohan Malaviya for founding a university where "Hindu dharma and sanskrit" were propagated even after so many years.

He said Skandagupta Vikramaditya needed to be brought on top of our history as he fought and won the war which even Rome lost against the alien enemy.

He re-formulated the revenue collection method, administration and municipality, Shah said, adding that it was believed that the Gupta ruler stayed at Ghazipur in this Poorvanchal region and worked from here, he said.

Yogi to officials: Ensure PM's constituency Varanasi is cleanest in country

PTI ■ VARANASI (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the officials concerned to initiate a campaign to ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi is the cleanest in the country.

Modi had won the seat in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year by a huge margin of 4.79 lakh votes. He had not only retained the seat, but also saw his victory margin increase by nearly 1 lakh votes as compared to the 2014 general elections.

The chief minister held a review meeting of the development work and law and order situation in the state here on Wednesday night and instructed the officials to make "Kashi number 1 in the country" in terms of cleanliness.

According to an official spokesperson, he also asked the officials to launch special cleanliness drives in villages as well as urban areas before the festival of Diwali.

Roads, parks and vacant plots of land should be included in the campaign. In view of Chhath Puja, start a special campaign to clean the ghats of the Ganga, the chief minister said.

Do something special so that Kashi



remains illuminated from Diwali till Dev Diwali, Adityanath said as he directed the PWD to make the roads free of potholes by October 30.

The government is committed towards the makeover of Kashi. Prime Minister Modi had laid the foundation stone of many projects in February 2019 out of which 13 have been completed and the remaining 25 will be completed in this financial year, he said.

The chief minister further said that the government schemes should not be misused at all and only eligible candidates should be entitled for beneficiary schemes.

Stray cattle should not be seen on the streets, he said.

He also asked the officials to solve water logging problems within three days and organise health camps in the affected areas.

Democracy in danger under BJP rule: Gehlot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Reiterating that democracy was in danger in the country under the BJP rule, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said people should understand this and question the Centre what it was doing for them.

He also accused the BJP of indulging in politics in the name of nationalism and religion.

"The democracy today is under threat. We have no enmity with the RSS or the BJP but we have a fight of ideology, policies and programmes. They should also do this. The public should pressure the Government and ask what it has done for them," he said.

Stressing that the fight should be for ideology, policies and programme, Gehlot told reporters after returning from Mumbai, "They have created an atmosphere in the name of nationalism and religion and doing politics for that."

On the BJP suggesting the Bharat Ratna for Veer Savarkar, the Chief Minister said the party had a fascist ideology and did not consider what the public or other political parties think. "In a democracy, sentiments of the opposition are considered but for

them, the Opposition holds no value," he said.

He said that it was the BJP's intention to ensure a one-party rule in the country. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accusing the Congress of dynasty politics, the chief minister said no one could stop anyone from joining politics in a democracy.

"This is a useless thing. It is not the era of kingdoms where the one born to the queen will rule. It's a democracy where people elect those whom they like," he said.

The Chief Minister exuded confidence that their party would win the October 21 bypolls in Mandawa (Jhunjhunu) and Khimsar (Nagaur) in the state.

On the cabinet's recent decision of allowing non-councillors become chiefs of urban local bodies in the state, Gehlot said that the decision was taken in view of the current scenario where the BJP was "doing politics" in the name of nationalism and was creating a divide in the name of religion.

"We want that the gap in society does not widen in the name of religion and members of all political parties, castes and communities maintain dialogue," he said.

Perception of North-East needs to be changed to attract visitors: MoS

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel, has said the wrong perception of the North-East needs to be changed to attract more tourists.

Inaugurating the third Shirui Lily festival in Manipur's Ukhrul district, along with Chief Minister N Biren Singh, Patel said despite being gifted with scenic beauty and rich cultural heritage, due to some wrong perceptions, the region is unable to attract tourists in large numbers.

A collective effort is needed from all the stakeholders to explore ways to attract more tourists to the state," he said.

Patel said he has written to the Union HRD Minister whether it would be possible to make it compulsory for students of the central schools to visit the northeast at least once.

"One who has witnessed the region at a tender age would never forget it throughout his/her life," he said.

The four-day festival that began on Wednesday, aims at spreading awareness about the conservation of the endan-

Chief Minister said more such festivals would be organised as there is an environment of peace in the State. Earlier, tourists used to fear to visit the hill areas of the State due to the poor law and order. However, that has changed," he said

gered Shirui Lily and to promote Ukhrul as a tourist destination.

Speaking on the occasion, Biren Singh said the law and order situation in the state has improved under the two-and-half years of BJP-led rule.

The Chief Minister said more such festivals would be organised as there is an environment of peace in the State. Earlier, tourists used to fear to visit the hill areas of the State due to the poor law and order. However, that has changed," he said.

Lauding the hospitality of the Tangkhul community, Singh said more than 2,000 homestays have been booked by tourists for the festival.

Noting that all disputes can be settled through dia-

logue, the Chief Minister said Manipur belongs to its people and asserted that the state government would not allow anything that may hurt the interests or sentiments of any community living in the state.

The Chief Minister said the State Government is urging the Centre to bring about a "topographical need-based budget" to ensure inclusive development of the state.

"The Centre has implemented the Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) for states with hilly topography like Manipur. Tamenglong district in the state is among the 82 districts across the country where the scheme would be implemented in the first phase," he said.

As part of it, Tamenglong would get Rs 90 crore for implementation of developmental projects, Singh said.

Mentioning that around Rs 600 crore would be spent on improving road connectivity in Ukhrul district, the Chief Minister said around ₹250 crore has been sanctioned for construction of roads between Kamjong and Tengnoupal districts.

Truck drivers living in fear in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Truck drivers, camping in Kashmir valley to ferry apple boxes outside the State, are living in constant fear of the terrorists carried out second 'surprise' attack on two apple traders hailing from Punjab late Wednesday night in Shopian district.

One of the apple trader identified as Charanjeet Singh succumbed to his fatal injuries while another, identified as Sanjay Churaya, is undergoing treatment in Srinagar. Both hailed from Fazilka in Punjab.

Before this, a truck driver from Rajasthan was also killed in cold blood by terrorists in Shopian on Monday evening. Later, his truck was also set on fire to spread terror in the area.

After these attacks, fresh wave of terror has gripped the area. The main markets, where apple growers were bringing their crop from different orchards in the region, wore a deserted look on Thursday.

To instil confidence among



the truck drivers, stranded in the vulnerable pockets, the local police authorities beefed up security deployment by way of area domination. Posters of terrorists, believed to be behind the targeted killing of apple traders was also pasted at different places so that they can be tracked down and neutralised.

Meanwhile, interacting with local media in Shopian several truck drivers raised the issue of their safety.

Without identifying themselves in front of media, the truck drivers said, "we are worried for our own safety. 'we are here to ferry apple boxes and

earn our livelihood". "We really don't know why are these terrorists targeting us. We are sole bread earners of our families and they are dependent on us", truck drivers told local reporters.

In the recent weeks, more than 30,000 trucks have ferried large quantities of apple crop outside the state. Commenting on the targeting killing of apple traders and truck drivers, Governor Satya Pal Malik Thursday said, terrorists are targeting apple traders and truck drivers to spread terror. He said, "we are after them and we will finish them".

State admin orders abolition of J&K Legislative Council

PNS ■ JAMMU

The State administration in Jammu & Kashmir has set in motion the process of bifurcating the State of Jammu & Kashmir in to two Union Territories. Late Wednesday evening, the State administration issued a formal order for abolition of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council.

The 36-member Legislative Council was established in 1957 after an act was passed by the Parliament.

The Council functioned as an upper house for the 87-member State Assembly.

According to the order, the 116-member staff of the Council has been asked to report to the General Administration Department (GAD) by October 22.

Jammu & Kashmir will be a Union Territory with a State Assembly.

The Centre had on August 5 abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which granted special status to

Jammu & Kashmir for residency and Government jobs.

The order issued by Secretary to the State Government, Farooq Ahmad Lone, also directed transfer of all vehicles purchased from time to time to the Director of State motor garages and handing over of the building of the Council along with furniture and electronic gadgets to the Director of estates.

"Consequent to the abolition of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council in terms of Section 57 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, it is ordered that all the staff of the State legislative council shall report to the GAD by October 22," the order said. All records pertaining to the Council Secretariat including related legislative business shall be transferred to the Department of Law, Justice Parliamentary Affairs by the Secretary, the order added.

JK administration orders abolition of legislative council, asks its staff to report to GAD

Former PDP leader, several others join BJP in Jammu

PTI ■ JAMMU

Former State president of PDP's Scheduled Caste wing Vijay Anand on Thursday joined the BJP along with six others here, a party spokesperson said.

Anand accompanied by Sanjay Kumar, Himanshu, Ravi Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Ajay Kumar and John Sotra joined the BJP's Scheduled Caste wing in presence of its state president Jagdish Bhagat and state spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan. Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Bhagat said the BJP has relieved 'Valmiki Samaj' of the sufferings which they had to bear during the last 70 years due to Article 370.

"These people were not treated as citizens of the state and their educated children could not apply for the government jobs or other benefits," he said, adding the BJP abrogated the provisions of Article 370 to benefit the weaker sections of the society.

Shops briefly open in Srinagar, private transport on roads

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Shops opened for few hours early Thursday morning in some areas here including in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk but main markets and other business establishments remained shut, officials said.

Few vendors had set up stalls on the TRC Chowk-Polo View road, they said.

Private transport was plying unhindered in the city here and elsewhere in Kashmir, the officials said, adding auto-rickshaws and few inter-district

cabs were also seen plying in few areas of the valley.

However, the other modes of public transport were off the roads.

Schools and colleges were open, but students stayed away as parents continued to keep their wards at home due to apprehensions about their safety, the officials said. Mobile services were restored in Kashmir on Monday, but the SMS facility was snapped once again later that night due to apprehensions of the services being misused.

BJP disqualifies 8 leaders for 'anti-party activities' in J&K

Jammu: The BJP's Jammu & Kashmir unit on Thursday disqualified eight party leaders for filing their nominations as Independents against the official candidates for the Block Development Council (BDC) elections, scheduled to be held on October 24, a party spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the State Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) also discharged its

senior leader Aqib Mir from his present party post of State secretary due to "breach of party discipline", he said.

"Taking strong note of the filing of nominations as Independents by party leaders against the official candidates of the BJP for the BDC elections, the State BJP has disqualified them for indulging in anti-party activities," the spokesperson said. PTI

History will take note of those who ridiculed abrogation of Art 370: PM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Addressing a history will take cognisance of statements by all those who ridiculed the Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of Constitution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday demanded to know if the country—after its much-discussed decision—had been "ruined" or "has the country lost" Kashmir as predicted by a few Congress leaders.

Addressing an election rally at Parli in Beed district of Maharashtra region, Modi offered to "make arrangements" to all those who desired to go Jammu & Kashmir.

Castigating the Congress and other Opposition leaders for mocking the BJP-led NDA Government's decision to annul Article 370, Modi said: "Whenever debate takes place in future about the abrogation of Article 370, history will take cognisance of statements made by the leaders ridiculing the decision taken in the national interest."

Exhorting the people to "punish" all those mocking the Government's decision on Article 370, Modi said: "One Congress leader said that the Kashmir issue is not the country's internal matter. Will agree with it? Can the leader saying such thing be pardoned? Will you not punish those who said such things in the election? ... One leader said it's a black day for Indian politics. Another said it's against democracy, danger to national security... A senior Congress leader said that after the abrogation of



Article 370, the country will be ruined. It is going to be three months since we abrogated Article 370, has the country been ruined?"

"Another Congress leader said that by annulling Article 370, we have lost Kashmir. I would like to ask you: has the country lost Kashmir? If you want to go Kashmir, tell me I will make arrangements... Does it behave well of all those leaders who ruled for such a time to make such statements? I have a long list of questionable statements made by the Congress leaders in this regard," the Prime Minister said.

Modi, who was campaigning for campaigning for late Gopinath Munde's Minister-daughter Pankaja Munde at Parli, said that Parli gave friends like Gopinath Munde and Pramod Mahajan. "Both Munde and Mahajan are no longer there. People from the younger generation like Devendra Fadnavis and Pankaja Munde are trying to fulfil their dreams.

Modi said that the Assembly elections were a battle between BJP's "karyashakti" (power of development) and opposition's "swarth shakti" (selfishness). "Lotus (the BJP symbol) has always bloomed in Beed. Pankaja will win the Assembly polls with a record

margin," he said.

Modi, who subsequently addressed rallies in Satara and Pune, urged the voters to punish the Congress and its leaders for their involvement in scams and their questionable remarks. "All those who have looted the country will not be spared. They will be put behind the bars. I will not rest till all the money looted from the State exchequer returns."

"If the entire Maharashtra is behind the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, it is because of the hard work put in by us during the last five years. See the contrast: on one side, you can get to see the work ethics of the saffron alliance Government, while on the other, the Opposition Congress and NCP leaders are working for selfish motives," the Prime Minister said.

In Satara, Modi campaigned for sitting MP and 13th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Bhosale, who recently quit the NCP and joined the BJP, is contesting the Lok Sabha by-polls from Satara. The by-poll has been necessitated by the resignation of Bhosale from Lok Sabha.

In Pune, the Prime Minister campaigned among other for BJP's State President Chandrakant Patil, who is contesting from the Brahmin dominated Kothrud constituency.

Modi Govt obsessed with fixing blame on opponents: Manmohan

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Debunking Narendra Modi's much-advertised "double engine" model of governance which "has utterly failed", former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday charged that the Government was "obsessed" with trying to somehow fix blame on its opponents and in the process, it had failed to revive the economy.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to town claiming that the "double engine" governance involving him and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was a "super-hit" during the last five years and was giving a "eleven-fold" boost to the State's development, Singh said: "The much advertised 'double engine' model of governance on which the BJP seeks votes has utterly failed. Mumbai and Maharashtra have had to face some of the worst effects of the grave economic slowdown."

Interacting with businessmen, professionals and the media at the Garware Club of the Wankhede Stadium here, Singh took a swipe at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman for her comment that Indian public sector banks had the "worst phase" under the combination of him as the then Prime Minister and Raghuram Rajan as the RBI Governor.

"I have just seen the statement by Smt Nirmala Sitaraman, I won't like to comment on that statement but I can merely point out that before one can fix the economy one needs a correct diagnosis of its ailments and their causes," Singh said.

"The Government is obsessed with trying to somehow fix blame on its oppo-

nents, in the process it is unable to find solution that will ensure revival of the economy particularly strengthening of our banking system," the former Prime Minister said.

Singh's comment should be seen in the context of the remarks made by Sitaraman during a lecture Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York on Tuesday. "I have no reason to doubt that Rajan feels for every word of what he is saying. And I'm here today, giving him his due respect, but also placing the fact before you that Indian public sector banks did not have a worst phase than when the combination of Singh and Rajan, as Prime Minister and the Governor of Reserve Bank, had. At that time, none of us knew about it," she said.

Maintaining that the Government's "apathy and incapability" were affecting the future and aspirations of millions of our people, Singh said: "Manufacturing growth rate of Maharashtra has been declining for four consecutive years. Maharashtra has witnessed one of the highest factory shutdowns in the past five years."

"The industrial slowdown has been met with rising imports from China. In the last five years, imports from China have risen by more than Rs. 1,22,000 crores. Chemicals, fertilisers, electronic goods, and automobiles, products manufactured in Maharashtra, have seen rising imports from our neighbouring country," he said.

Lamenting that the industrial slowdown was coming in India's way to optimally utilise its demographic dividend, Singh said: "Only in the recent



UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AS MIGRATION INCREASES

"IN URBAN AREAS, EVERY THIRD YOUNG PERSON IS JOBLESS. EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS HAVE TO FACE A HIGHER RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT. IT IS THUS NO SURPRISE THAT MANY OF OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ARE TAKING UP LOW PAYING JOBS. INVESTORS ARE SHIFTING TO OTHER STATES. THE DISTRESS PERVAIDING OUR RURAL AREAS WILL ONLY ADD TO THE

past, Maharashtra used to attract talent from around the country. Today there is a dearth of opportunities in this otherwise vibrant state.

"In urban areas, every third young person is jobless. Educated individuals have to face a higher rate of unemployment. It is thus no surprise that many of our young men and women are taking up low paying jobs. Investors are shifting to other states. The distress pervading our rural areas will only add to the unemployment problem as migration increases."

The former Prime Minister said that Maharashtra, from once being the number one in attracting investments, "it is today a leader in farmer suicide."

"Despite the promises of doubling farm incomes, the rural areas of Maharashtra are witnessing nothing short of a crisis. Caught between low incomes and high debt trap, the suicide rate has doubled. The obsession with low inflation is inflicting misery of our farmers. The Central Government's import-export policies are also hurting farmers," he said.

Accusing the BJP Governments, both at the Centre and at Maharashtra, of

not being willing to adopt people-oriented policies, Singh said: "As water shortages compound, the situation will become still worse if not addressed soon. People from Maharashtra are already grappling with low availability of clean drinking water and are resorting to digging up dried river beds. While we cannot control the vagaries of nature, we can ensure the mitigation of the damage if we are economically sound."

"A lot of problems facing Maharashtra today are man-made and the solutions lie in policies which are inclusive and welfare people-oriented," he said.

"It is my sincere belief that we need to go back to these time-tested measures if we are to ensure gainful employment for our young people, men and women, farmer welfare, and a better standard of living for all the people of Maharashtra," he said.

Calling for a change in the Government in the State, Singh said: "I can say without a doubt that the State will progress much better under the leadership of Congress-NCP"

"During my time as the Prime Minister of India, I had the privilege to work with

many leaders from Maharashtra. I found that they were all committed to delivering good governance to the people of Maharashtra. The Bandra-Worli sea link is one example of the many spectacular works Congress could ensure. At a time of agri-distress, we delivered an effective loan waiver and ensured rural growth," he said.

Among other things, the former Prime Minister said that while Maharashtra levied the highest VAT on petroleum products, "the high VAT coupled with Modi Government's decision to levy excessive excise duties has punished the people despite low international crude prices."

Replying to a question on the PMC Bank crisis, Singh appealed to Modi and chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to resolve the issue at the earliest. He indicated that the Congress would take up the PMC Bank issue in a big way in Parliament during the Winter Session beginning in mid-November.

"I appeal to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister to resolve this matter at the earliest. The grievances must be solved," he said.

Asked if he would intervene in the matter, Singh said: "The matter is coming up in the Supreme Court, so it is sub-judice I don't want to comment much (on the issue). I am appealing to the Maharashtra Government, the RBI and the Centre to put the pragmatic hat and solve this at the earliest"

"I have heard your feedback. I assure you that when the Parliament convenes in mid-November, this issue (PMC bank and such cases) will figure very very prominently," the former Prime Minister told a questioner.

WESTERN RAILWAY CANCELLATION NOTICE

Cancellation Notice is to be issued for Tender No. BCT/19-20/238, Dated: 30.09.2019, which was due for opening on 31.10.2019. The same may be treated as Cancelled.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed in the general public that my client Mrs. Rita Singh, W/o. late Sh. Brajesh Kumar, R/o. (1) 809/15, Sector-D, Pk-4, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 and (2) Raheja Revanita, Apartment No.1F1-03, Sector-78, Gurgaon, Haryana, admeasuring 1980.94 sq.ft. & 225-61, have debarred/evicted her son namely Mr. Prabhath Singh and his wife Mrs. Akanksha Priya from claiming any right, title & interest whatsoever for all the purposes & intent. They are having no connection with any kind of Movable or Immovable properties of my client and any person dealing with him/her, monetary or otherwise, he/she shall do so at his/her own risk, costs & consequences. My client shall not be liable & responsible for the same and they are not liable to claim before any Court in the above mentioned properties.

Vijay Lakshmi (Advocate) Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU EXTENSION - II

Name of work : Const. of road by way of laying wet mix and 25mm thick OGPC on road from Tersha Talab to Mohalla Granthian. Reference : e-NIT No. 83 of 2019-2020/Div-2 Dated 30-09-2019 Due to Nil Response, the changes to the critical dates of the above said works are hereby made as under:-

Please read	Instead of
Bid submission end date 19-10-2019 (1800 hours)	Bid submission end date 15-10-2019 (1800 hours)
Bid opening date 21-10-2019 (1400hours)	Bid opening date 16-10-2019 (1400hours)

All other terms and conditions remains same. Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu Dated:- 17.10.2019

ED has papers with Patel & Mirchi's wife's signatures: Goyal

Mumbai: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said the ED launched a probe against NCP leader Prabh Patel after his signatures were found on the documents which were also signed by the wife of gangster Iqbal Mirchi.

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Patel on October 18 in connection with a probe into alleged illegal assets of Mirchi, who was an aide of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim. PTI

IT Dept seizes ₹15.5 crore unaccounted cash in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Income Tax Department officials have seized ₹15.5 crore of unaccounted cash from various places in Mumbai since the declaration of Model Code of Conduct for the Maharashtra Assembly polls by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on September 21.

"We have increased the strength of the Quick Response Teams, formed for this period, with additional manpower so as to ensure elections free from influence of cash and/or valuables," a senior IT department official said.

"We will give special attention to the movement of unaccounted cash/valuables and also prohibition of distribution of cash/valuables meant for wooing the electorate, particularly during the period when election campaign ceases on 17th October till the date of polling—October 21," the official said.



According to the official, the IT department is responding to every call and information from police/public/other agencies and subject to the existence of credible information, search/survey actions are being conducted almost on daily basis.

Set up to curb the use of black money and cash inducement in the ongoing Assembly Elections in the State, the Directorate General of Income Tax (Investigation) has since September 21 been working in close coordination with several law enforcement agencies and other Government departments, in order to contribute to the conduct of free, fair and smooth elections.

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS REPAIRS WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008, invites Tender for the following works: Sr. No. 1 Tender No: BCT/19-20/255 dt.15.10.19. Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Navsari) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,84,30,283.33 EMD: ₹ 2,42,200/- Sr. No. 2 Tender No: BCT/19-20/256 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Surat) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,99,07,713.66 EMD: ₹ 2,49,500/- Sr. No. 3. Tender No: BCT/19-20/257 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Palghar) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,91,65,041.05 EMD: ₹ 2,45,800/- Sr.No. 4. Tender No: BCT/19-20/258 dt.15.10.19. Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Dahanu Road) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,79,02,457.54 EMD: ₹ 2,39,500/- Sr. No. 5. Tender No: BCT/19-20/259 dt.15.10.19. Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Vaps) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,90,47,198.05 EMD: ₹ 2,45,200/- Sr.No. 1 to 6: Completion Period: 12 Months. Tender Fee: ₹ 5,000/- for each tender. Date of Opening: Sr. No. 1 & 2: on 11.11.19 at 15.30 hrs. Sr. No. 3 to 6: on 13.11.19 at 15.30 hrs. For more details please visit www.wreps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. follow us on twitter.com/WesternRly

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat – 362 266
CIN: U65900GJ1991PLC064603

"APPENDIX- IV-A"
[See Proviso to Rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Finance Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" on 21st November 2019, for recovery of Rs. 4,45,00,307.72 (Rupees Four Crores Forty Five Lacs Three Hundred Seven and Seventy Two Paise) due to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited Secured Creditor from M/s Shalini Impex Private Limited, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Ms. Shalini Verma, Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Ms. Malini Verma, Mr. Siddhartha Sanjay. The reserve price will be For Property No.1 is Rs 2,12,63,500/- (Rupees Two Crore Twelve Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only) and For Property No. 2 is Rs 1,50,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakhs Only) and the earnest money deposit will be For Property No.1 is Rs 21,26,350/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Only) and For Property No. 2 is Rs 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property No.1
All that Part and Parcel of the Property consisting of Apartment No. 301, Duplex on 3rd & 4th Floor, Block No. 2, namely, Heritage City and having super area 1649.00 Sq. feet (171.84 Sq. Meter) along with Terrace Area 230 Sq. ft., comprising of Drawing-Cum-Dining Room, One Bed Room with attached Toilet, Kitchen, Servant Room with W.C. & Terrace on 3rd Floor and Two Bed Rooms with attached Toilets and Terrace on 4th Floor. In the said group housing complex, Heritage City, situated at Village Sirhaul, Tehsil & District, Gurgaon (Haryana), BOUNDED BY ON : North : Entry, South : Other Property, East : Other Property, West : Other Property

Property No.2
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Apartment No. 302, on 3rd Floor, Block No. 43, namely, Heritage City and having super area 1195 Sq. feet (111.05 Sq. meter) along with Terrace Area 69 Sq. Ft., comprising of Drawing-cum-Dining Room, Two bed rooms with attached toilets, kitchen, lobby & terrace. In the said group housing complex, Heritage City, situated at Village Sirhaul, Tehsil & District, Gurgaon (Haryana), BOUNDED BY ON : North : Entry, South : Other Property, East : Other Property, West : Other Property

TARUN SHARMA (Mobile 9540178178)
AUTHORISED OFFICER
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED

PLACE : New Delhi
DATE : 18-10-2019

Sensex rallies 453 pts, Nifty tops 11,550

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its gains for the fifth consecutive session, equity benchmark BSE Sensex rallied 453 points on Thursday as global investors cheered a Brexit deal reached between Britain and the EU.

Domestic traders were also enthused after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hinted at more stimulus measures as she urged international investors to pump funds into India.

After opening on a subdued note, the 30-share Sensex surged in afternoon trade to close at 39,052.06, up 453.07 points, or 1.17 per cent.

The broader NSE Nifty too spiked 122.35 points, or 1.07 per cent, to settle at 11,586.35. Yes Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 15.19 per cent, followed by Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Bajaj Auto, Asian Paints, Axis Bank, Tata Steel and Maruti, rising up to 9.82 per cent.



On the other hand, HCL Tech, Vedanta, PowerGrid, Kotak Bank, Infosys, ONGC, Tech Mahindra, L&T and HDFC Bank fell up to 1.04 per cent. According to traders, domestic market followed European equities that rallied after Britain and the European Union said they have struck an outline Brexit deal after prolonged negotiations.

The deal, however, must still be formally approved by the bloc and ratified by the European and UK parliaments.

“Government’s intention to provide further fiscal stimulus in the future as per the needs of the economy lifted the market sentiment today. Easing trade tension and positive development on Brexit provided further boost to the market.

“Risk taking ability is improving in the market with optimism over recovery in the economy led by stimulus, festive demand, good monsoon and lower interest rate,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE auto, bankex, finance, energy, FMCG, metal, healthcare and power index rose up to 2.93 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices gained up to 1.77 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended on a mixed note. Further, the Chinese Government’s appeal to Washington to negotiate a quick end to their tariff war was also buoyed market sentiment.

₹ strengthens 27 paise to 71.16 post Brexit deal

Mumbai: The rupee darted up 27 paise to close at 71.16 against the US dollar on Thursday, led by optimism over the Brexit deal amid softening crude oil prices.

Persistent foreign fund inflows and robust buying in domestic equity markets added to the momentum, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 71.38 against the US dollar. During the day, the domestic unit fluctuated between a high of 71.14 and a low of 71.47, before finally ending at 71.16, up 27 paise over its previous close.

“Rupee has appreciated nearly 1 per cent in two days. The hopes of US-China closing the phase-one trade deal along with the announcement Brexit deal, has kept all emerging market currencies including rupee, afloat,” said Rahul Gupta, Head of Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services.

Global markets rallied after Britain and the European Union said they have struck an outline Brexit deal after prolonged negotiations. The deal, however, must still be formally approved by the bloc and ratified by the European and UK parliaments.

Weak US economic data, fall in dollar index and speculation over the third rate cut by US Fed added to the strength in rupee, Gupta said.

Gold falls ₹105 on stronger ₹, weak cues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Thursday declined ₹105 to ₹38,985 per 10 gram in the national capital on a stronger rupee and weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities.

However, silver surged by ₹509 to ₹46,809 per kg here from its previous close of ₹46,300 per kg.

On Wednesday, gold closed at ₹39,090 per 10 gram.

“International gold prices traded weak on Brexit hopes and the US-China trade deal optimism,” HDFC Securities Senior Analyst — Commodities Tapan Patel said.

Gold was trading lower at USD 1,488 an ounce in the international market, while silver quoted higher at USD 17.45 per ounce.

The Indian rupee was trading 18 paise stronger against dollar during the day and weighed on gold prices, he added.

K'taka tops innovation index, list dominated by south, west States

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka has been ranked as the most innovative state in the country while the top ten states are concentrated mainly in southern and western India.

These rankings were released by the NITI Aayog on Thursday under the India Innovation Index 2019. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively. The top ten major states are majorly concentrated in southern and western India.

Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north-eastern & hill states, and union territories. Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient states in translating inputs into output.

According to the NITI Aayog, the study is an outcome of extensive research and analysis, which looks holistically at the innovation landscape of India by examining the innovation capabilities and performance of Indian states and union territories.

“The aim is to create a holistic tool which can be used by policymakers across the country to identify the challenges to be addressed and strengths to build on when designing the economic growth policies for their regions”, it said in a statement.

Karnataka is the leader in the overall rankings in the cat-

egory of major states. Karnataka’s number one position in the overall ranking is partly attributed to its top rank in the performance dimension. It is also among the top performers in infrastructure, knowledge workers, knowledge output and business environment.

According to the NITI Aayog, the index shows that the innovation ecosystem of the country is strong in south and western parts of India. In fact, three of the top five major states are from southern India. Delhi and Haryana seem to be an exception to this rule and seem to be doing well on the Index. “Thus, there seems to be a west-south and north-east divide across the country”, the index report said.

The index was released in the presence of Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science, Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH.

Rajiv Kumar expressed hope that the India Innovation Index would create synergies between different stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem and India would shift to competitive good governance.

Amitabh Kant added that India has a unique opportunity among its myriad challenges to become the innovation leader in the world.

Nadella earns \$42.9 mn in 2018-19 fiscal

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

With Microsoft posting strong results, the company’s CEO Satya Nadella has got a 66 per cent raise in the 2018-19 fiscal, taking his total yearly earnings to a whopping \$42.9 million, according to media reports on Thursday.

While Nadella, 52, has a base salary of a little over \$2.3 million, most of his pay came from stock awards, reported

CNN Business.

He received \$29.6 million in stock award, \$10.7 million in non-equity incentive plan compensation and around \$1.11,000 in other compensation.

In a proxy statement, Microsoft’s independent directors said, “The past fiscal year offered another record year for financial performance, and Microsoft delivered strong results for our shareholders,

including a return of \$30.9 billion in the form of share repurchases and dividends.”

The directors credited Nadella for his “strategic leadership, including his efforts to strengthen trust with customers, drive for a company-wide culture change, and successful entry and expansion into new technologies and markets.”

In the 2017-18 fiscal, the Hyderabad-born business exec-

utive had got a pay of \$25.8 million.

Nadella became the CEO of Microsoft in 2014. Under his leadership, the company has become a major force in cloud computing.

In September, Microsoft hit an all-time high after the company raised its dividend and authorised a plan to buy back as much as \$40 billion of its own stock, the CNN Business report said.

Aviation regulator's nod to 5 firms to manufacture drones

New Delhi: In a push to domestic drone manufacturing, India’s civil aviation regulator DGCA has given nod to the for companies to manufacture Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

In an interview to IANS, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Director General Arun Kumar said the regulator has given its approval to 5 companies for drone manufacturing based on the presentations made to it earlier.

Market watchers told IANS that firms such as Skylark Drones and ideaForge among others, have received the nod to start manufacturing operations. “Domestic drone manufacturers have approached us with their products. These are tested by our engineering department,” Kumar said.

“We are concerned with the safety aspect of these products.” According to Kumar, the move is expected to reduce import dependence and give the necessary push to the nascent domestic industry.

Present economic crisis bigger than that of 2008 as slump more protracted now: Goldman Sachs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The consumption slump, a major challenge afflicting the economy, cannot be attributed to the NBFC crisis as it predates the first default by infra lender IL&FS, says a broker, which has also slashed growth forecast to 6 per cent with a downward bias.

Many people attribute the deepening slowdown in con-

sumption to the NBFC crisis that began in September 2018 when IL&FS went belly up following which consumption financing — a forte of shadow banks, stopped with a chill in disbursements by these players.

According to Prachi Mishra, the chief economist at Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs, her analysis indicates that consumption has been falling since January 2018, which is much before the end August 2018 default by IL&FS which triggered the liquidity crisis for NBFCs.

She said the fall in consumption is responsible for a third of the overall dip in overall growth, with the global slowdown coupled with funding constraints. “There is a slow-down and the growth numbers have fallen by 2 percentage points”, Mishra said, speaking at an event by The Economist.

SIAM supports draft guidelines on authorised vehicle scrapping facility

New Delhi: Auto industry body SIAM on Thursday said the draft guidelines on authorised vehicle scrapping facility (AVSF) in India will help in setting up of such facilities in an organised manner, while reiterating that the sector is waiting for incentive-based Vehicle Scrapage Policy from the Government.

Welcoming the draft guidelines released by the

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for setting up of AVSF, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Rajan Wadhwa said the automobile industry wholeheartedly supports the vehicle scrapping initiative of Government.

“The draft guidelines will help in establishing organised vehicle scrapping facilities in

the country and will lead to increase in latent demand for end-of-life vehicles available for scrapping,” he said in a statement. As per the draft AVSF guidelines, individuals, firms society or trust will be allowed to set up scrapping facility subject to meeting eligibility criteria and receiving authorisation from licensing authority.

BUSINESS CORNER

DIVYANGJANS TO GET ASSISTIVE DEVICES



Under the CSR initiatives of SPMCIL, it has been decided to distribute Assistive Devices to Divyangjans (PwDs) at an estimated cost of ₹100 lakh by arranging Camps at Nashik, Dewas, Hyderabad and Hoshangabad. To execute the project, an MoU has been signed on October 16, 2019, by SK Sinha, Director (HR), SPMCIL and DR Sarin, CMD, ALIMCO at SPMCIL Corporate office in presence of Tripti P Ghosh, CMD, SPMCIL. Ajay Kumar Srivastav, Director (Technical), Ajay Agarwal, Director (Finance), BJ Gupta, Addl. GM (HR) of SPMCIL were also present.

TRAINING FOR VIGILANCE, INVESTIGATING OFFICERS



Punjab National Bank is conducting a three-day training programme for October 17, 2019, for its Vigilance Officers and Investigating Officers at Central Staff College, Underhill Road, Civil Lines Delhi, Bank’s apex learning Centre. The training programme event was graced by MD & CEO of the Bank, CH SS Mallikarjuna Rao as Chief Guest. The Chief Technical Examiner, Central Vigilance Commission, Shaileendra Singh and Manish Gupta, Director, Department of Financial Services (Vigilance), were also present as special guests. The training and the event was conceptualised by Chief Vigilance Officer of the Bank, Vijay Kumar Tyagi. Sunil Agrawal, Principal, Central Staff College hosted the event.

Mobile call ring-time row: Trai to finalise views in two weeks

New Delhi: Telecom regulator Trai will finalise, in next two weeks, its views on call ring time — a contentious issue on which old and new operators have locked horns.

On the controversial issue of Jio’s latest allegations that rival telcos are fraudulently masking fixed-line as mobile calls for undue enrichment and should be slapped with penalty, a senior Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) official said the matter will be examined just as all complaints to the authority are.

“Any complaint that generally comes to us will be examined... If there is any violation, we will look into the matter...”, the official said.

Reliance Jio has accused old operators including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea of “illegally” masquerading wire-line numbers as mobile numbers for “undue enrichment” and has exhorted Trai to slap

“severest penalty” on them for violating regulations and licensing norms. After the fresh set of allegations surfaced, Bharti Airtel immediately hit back saying Jio was trying to misguide the regulator ahead of the crucial consultation on call connection charges (also called IUC or interconnect usage charges).

Meanwhile, at the open house discussions on the issue of call ring-time on Thursday, a senior Jio official urged the telecom regulator to keep the matter under forbearance.

Jio has maintained that if at all Trai wants to take a view on the issue, it should be in form of a reference guidelines and not in form of a mandated value. “In such a case, the range of 20 seconds to 25 seconds may be prescribed as reference guideline,” Jio has informed Trai, which is in the process of finalising its views on the issue through a consultation paper.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Sapna, D/o Shri Jai Ram, R/o H.No. RZE-107, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Age 14 years, Height 4'9", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Wearing White colour top, blue colour jeans pant and blue colour hawai chappal in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 26.09.19. In this regard a case FIR No. 678/19 dated 28.09.19 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

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

E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Tel: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Nihal Vihar, Delhi
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 25946700, 25946710
 DP/2784/OD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Johny Patel S/o Aanand Kumar, R/o H.No. 900, Type-IV, Sector-12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 138/19 u/s 498A/406/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Johny Patel** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Johny Patel** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Johny Patel** accused of case **U/s 498A/406/34 IPC** vide case **FIR No. 138/19, P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **28.11.2019**.

By Order
 Sh. Vaibhav Mehta, Metropolitan Magistrate,
 South Zone, Room No. 210,
 Saket Court, Delhi
 DP/5776/SD/19-(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Narender Singh Chauhan S/o Kaptan Singh Chauhan R/o H.No.494 Devli village, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped the area of P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi. In this regard, a case **DD No. 65-A dated 25.09.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi**. The description of the missing person is as under.



Age: 48 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** white colour shirt and matmela pant. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cic@cbi.gov.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639 Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi
Ph. 011-29551597
 DP/5761/SD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely : Devki Tyagi W/o Bhagwandin R/o H.No. B-489, Friends Enclave, Rajdhani Park, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since 25.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 28-A dated 26.09.2019** has been lodged at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- **Age : 38 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Wearing : Orange colour saree.**

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing/ kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO
Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
DP/2777/OD/19 Ph. No. 011-25947225, 25949470

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Priyanka D/o Sh. Khem Chand, R/o H.No. R-130, Karan Vihar Part-II, Kirari, Delhi**, Age : 20 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Shallow, Face : Long, Wearing : Blue-Pink Suit and Blue Colour Legging, has been missing / kidnapped since **04.10.2019** from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar. In this regard a case **DD No. 52-A dated 05.10.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
 SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
DP/3364/RD/19. Ph.: 011-23014046, 23015218

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shagun D/o Suresh Kumar, R/o H.No. 53 C-2nd, Raju Park, Khanpur, New Delhi**, Age : 16 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Thin, Wearing : Black Colour Jeans and Red Colour T-Shirt, has been missing / kidnapped since **14.09.2019** from the area of P.S. Neb Sarai. In this regard a case **FIR No. 320/19 dated 14.09.2019** u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
 SHO
P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi
DP/5768/SD/19. Ph.: 011-29551597, 8750870835

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Rani, W/o Sh. Chander Shekhar, R/o: B-38, Shubham Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Delhi**, Age: 28 years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, wearing Yellow Suit-Salwar, I/D Mark: A tattoo make name "Sanju" on left hand, has been missing since 20.09.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 56-A, dated 20.09.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.
 Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Paschim Vihar East,
 Fax: 011-24368639 Delhi
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/2750/OD/19 Ph: 011-25263471, 25267286

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Aarti Bhatia, W/o: Lokesh Bhatia, R/o: 2/B, 3rd floor, Gali No. 11, Vikas Vihar, Chander Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since **03.10.2019** from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 52-A dated 03.10.2019** has been registered at P. S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing lady are as under: **Age: 32 years, Height: 5' 2", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue colour suit-salwar and chappal in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this lady kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
 E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/2786/OD/19 Tel.No. 011-25946710, 7065036129

US asks Turkey to stop Syria op, Erdogan defiant

AFP ■ CEYLANPINAR (TURKEY)

US President Donald Trump has dispatched his deputy Mike Pence to Turkey to demand a ceasefire in Syria, as Ankara rebuffed international pressure to curb its deadly offensive against Kurdish forces.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed on Wednesday that Turkey's operation -- which has been facilitated by the withdrawal of US troops from northern Syria -- would continue.

That came as an extraordinary letter emerged in which Trump warned Erdogan: "Don't be a fool".

Sent the day Turkey launched its incursion into northeastern Syria, Trump said history risked branding him a "devil".

On Wednesday, Kurdish forces struck a desperate deal

with Damascus and stepped aside to allow Syrian regime troops and allied Russian soldiers enter the border town of Kobane, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Kobane is a highly symbolic town for Syria's Kurds, whose forces had in 2015 wrested it from the Islamic State (IS) group in an epic battle backed by the US-led coalition.

Days after American troops abruptly began withdrawing, clashes continued across the region, with Kurdish fighters in the border town of Ras al-Ain burning tyres in a bid to blind Ankara's warplanes and digging in against a ground offensive by Turkish-backed Syrian rebels.

The Turkish operation, now in its second week, has triggered a flurry of diplomacy among major powers.

Trump sent Pence along

with his top diplomat Mike Pompeo to Turkey amid the greatest crisis in relations for decades between the NATO allies, with talks due in Ankara early Thursday.

Facing a barrage of criticism in Washington for abandoning the Kurds, Trump has imposed sanctions on three Turkish ministers and raised tariffs on its steel industry.

Pence's office said the US would pursue "punishing economic sanctions" unless there was "an immediate ceasefire".

In the message to Erdogan dated October 9 -- whose authenticity was confirmed to AFP by the White House -- Trump wrote: "You don't want to be responsible for slaughtering thousands of people, and I don't want to be responsible for destroying the Turkish economy -- and I will."

Kurdish commander: Trump approved deal with Russia, Damascus

AP ■ CEYLANPINAR (TURKEY)

The US President Donald Trump did not oppose a deal struck between the Syrian Kurdish-led forces, Russia and the Syrian government in Damascus to protect against a Turkish offensive in northeastern Syria, the commander of the force said as his fighters battled a new push by Ankara-backed fighters to seize a strategic border town.

The commander of the Kurdish-led forces, Mazloum Abdi, said Trump essentially gave the go-ahead for the deal in a phone call Monday.

The Kurds' deal, announced Sunday, came after Trump ordered US troops to step aside as Turkey launched its attack last week.

Under the agreement, forces of Syrian President

Bashar Assad effectively replace the US troops on the ground in the border areas, with Moscow guaranteeing the deal.

"We told (Trump) that we are contacting the Syrian regime and the Russians in order to protect our country and land," Abdi, better known by his nom de guerre Mazloum Kobani, told a local TV station, Ronahi TV.

"He said, 'We are not against that. We support that.' Vice President Mike Pence, heading a US delegation that includes Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, is set to arrive in Turkey Thursday afternoon, aiming to press Turkey to accept a cease-fire in its offensive."

Before their arrival, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met with White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien.

Opp protests suspend HK Assembly session



Security officers pursue pro-democracy lawmaker Au Nok-hin as he leaps across desks to chase Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam as Lam leaves a question and answer session with lawmakers at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Thursday

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam was again forced from the legislative chamber because of protests Thursday by opposition members following a bloody attack on a leader of the nearly 5-month-old protest movement.

Pro-democracy lawmakers shouted and waved placards depicting Lam with bloodied hands, prompting their removal by guards and the suspension of proceedings.

A day earlier, Lam was forced to abandon an annual policy address in the chamber, later delivering it by television.

Disruption in the chamber and the attack Wednesday night on Jimmy Sham by assailants wielding hammers and knives marked the latest dramatic turn in the unrest that has rocked the city since June.

Angry emojis flood Hong Kong leader's Facebook Live chat

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's embattled leader took to Facebook Live late Thursday in a bid to reach out to citizens after months of political unrest -- and the emoji count was far from kind.

Carrie Lam -- the city's unelected Chief Executive -- currently boasts record low approval ratings as the financial hub convulses with more than four months of huge, increasingly violent pro-democracy protests.

Aid groups scramble to reach Syrians as battle lines shift

AP ■ BARDARASH

Humanitarian groups in northeastern Syria are scrambling to provide aid to hundreds of thousands of people as rapidly shifting battle lines make it increasingly difficult to reach them.

Nearly all foreign aid workers have been evacuated because of security concerns, and there are fears that local staff could face reprisals, either at the hands of Turkish-led

forces pushing in from the north or Syrian troops fanning out across territory held by the embattled Kurds.

The front lines are being rapidly redrawn as more than 160,000 people flee the fighting, including many who were displaced by earlier battles in Syria's eight-year civil war.

The offensive has created a new refugee crisis in a region where some 1.6 million people already rely on humanitarian aid.

US politics at new low as Trump, Pelosi indulge in war of words over Syria

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

American domestic politics has experienced a new low with President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi engaging in an unprecedented war of words on the issue of pull out of US forces from Syria, a move that paved the way for Turkey to launch cross-border military operations against US-ally Kurdish forces.

The war of words on Wednesday between the two leaders started after the White House had invited the leadership and top committee members of both Democrats and Republicans, and the Congress to brief them about their policy on Syria.

Emerging out of a meeting at the White House, the two leaders accused each other of a serious meltdown.

Trump denies giving Turkey 'green light' for invasion

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his decision to pull US troops out of Syria, calling it "strategically brilliant," and denied giving Turkey a "green light" to launch operations against Kurdish militants.

"President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan's decision didn't surprise me because he's wanted to do that for a long time," Trump told reporters at the White House.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)
NIFT Campus, SIDCO Electronic Complex, Rangreth, Srinagar-191132, J&K

Recruitment of Group-C posts on Long Term Contract Basis
NIFT Srinagar invites applications for the various posts of Group-C. For more details, please log onto NIFT Srinagar website www.nift.ac.in/srinagar/. Last date for receipt of application is 30.11.2019.

Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Kamaljeet Kaur and Mr. Amardeep Singh acquired the property I.e Property bearing No. D-4712 Model Town Phase-III, Delhi, vide Relinquishment Deed dt. 20.02.2015 executed by Mrs. Meenal Kumar, read as document no. 1576, and Sale Deed dated 30.12.1974 by Mrs. Raj Rani Bhandari in favour of Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon for 200 Sq. Yds, Sale Deed dated 30.12.1974 by Mr. Raj Rani Bhandari in favour of Mr. Hira Singh for 82 Sq. Yds., Registered General Power of Attorney dated 20.09.1975 executed by Mr. Hira Singh in favour of Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon along with ATS and will for 82 Sq. Yds., Sale Deed dated 09.10.1975 executed by Mr. Hira Singh through his attorney Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon in favour of Mr. Ishar Dass Kumar for 82 Sq. Yds., Sale Deed dated 19.11.1975 executed by Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon in favour of Mr. Ishar Dass Kumar in respect of area measuring 200 Sq. Yds., are lost in Original.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance whatsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

"H.No. 26/161, LGF, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024"

Ajay Kumar Giri
Advocate
Ph.-40513964, 42444932

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	93195643B
Name of work and its location	AFTC Turning unit style T1 21 for frequencies A/5 #6 Nos., B/6 #6 Nos., C/6 #6 Nos. & D/4 #4 Nos. Make - Bambaridier or similar
Approx Cost of work	With Approximately cost is Rs. 2908786 86/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 56180/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.)
Quantity	22 Nos.
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11.00 hrs on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11.00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. Sr. DMMNS/ILP/93195643/2019, Date: - 16.10.2019	3320/2019

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	93195449A
Name of work and its location	AFTC End Termination unit (ETU) style T1-21 for different frequencies A/4, B/6, C/6 & D/6, Make - Bambaridier or similar.
Approx Cost of work	With Approximately cost is Rs. 37,77,911/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 75,560/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.)
Quantity	23 KMS
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11.00 hrs. on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11.00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. Sr. DMMNS/ILP/93195449/2019, Date: 16.10.2019,	3319/2019

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E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ON LINE BIDDING

01) Name of Area: MM Deptt., ECL (HO). 02) Tender No. & date: ECL/Flq/Pur/ Open/21953060-RC/2019-20/IV Fluid/061. 03) Name of Work: Conclusion of Rate Contract for 2 years for supply of IV Fluids (Influsions). 04) Estimated Cost: Rs.71,447.80. 05) Tender document download start date: 25.10.2019 (From 11.00 hrs IST). 06) Tender document download end date: 18.11.2019 (11.00 hrs IST). 07) Tender opening date & time: 19.11.2019 (11.00 hrs IST). NB: Details of tenders can be seen in ECL website www.easterncoalfields.com or <https://eprocure.gov.in> or <https://coalindiaindiantenders.nic.in>.

VISIT US AT www.easterncoalfields.com

N Ireland's DUP oppose UK Govt's Brexit plan

AFP ■ LONDON

Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party announced Thursday it cannot support Boris Johnson's current Brexit plan, dealing a major blow to the British prime minister just hours before a crunch EU summit.

"As things stand, we could not support what is being suggested on customs and consent issues, and there is a lack of clarity on VAT (value added tax)," the DUP, which backs Johnson's Government, said in a brief statement on Twitter.

"We will continue to work with the government to try and get a sensible deal that works for Northern Ireland and protects the economic and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom." The statement was seen as a major setback for Johnson, who would most likely need the support of his DUP allies in parliament for any deal agreed in Brussels.

It came as British and EU negotiators worked late into the night in the hopes of presenting a last-minute Brexit deal to

leaders meeting for a European summit. Both sides said they were close to finding a basis for a treaty to ensure Britain heads for a managed withdrawal from the European bloc it has been part of for nearly half a century.

EU's Juncker says no need for more delay

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker congratulated Prime Minister Boris Johnson on their Brexit withdrawal deal Thursday and said it meant there should be "no further delay".

"We have a deal, and this deal means there is no need for any kind of prolongation," Juncker told reporters as he welcomed the British leader to EU headquarters ahead of summit talks. British MPs are expected to vote on the deal on Saturday.

But officials had to iron out details on how Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, would remain under the European scheme for sale tax.

The pound fell 0.5 per cent against the dollar and the euro within minutes of the announcement.

EU's Juncker says no need for more delay

Pro-EU parliamentarians hope they can defeat it and Brexit can still be delayed to allow a general election or a new referendum on whether to leave the EU at all.

Arriving later at an EU summit of leaders expected to endorse the new withdrawal plan, Juncker said he hoped British MPs would pass the plan as agreed so that Britain can leave on October 31.

"There will be no prolongation. There is not an argument for further delay -- it has to be done now," he said.

Envoy key to Ukraine debate is due up in impeachment inquiry

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US ambassador to the European Union is expected to tell House lawmakers conducting an impeachment inquiry that he was merely repeating President Donald Trump's reassurances when he told another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in the administration's dealings with Ukraine. Gordon Sondland, scheduled to appear Thursday, would be the latest in a series of witnesses to be interviewed behind closed doors by House lawmakers.

Trump blocked his appearance last week, but Democrats promptly subpoenaed Sondland. His appearance is especially anticipated since text messages and other witness testimony place him at the center of a foreign policy dialogue with Ukraine that forms the basis of the impeachment inquiry and that officials feared circumvented normal channels.

Part of that effort involved pushing the former Soviet republic to commit to politically charged investigations sought by Trump, including into a gas company connected to the son of Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Iran warns to reduce nuclear commitments

IANAS ■ TEHRAN

Iran on Thursday said it would further reduce its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, unless its interests are secured by the signatories.

Iran is determined to take further steps to suspend its nuclear commitments under the pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the policy "will remain unchanged until the desired conditions are met and Iran's economic interests from the JCPOA are ensured," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was quoted as saying by local media.

Aragchi made the remarks in a meeting on Wednesday with his Swedish counterpart Anika Soder in Tehran, Xinhua reported.

He said despite Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA and reimposition of sanctions, "Iran tried to keep the windows of interaction and diplomacy open, while Europe has only relied on political support and refused to keep the accord alive".

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Vineeta Kumar w/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o B-1/1001, Uniwold City, Sector-30, Gurgaon-122001 Haryana do hereby solemnly affirm that I have got Flat No. 03 from Late Mrs. Kusalya Singh W/o late Mr. R.P. Singh in the Cooperative Group Housing Society popularly known as Upkar Apartments, through the instrument of a Registered Will. That I confirm that, I shall abide by the Bylaws of the Society applicable to the members. That I also undertake to share liability if any of the original member in respect of the dues towards the society past or present. That I hereby indemnify the society from any claim on account of original share certificate or any other documents of the original member.

Vineeta Kumar

CORRIGENDUM

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No.7, Community Centre, S D Towers, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi-110085.

Notice is hereby given for the addition of terms in tender cum auction for sale of secured asset of Ms SAIGON INFRA TECH PRIVATE LIMITED (Lan No. LONOD00035280620) as published on page no 13 The Pioneer (Eng) (Delhi/ NCR) Edition on Oct 11, 2019. For E-Auction fixed for secured asset on November 04, 2019.

1. Last date/time for submission of tender- November 03, 2019, Before 05:00PM.

Dated: 18-10-2019
Place : Delhi/NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
On behalf of secured creditor

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, 1. Praveen Kr. Jain S/o Late Sh. M.P. Jain, Smt. Sneha Jain W/o Sh. Praveen Kr. Jain R/o E-4/67, Sec-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085 and 2. Arun Kr. Jain S/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain, Mansha Jain W/o Sh. Anil with Sh. Sagar Chand Jain S/o Late Sh. Bhulan Singh Jain, Smt. Sushila Jain W/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain and Mansha Jain S/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain are the owner of the Built Up Property area 90Sq.Mtr. in Block and Pocket A-2/2, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085 having three floors. We have lost previous original three chains / papers notary files of all the three floors as above said property. If any person found the same pls. contact 925059198 or send the papers by post on the address mentioned herein above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Ravi Sahni, S/o Late Satpal Sahni and Mrs Neeta Sahni W/o Ravi Sahni R/o H.No. E-3/140, Sultantpur New Delhi-110086, My clients have disowned their son Rahul Sahni and Daughter in law Heena W/o Rahul Sahni from all their movable/ immovable properties and severed all their relations both legal & social with them due to disrespectful behavior. Any person dealing with them, they shall be doing so at his/her own risk, and my clients shall not be responsible for the same.

ADVOCATE : KULDEEP KUMAR
B-22, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazar Courts, Delhi-54

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public at large that my client, **Md Shoaib S/o Md Mohsin, R/o S-9, Nafees Road, Pahalwan Chowk, Jogabai Ext, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-25** along with his wife and all their relatives have refrained all of their relationships with their own son Aamir Khan and disowned (AAQ) him and his wife Subi Naaz and debarred them from all of their movable and immovable properties. He or any of his family member is not liable for any of their mis-deeds.

(On behalf of Md. Shoaib)
Nehal Siddiqui (Adv)
Delhi High Court
Office: I-97, Batla House, Jamia Nagar Okhla, New Delhi -110025

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See provision to rule 8(i)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(G)	(H)
1.	Bhoopendra Singh (Borrower), Renu Singh (Co-Borrower) LBNOD0002141352	Apartment No. 1609, 16th Floor, Block Maple, Paramount Symphony Group Housing Plot No. 06, Crossing Republik Durdahera, Ghaziabad, UP. Area-1465 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 55,77,655/- as on Oct 10, 2019	Rs. 40,00,000/- as on Oct 10, 2019. Rs. 4,00,000/-	Nov 12, 2019, From 03:00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M.	Nov 26, 2019, From 11:00 A.M. to Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link "https://eauctions.samil.in") of our auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd.** The Mortgagee's notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **Nov 25, 2019, before 5:00 P.M.** else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to **ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055** or to our marketing agent **Shriram Automall India Ltd at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034** or before **Nov 25, 2019 before 5:00 P.M.** The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DDI/ PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on **8657549734/ 9650193259** or **Shriram Automall India Ltd on 9910453434**. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/ e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

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

Date: October 18, 2019
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 45 years, Height : 57", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Identification : A tattoo of Dil alike on right side of chest, tattoo alike a star on right hand and tattoo SP written on chest, wearing black colour printed shirt and fauji colour pant, was found dead on 10.10.2019 behind Libaspur bus stand, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 57-A dated 10.10.2019 has been lodged at PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

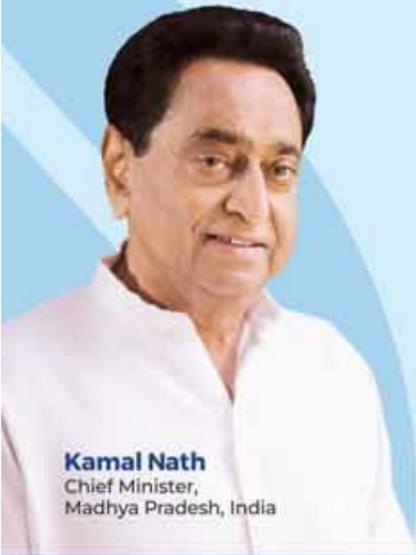
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.
Tel. No. 011-27854799, 27854757

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No. S/Tender/07/2019, dt. 16-10-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) - www.ireps.gov.in For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender, please visit I.R.E. Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/air or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials: SM-1, Tender No.: 30/19/1080/OT/07/2019. Brief Description: Shop Absacker, Quantity: 462 Nos. Closing/Opening Date: 08-11-2019.

PCMM
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"Serving Customers with a smile"

DP/709/ON/19



Kamal Nath
Chief Minister,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Madhya Pradesh Emerging Logistics Hub A Plethora of Employment Opportunities



Strategic location and accommodative policies of government giving a boost to the sector



Positive impact of GST Reform on MP's Logistics and Warehousing space

The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime has subsumed an array of inconsistent state tax levies and has established India as one market. Because of Madhya Pradesh's strategic central location and its border touching five other Indian states, the state has immense potential to become India's logistics hub.

India has a relatively higher logistics cost—almost 13-14% of GDP compared to the other countries like 10-11% in BRICS countries, 9.5% in US and 8% in Germany. This is a major impediment to the overall economic growth of the country. The current MP government is quick to realise that the problem can be dealt to some extent by developing logistics hub at various strategic places and hence MP can be promoted as the best-located state to handle this. Rich experience of Shri Kamal Nath as Union Cabinet Minister of Commerce and Industry as well as Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and his deep understanding about the corporate matter, is proving to be a catalyst towards growth of the sector.

'Logistics and Warehousing' Policy-providing required hike to the sector

Kamal Nath Government came up with dedicated 'Logistics and Warehousing' Policy which reemphasised its commitment towards the development of the sector. MP has a vast pool of lands available. Though landlocked, the state government has been able to attract various industries which are export-oriented. It has already seven inland container depots (ICDs) located at Malanpur (Gwalior), Ratlam, Mandideep (Bhopal), Pithampur (Indore), Pawarkheda (Itarsi), Tihi (Indore) and Dhannad (Indore). Few of these ICDs are being set-up by private players which shows interest and convenience felt by them in the logistics and warehousing space of the state. An International Air Cargo Facility has also been made available at Indore.



In the current GST regime, Madhya Pradesh possesses the potential to become India's Logistics Hub because of its strategic central location. Sharing borders with 5 other states, any industry setting up base here can directly reach India's 50% population within 12 hours by road.

MAGNIFICENT MADHYA PRADESH INVESTORS' SUMMIT 2019

INDORE, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA
18TH OCTOBER



To invest, visit invest.mp.gov.in

Why MP is a preferred destination for developing Logistics Hub?

- For any state to become a preferred logistics hub, it needs to have four basic attributes - strategic location in the context of the consumption market, vast pool of land, availability of skilled and unskilled labour and most importantly the thriving local industries in the area.
- Madhya Pradesh is geographically blessed to be perfectly positioned to serve major consumption market in the country.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust is just 12 hours away from the state and with the presence of ICDs, all the formalities of export are being conveniently done at the source itself. Besides saving the time of consignments at the port, it also helps in avoiding high parking charges for containers at the ports.
- Logistics sector requires vast reserves of land and MP has 1,20,000 acres of industrial land in MPIDC's industrial areas.

Huge Employment Opportunities to the Labour Force

The development of the sector is promising massive employment opportunities to the youth of the state. MP's labour force has a huge advantage over other states in terms of being quite peaceful and having least incidents of labour unrests as compared to labour protests in other parts of the country. Also, more than 300 large industries are already thriving in the state while many more are planning to soon set-up units here. Their products are not only being transported in India but also being exported to different countries.

Accommodative Policies and Special Incentive Packages

The state government has been proactively taking multiple steps to promote the sector and introduced special incentive packages for investors interested in Logistics and Warehousing space. The government provides investment assistance to the tune of 15% (maximum of Rs. 15 crore) on Gross Fixed Capital Investment (except for land and residential buildings). MP government is giving infrastructure development assistance to the tune of 50% (maximum of Rs. 1 crore) to construct access infrastructure to the site.

Besides, the government is also offering 100% reimbursement of stamp duty and registration fee on the instrument of mortgage done in connection with obtaining loan from banks for developing logistic and warehousing hub and on purchase of land. Other sops being given to the investors are electricity duty exemption for 5 to 10 years for new High-Tension connection by DISCOM and relaxation in the floor-area ratio (FAR) of 1 : 0.60 and maximum ground coverage of 60%.

Given above advantages, focussed vision and trust instilled by the Chief Minister Kamal Nath, MP is soon being preferred by many investors for the development of logistics and warehousing hub.



vivacity

NO TIME FOR LOVE:
KARTIK AARYAN
- P 14



HOW TO DEAL WITH ANGRY CUSTOMERS

Your response speaks volumes about how much you care about them

It is already a widely accepted fact that customer service can make or break a company. At the same time, how a company behaves while dealing with an angry customer is a huge determinant of how their brand is perceived.

Customers get rude or angry for a variety of reasons—some justified, some not. But since you're in business to serve your customers, you'll likely encounter rude or angry individuals at one time or another. How you respond can make the difference between a customer who feels satisfied with the resolution and one who vows never to patronize your business again.

When a customer starts yelling or being otherwise rude, there is nothing to be gained by responding in a similar manner. In fact, that will probably escalate hostilities. Maintain control of yourself, even if the customer's tirade makes you feeling like yelling yourself.

Many of us have to deal with angry or unhappy clients as part of our roles, and it's never easy. But if we know what to say and, more importantly, how to say it, we may be able to save the situation. In fact, we can even end up with a better relationship with our client than we had before. Anyone working in service will have to deal with an angry customer sooner or later. The stress and unpredictability of these situations are the cause of many disastrous fails.

The angry customers that do engage

are those that jumped into action before their mental balance was restored, or those who made a calculated decision that they could only get their issue solved if they engage with some power.

It is easier than ever for customers to share their experiences publicly. The way you respond to them speaks volumes about how much you care about them.

Fear of a negative outcome results from the desire to turn things into a certain direction. The stress doesn't come from the situation; it comes from you. By letting go of the idea that you have to fix the situation, you let go of the fear and the stress.

That's not the same as not caring, however. It's just the realization that you can only do the work as best as you can. Let go of the responsibility for the outcome. Focus only on the execution.

Time is a commodity everyone values. Every time a customer faces a problem, they lose time reaching out to the company, maneuvering through complex menu obstacle courses, and eventually being able to reach an actual person who will put them on hold for a ridiculous amount of time, or an emails address which fetches a reply after ten hours.

Let's be honest here: a lot of companies harass at complaint handling. Even when they do manage to solve a customer's problem, the enormous amount of time that is wasted in the process leaves them irked.



It's understandable that coming up with a solution might involve reaching out to a few people or going back to the handbook, but, it's worth noting that the customer was not ready to face a problem in the first place - every extra minute spent is a minute wasted.

The first thing an angry customer wants is to vent. To do so, they need someone to listen—and, for better or worse, you are that person. Listening patiently can

defuse a situation, as long as the customer feels acknowledged in his or her complaint. Hear them out. When they are done talking, summarize what you've heard and ask any questions to further clarify their complaint. Body language can be critically important here. Keep eye contact. Stand or sit up straight. Keep your arms uncrossed. Show how closely you're paying attention to their problem.

Actively sympathize. After the customer vents, he wants to know you understand where he's coming from and how he or she feels. Express sympathy for their unpleasant customer experience. Respect and understanding go a long way toward smoothing things over.

Apologize gracefully. Whether the customer's complaint is legitimate or not is really irrelevant. If you want her to stay a customer, you need to express an apology for the problem they are having (or perceive to be having). A simple, straightforward statement is often all that's needed: "I'm sorry you're not happy with our product. Let's see what we can do to make things right."

It gets even more annoying when a customer has to talk to multiple support reps. The joy of receiving a solution is usually overshadowed by the test of patience they had to take during the episode.

Once you understand why the customer is unhappy, it is time to offer a solu-

tion. Ask him what he feels should be done or put forward your own fair and realistic answer to the problem. In most cases, that's all the customer is looking for—and may result in providing some degree of satisfaction.

If you're not sure you know what your client wants from you, or if they resist your proposed solution, then give him the power to resolve things. Ask her to identify what will make her happy.

For instance, you could say, "If my solution doesn't work for you, I'd love to hear what will make you happy. If it's in my power I'll get it done, and if it's not possible, we can work on another solution together."

Once you've both agreed on a solution, you need to take action immediately. Explain every step that you're going to take to fix the problem to your client.

If she has contacted you by phone, make sure that she has your name and contact details. This gives her a feeling of control because she can get hold of you again if she needs to.

Once the situation has been resolved, follow up with your client over the next few days to make sure that she's happy with the resolution. Whenever you can, go above and beyond her expectations. For instance, you could send her a gift certificate, give her a great discount on her next purchase, or send her a hand-written apology.

WHEN A CUSTOMER STARTS YELLING OR BEING OTHERWISE RUDE, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY RESPONDING IN A SIMILAR MANNER. IN FACT, THAT WILL PROBABLY ESCALATE HOSTILITIES

Trend Blazer

Kartik has no time for love

Actor **KARTIK AARYAN**, who will be seen in *Pati, Patni Aur Woh*, says he has no time for love and his sole focus is on his Bollywood career.

Kartik's assertion came in the wake of constant media reports linking him to various co-stars, from Sara Ali Khan to Ananya Panday. Asked if plans to settle down soon, the *Luka Chuppi* star preferred turning mamma's boy.

"I have to ask this to my mother. Now, I am focusing on my career," he said.

His next film *Pati, Patni Aur Woh* is incidentally a comedy based on marital tension.



'Acting has never been the end of my life because I have always had different interest areas. Acting has enabled me to do different things, whether it is my political career, social activism, entrepreneurship and enthusiasm as a fitness advocate. It has given me all that because I started living a public life as an actor.' —Gul Panag

While inaugurating the Shoppers Stop store and unveiling the brand *Disha Patani* by Glam, actor **DISHA PATANI** said, "I am very excited to partner with the brand and Glam to launch a collection that will be fabulous, fun and flirty which is a true representative of who I am."

She added that it is the go to destination for fashion and beauty and can't wait for her fans from all over the country to wear the collection.



Kidman and Alexander re-unite

Director Robert Eggers' next film *The Northman* will star **NICOLE KIDMAN** and **ALEXANDER SKARSGARD**.

The film is described as a viking revenge saga set in Iceland at the turn of the 10th century. In talks to join Kidman and Skarsgard are Anya Taylor-Joy, Bill Skarsgard and Oscar nominee Willem Dafoe.

Eggers will direct the film from a script he co-wrote with Icelandic poet and novelist Sjón.

Skarsgard and Oscar nominee Willem Dafoe. Kidman have previously worked together in the popular show *Big Little Lies*.

Skarsgard will next be seen in his forthcoming film *Kong vs Godzilla*. He recently booked the plum part of Randall Flagg in CBS All Access' adaptation of Stephen King's *The Stand*.



Manufacturers are doing their bit to promote sustainability and upgrading their equipment to help people gear up for rising pollution levels, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**



THE SKY IS GREY

Of late, how often have you seen people wearing masks in metros, local markets and malls? Yes, the trend is corroborated by recent surveys which suggest that as awareness about air pollution is spiking, more people are queuing to buy protective gear. And considering that Diwali is round the corner along with the annual menace of stubble burning, is it even surprising? For it's that time of the year when people retreat to their homes because of the smog that wraps the city like a blanket. Move over gold and electronics, anti-pollution products are emerging as the latest trend in the Diwali must-haves. So private players have stepped in and have on offer equipment that can fight the poisonous air.

Delhi-based environmental activist and entrepreneur Jai Dhar Gupta runs Nirvana Being, an anti-pollution tools company. It manufactures specialised air pollution masks and provides indoor air quality solutions too. Talking about *'Kalyug Ki Khidki'*, a new concept being launched this month, he says, "We stay

in our bedrooms for eight to 10 hours with air conditioners on. This blocks the circulation of fresh air. As the AC takes in the air from a room, cools it and releases it back there is an excess of carbon dioxide. If we inhale it for prolonged periods, it is poisonous. So what is the option that we are left with? This equipment provides a solution to this problem by bringing in filtered outdoor air into your room to maintain the oxygen level. It needs to be installed on a window or wall, which then constantly refreshes incoming air through a hepa-filter."

Other private companies are coming up with innovative equipment. Rohit Bansal, founder of AQI India & Purelogic Labs India Private Limited, says that now more efforts are being made by citizens to set up air quality monitors. "So we have come up with a Prana air motion mask, which not only protects a user from more than 99 per cent of the pollutants but also monitors the air. With that, they will know when to protect themselves. This year we have also launched a junior mask for

children and teenagers, specially designed keeping their sensitivity in mind," he adds.

As per the recent statistics, released on October 16, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has crossed 300. Vikas Bagaria, founder of Pee Safe, says, "Poor air quality has been a consistent public health concern in Delhi for the past few years. To fight this issue, we have launched modern-style anti-pollution dust masks, which ensure that air pollution does not disrupt people's lifestyles. These are capable of filtering out 95 per cent of the toxins present in the air and have the perfect facial fit with earlobes and valves that facilitate easy breathing, alongside reducing build-up of heat or humidity. They filter out dust, microbes, and also help to combat serious respiratory problems like asthma."

Amway has gone a step further through its recently-launched atmosphere mini air purifier. Says CEO Anshu Budhraj, "Air Pollution is a serious issue in India where majority of people are breathing air which is 10 times or more over the WHO-safe limit. Therefore, there is a growing need for air purification solution to breathe better and stay healthy. Ours is a next-generation air purifier equipped with better membranes than the HEPA grade filter that removes particles as small as 0.0024 microns with a single pass efficiency of 99.99 per cent

'POOR AIR QUALITY HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN IN THE CAPITAL FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. TO FIGHT THIS ISSUE, THE PRIVATE PLAYERS HAVE LAUNCHED MODERN-STYLE ANTI-POLLUTION DUST MASKS'

and comes with allergy UK seal of approval."

Among other things, organisations are also making efforts to first research and understand the problem at the grassroot level. AirOk Technologies Private limited CEO Deekshith Vara Prasad says that they first analysed the data before moving on with launching the equipment. She adds, "The dirty air with particulate matter, which is pretty large, can be trapped with HEPA filters. However, pollutants stick on their surface, creating a perfect environment for microbial growth to feed and multiply. Studies show that in the indoor environment, HEPA filters can become a breeding surface for pathogens, in as little as six days. So the air becomes unhealthy when it is contaminated with viruses and bacteria. To fight this, there is the EGAPA (Effective Granular Particulate Arrester) solution that controls all these parameters along with PM 2.5 (particulate matter), which can be integrated into any building to create a clean air zone throughout the year."

Though the equipment claim a marginal improvement in the air quality, a lot of effort has to be put in to combat pollution. Gupta says, "The real problem lies at the roots. So we need to cut the pollution level at the source. There should also be a regulation on the emissions from vehicles."

'Strive for better'

Actor **DARSHEEL SAFARY** talks about his forthcoming play, *Kaise Kareng?*, which depicts a conflict between ambition and family duty. By **CHAHAK MITTAL**



When life throws lemons at you, make lemonade, is a philosophy that 21 year old Saurav Parasrampur (played by Darsheel Safary) follows, whose only dream is to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). As he nears his dream, he faces a crisis — his brother, 27-year-old Kapil Parasrampur (played by Abhishek Pattnaik) develops a Multiple Personality Disorder. He chooses to stay. What follows is mayhem. Thus begins Saurav's journey to help his brother make this disorder a boon for him.

After doing *Can I Help You?* and *Two Adorable Losers*, Darsheel's next play, *Kaise Kareng?* depicts a conflict between ambition and family duty. Excerpts:

How did you land this role?

I was watching TV at home when Abhishek contacted me and wanted to meet me. Though I was feeling lazy but since the place was nearby, I went. I had no idea that I was going for a meeting that would be about working in theatre. And then when I met them, they narrated me the script. It sounded funny. But I thought that I should be a part of it because it will be a new experience. I thought for a while and agreed on the spot.

How has the experience of performing live for theatre been?

Honestly, it has been a transitional experience, because it's the first time I was learning about theatre and its technicalities. I adapted to the situations and as soon as I got the hang of it, I started discovering its multiple facets. For instance, in theatre, when the audience is in front of you, their reactions are visible. I enjoyed that feeling. Incidentally, we were doing comedy, so watching people laugh, enjoy and connect with us felt so good. My co-actor Abhishek keeps describing this. He says, "It's like a high that you get when you perform for an audience and entertain them thoroughly." I think that's one of the many learnings I have had. It has made me a better actor, a more confident person and has showed me a very different way of approaching a role. People ask me, "For how long will you do theatre?" When are you getting back to films? Now, even if I get back to films or whatever I do in the future, I will continue doing theatre because it makes you a consistent learner.

What was the research work involved to get into the skin of your character? How did you understand the problems and

nuances of a person with multiple identity disorder?

I was told that in the play, I will be playing a role that I have never played before, that is, the role of a genius. It was not easy because I was struggling to add my own flavour. But that's how you become more comfortable with your character. Our director Suketu was very open to us changing, improvising and adding our own flavour to roles. Even Abhishek was very supportive of this. So it's like a mix and that way you get the best of all the worlds. And probably that's how we locked up Saurav's character.

Since you have been a part of both theatre and cinema, how do you think that cinema is different from theatre? What do you find more challenging?

I think theatre is definitely more challenging. You have to really live the character and make it believable. So if you are not really crying on the stage, you are not feeling it. *Film mein kar sakte ho* as there are all sorts of tricks and techniques there to make it look natural or believable. You have a lot of support when you are doing films. But in theatre, the support vanishes. That is why people say that the-

atre is the best art form. Not denying the fact that films are challenging too. But in a different way. So for me, here you have to make things believable and if you get those aspects in films as well, it automatically elevates your performance. It helps both ways.

How have you evolved since the time of *Taare Zameen Par* to now?

I started in 2006 when I followed everything I was told to do. Sometimes they would ask me to enjoy myself and they would ask me what would you do in this situation, and what would come out organically was what I would do. Throughout the years, I worked with different people and I grasped as much as I could. But there were certain limitations, which got changed in every step that I took. For instance, when I did TV for the first time (reality TV show *Jhalak Dikha Jaa*) — I learnt something new and very different. Post that, I joined theatre, which changed my perception towards acting even more. I

usually marked my performances on a scale of up to 10 — 8/10, 9/10, etc. — but theatre dissolved that scale for me. Now the scale doesn't exist because it's like a never-ending ladder for me. That's what the main concept of theatre is — you learn everything from every play that you do. That way when my thought process changed. Also, I learnt the fact that every day is a learning opportunity. You cannot stop learning, especially when doing theatre. I never think of the medium or the fact that whether I have to act in films or TV or do theatre. I just keep the story as my priority. Earlier, for me, anyone would decide how big my character is or how long the role is. Now, I just decide that the story is good and I can be a part of it. And it automatically becomes something nice. Now, I just want to act more. One of my other perceptions that has changed is that the line between theatre, films and TV has just blurred for me. I only want to act and enjoy myself. It increases my love for acting as well.

Twelve years down and people still remember you as 'Ishaan Awasthi'. Do you think that the role had been the most iconic one in your acting career?

If people still remember me as Ishaan Awasthi, it just shows the impact and the value of that performance. I am very thankful. It's something that happens once in a lifetime. I don't really remember real acting. It was, in a way, me only. I remember that there was no stress or tension. I was just nine years old and busy enjoying myself. It's a memorable one for sure. People can remember me as Ishaan for as long as they can. I love it. It motivates me to do more works like Ishaan, performing in that way and strive for better. This is what such roles motivate us to do.

There's a huge similarity between your roles in *TZP* and *Kaise Kareng?* In both, you deal with a certain psychological disorder. What is your take on mental health and the changing scenario of people accepting such people?

I personally feel that acting is also very psychological. You are re-channelling your emotions and a certain thought process. In a way, actors have the edge over other people. They have better control on their emotions. And people doing method acting, they have the ability to step into a different character altogether, although it's by choice. I feel that because of this, I have learnt the fact that communication is very important while facing any kind of mental or psychological problem. The more you communicate it out, the more it will help.

Two Adorable Losers is also about communication. Akshay, the character that I play suffers from inferiority complex. Even the teacher, who teaches him suffers from a certain type of inferiority complex, and both of them communicate it to each other in the most hilarious of ways and very genuinely too. And gradually, the audience watches them becoming more confident as they have understood how to react to society.

Same goes with *Kaise Kareng?* Once you are aware about what's happening, because you can never know how people may react, you should take them on the side and have a genuine, heartfelt conversation about the problems they are suffering with. Sharing is key. If you have a problem, you can always share it with your best friend, parents especially, or with your sibling, because I don't think there is anything better than a clear understanding. Once you have communicated the problem, the best will come your way. I believe in the oldest saying, 'God helps those, who help themselves.' When you are facing any issue, just believe in this saying and get yourself out of it. No one but only you can get yourself out of this. Keeping yourself in a better mindset is always important. These are the few elements that I have understood because all of us go through a certain emotional or psychological problem at some point in our lives.

People have seen very less of your films post 2012, do you plan to do more films and roles in future again? Any other forthcoming projects?

Of course, I am open to doing films as long as the story is great, there talks in the pipe line, so you'll be seeing me soon. Also like I said, I'll be doing films and theatre side-by-side. But nothing as of now.

(Out of the Box Productions' eighth, the play will be staged on October 20 at 6.30 pm at Kamani Auditorium.)

Despite some misses, *Wok in the Clouds* makes for a comfy place for light bites, says CHAHAK MITTAL

Tucked in one of the many busy and bustling blocks of Connaught Place, Wok in the Clouds instantly took me back to the Keanu Reeves-starrer, *A Walk in the Clouds*. I wondered whether it was one of those high-concept bars based on a blockbuster. As I entered the place, I realised that it was inspired only by the film's name. Its vibe was about chic contemporaneity. The heart-shaped mirrors, graffiti and trendy posters about drinking and dining at the entrance were a quirky way to welcome the guests. As I sat on the high-pitched chaise-lounge at the table adjacent to the bar, I observed artefacts and showpieces which intrigued me. Why would a fine dine-in restaurant-cum-bar have three tiny statues of soldiers holding a rope in different positions — climbing up, crawling down and hanging? However, they added to the absorbing aura. To my left were posters of guitar, music signs, and some doodles that said, 'I Love Binge Drinking.' Well, the vibrant bar with a colourful glassy slab, lit with yellow lights, and an array of wines, whiskies, spirits and beers, could certainly make that one come true.

As impressed as I was by WITC's aesthetics, I wondered whether what it served me would match up to the ambience. Scrolling through the menu, I first ordered the puree of wild mushroom soup. The porcini, shitake and button mushrooms-infused off-white creamy soup had a delicate texture. I never had thought that mushrooms could be so distinctly flavourful. Talking of spices, the soup tasted of black pepper that blended perfectly with a variety of bland but fresh mushrooms. The soup was served with two cigar rolls and a chilli oregano dip, which complemented the soup's comforting taste.

It was time for the *Minestrone*. The broth filled with finely-chopped bits of tomatoes and vegetables, kidney beans, dry spaghetti, rye bread and garlic butter had the right amount of tanginess which made the right impact. However, an excess of garlic meant the soup couldn't quite make the cut.



CLOUD OF HOT AIR

Next up was the *Aloo chakna chaat*. As eager as I was for this dish to arrive on my table, my interest fell flat as I bit into it. With wheat crisps (*sev*) and pomegranate sprinkled on top, the chopped potatoes dipped in sweet-spicy tamarind sauce and tasted exactly the way it was described, nothing less or more. I wished there was extra zing to the dish. After all, why would I pay ₹225 for an *Aloo chaat* that I could relish at just ₹40 at the street side? Also, the latter would have been aptly spicy.

The *Rawa dal tikki* followed. I chose to order the dish as the thought of a *tikki* being served with *Matar ka hummus*, rather than the conventional mint *chutney* or *meethi saunth*, instantly drew me towards it. Well, it didn't disappoint me. But the problem lay at the heart as the *tikki*, due to its blandness and dry texture, failed to make an everlasting impression.

Next in line were the crunchy *dahi sticks*, or the *Dahi kebabs*. The previous two dishes were responsible for a taste graph that was sliding down fast. However, it's rightly said, good things come to you when you least expect them. The kebabs, wrapped around wooden ice cream sticks, were presented in four vodka shot glasses. Its appearance had made a mark. Now



was the time for the more important test — taste — and it passed with flying colours. It instantly melted in my mouth which was soon awash with the creamiest filling. Served with a *mint chutney*, the kebabs were made with

tastiest dish of the evening. To accompany the sweet and salty dishes that I was having, I ordered the scented black currant sherbet which had kokum, black currant, cumin in sparkling water. It was the perfect refreshment. I sulked at the thought that I could have ordered it earlier. Its juicy, spicy and tangy texture made me forget all my woes of tasting imperfect dishes on an evening when I craved for some lasting delicacies.

Then came the spicy golden paneer fingers in two ways — peri peri and pesto. Now as we know, the mere mention of paneer excites a vegetarian. However, to my surprise, the long cottage cheese fingers didn't arrive in 'two ways', rather came with two flavoured dips — creamy green pesto and peri peri sauce. Well, one bite into the dish and there occurred an epiphany — there's nothing worse than sitting down at a cafe, ordering a dish, pining for it and being miserably disappointed. The dish was bland and even the dips didn't help.

As full as I was, I didn't want to miss the desserts. I ordered two out of the four in the menu — Apple pie and Sizzling brownie. While the latter amazed me with its remarkable presentation and taste, the latter did a great job at fulfilling my cravings. Just a few words for both the desserts — taste it yourself and feel its extraordinariness.

Though the place had its misses, a certain joy remains preserved there. It has a quiet, personal yet, at the same time, a strangely social vibe, making it ideal to catch up with a friend after years. Another thing that can be said in favour of the place was the service which was impeccable.

Fussy little burger

ANDREW REA talks about how his cooking show, *Binging with Babish*, is inspired by many recipes that have been featured in various films and TV series

It all started with a fictional turkey burger. Andrew Rea's YouTube video series *Binging with Babish* was born in 2016 when he attempted to recreate the "fussy little burger" described in elaborate detail by Rob Lowe's character Chris Traeger on a third-season episode of *Parks and Recreation*. Hungry viewers were soon clamouring for more recipes based on foods that appear or get mentioned in films or TV episodes, and Rea had a new career on his hands.

Now he has a new cookbook: *Binging with Babish: 100 Recipes Recreated from Your Favorite Movies and TV Shows* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). And while the premise might sound more silly than serious, the book — like the video series — is actually full of real meals and desserts that transcend their sometimes ridiculous fictional origins.

There are a few recipes you'll marvel at but probably never want to make, like Buddy the Elf's candy-laden pasta dish from the movie *Elf* or Jake the Dog's bizarre "perfect sandwich" from the cartoon *Adventure Time*, which includes hummus as an ingredient. But even with these, Rea lays out the steps to recreate them in actual, edible form.

Most of this beautiful hardcover book, though, is filled with dishes you'd want to dig into even if they didn't have a pop-culture connection.

Rea's recipe for flavourful, yogurt-marinated Palestinian chicken really is as good as Larry David says it is during a season eight episode of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. And Rea's version of the mushroom soup recipe that Elaine is determined to get from the *Soup Nazi* on *Seinfeld* really is sublime, and not difficult to replicate.

Though he points out in the book's surprisingly moving introduction that he's not a professional chef, Rea brings a remarkable professionalism to the authenticity of his recipes. His luscious strudel, inspired by the film *Inglourious Basterds*, includes dough painstakingly made from scratch.

Fans might be a bit disappointed, in fact, by the shortage of explanation about how



these recipes fit into the stories that inspired them. Beyond the name of the show or film, Rea says little or nothing about that.

The focus is on the food. And the more tangential a recipe's connection to pop culture — like the beef Wellington only casually mentioned in a flirtatious riff delivered by John Slattery's Roger Sterling on an early episode of *Mad Men* — the more determined Rea seems to be to offer the best and most authentic version possible.

The recipes are laid out with detailed instructions amid gorgeous photography, and Rea explains how he chose the ingredients and created the dishes. Each recipe includes his personal "verdict" on how good it really tastes.

Some dishes, it seems, are better left on the screen, including Liz Lemon's Cheesy Blasters (an artery-clogging mix of hot dogs stuffed with Monterey jack cheese, wrapped in a frozen pizza, from *30 Rock*) and Dothraki Blood Pie from *Game of Thrones*, which has as its primary ingredient a full pound of pork fat, finely diced.

The verdict on that one, according to Rea: "Dothraki Blood Pie is pretty gross."

But the "prison gravy" from *Goodfellas* will elevate your next spaghetti dinner. And Rea swears by his



recipe for confit byaldi (better known as ratatouille, and included here in honor of the animated movie of the same name).

In this much longer follow-up to his 2017 cookbook *Eat What You Watch: A Cookbook for Movie Lovers*, Rea has included nods to just about every genre of film and TV. You'll find Lake Trout and Pit Beef from *The Wire*, followed on the next page by Principal Skinner's favorite coconut-based seafood stew from *The Simpsons*.

If you've ever wanted the secret recipe for Krabby Patties or thought about assembling your own *Friends*-inspired Moistmaker sandwich out of Thanksgiving leftovers, both recipes are here.

And Marvel fans, remember that sandwich Simmons lovingly sent along with Fitz on his first real mission during season one of *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*? It's here, along with a recipe for chicken paprika just like the one Vision attempts to whip up for Wanda Maximoff during *Captain America: Civil War*. Even the chicken shawarma that the Avengers refueled on after the exhausting Battle of New York is included.

Whatever your TV or movie preferences may be, Rea's appealing voice and creative recipes might just inspire you to start cooking.

In describing the joyful reaction of Aziz Ansari's character, Dev, at having made really good pasta from scratch during an episode of *Master of None*, Rea offers this encouragement: "This sentiment of excited accomplishment is an accessible, tangible sensation that we can manifest from our favorite pieces of fiction. All you've got to do is try."

—AP

gorgeous



Sidewalk, Hyatt Regency presents special Diwali hampers, which bring together a range of carefully selected assortments, including Indian sweets, and dry fruits in limited edition boxes. Some of them are the Gourmet Box, the Premium Box, the Luxury Box, and the Executive Box with four, six, eight and 12 items respectively. Price: ₹2,450 plus taxes



Celebrate this Diwali with L'Opéra's carefully curated limited edition festive hampers that comprise authentic French delicacies such as macarons, biscuits, chocolates, colourful dragées, florentines, tea cakes, preserves and exotic teas in various combinations, which can also be customised to suit your requirements. Price: ₹800 onwards



Honey & Dough presents its special Diwali hampers with an array of items like oatmeal raisin cookies, chocolate chip cookies, cheese straws and French hearts, H&D Gourmet Gift Box that has garlic soya sticks, chocolate chunk brownies, chocolate almonds, cheese straws, blueberry tea cakes and more. Price: ₹580 to ₹2,300

Foodhall brings the perfect solution for gifting needs this Diwali through its hampers like Noor and Arsh, Opulence of India and Medley, and Taber, comprising luxurious and artisanal offerings like pista, pine nuts and apricots, saffron honey, honey dippers, baklava, stuffed dates and special gourmet salted caramel rochers, orange and mixed seed florentines, honey roasted almonds and more. Price: ₹1,500



Celebrate the festival of lights with The Good Life (TGL) Company's hampers of premium teas that unfold six decadent tea blends, handcrafted to tease each of the six senses, consisting of Mogo Mogo, China Geisha, Strawberry and Cream, Orange and more. Price: ₹999 plus taxes

Live up to the vibrancy of the festive season as The Westin Gurgaon presents an array of thoughtfully crafted bespoke Diwali hampers. There is a range of these specially curated treats like truffle chocolates, enticing Indian sweets, macarons and cookies, chocolate bars, baklava, nuts and more. There is also the Tea Hamper, which is an aficionado's treat, curated with some of the finest teas. Price: ₹950 onwards



WHOLESALE WALNUT BREAD
WHAT YOU NEED

- Fresh yeast: 25 gm
- Warm water
- Honey: 1 tbsp
- Malt flour: 2 tbsp
- Flour: 375 gm
- Whole grain wheat flour: 200 gm
- Walnuts (coarsely chopped): 150 gm
- Salt: 7 gm

METHOD

- Dissolve the fresh yeast in a large bowl in lukewarm water. If you are using dry yeast, mix it with the flour.
- Add honey, three types of flour and then stir or knead everything into a nice dough.
- Add the chopped walnuts, salt and knead everything into the dough for five to 10 minutes.
- Leave the kneaded dough in the bowl, cover it with a dish towel and set it aside at a warm place. Let the dough rise for 60 minutes.



- Divide the dough into six pieces and roll each piece into long sausages.
- Take three sausages and connect them at one end. Braid them, and connect to the other end. Repeat the process with the next three sausages.
- Now, twist the two braided breads into one single bread and fold the two ends under the bread.
- Place the twisted bread on a parchment paper

covered oven plate. Then cover it with a clean dishtowel and let it rise for another 30 minutes at a warm place.

- Preheat the oven to 200 C.
- Spray a little cold water into the oven to create some water vapour. Now bake the bread for about 35 minutes. The bread is done when it sounds hollow when knocking at the bottom of it.

Courtesy: Cicchetti by Mr Beans.

RECIPES



BRATHENDL (ROASTED CHICKEN)

WHAT YOU NEED

- Whole skin chicken: 1 kg
 - Salt: 10 gm
 - Black pepper crush: 8 gm
 - Paprika powder: 15 gm
 - Parsley: 20 gm
 - Melted butter: 30 gm
 - Heavy cream: 200 ml
 - Fresh rosemary: 5 gm
 - Mustard paste: 5 gm
 - Boiled potato: 100 gm
 - Garlic paste: 20 gm
 - Olive oil: 50 ml
- METHOD**
- Clean and wash chicken, and then allow it to dry. You can also use kitchen towel for this.
 - Mix salt, pepper, paprika powder, garlic paste, olive

oil and fresh rosemary. Then rub the chicken with this mixture. Wash parsley and put it inside chicken belly. Allow it to rest for two to three hours.

- Pre-heat oven to 220-425 degree, brush chicken with melted butter and place it on the grid with the breast side down. Let it cook until it turns brown. Try to keep the chicken wet until its roasted fully.
- Pass the juice through a sieve and adjust the seasoning by adding salt, pepper and mustard sauce. Chop parsley, add heavy cream to it and serve hot with chicken, parsley potato and red cabbage slaw.

Courtesy: Corporate Chef, Sanjay Singh Yadav at Vapour Bar Exchange.

Pogba, De Gea out of Liverpool clash

Manchester United manager confirms the duo will miss Sunday's game at Old Trafford

AGENCIES ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United will prepare for Sunday's Premier League clash against Liverpool without the injured Paul Pogba and David De Gea, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Wednesday.

Goalkeeper De Gea was forced to leave the field during Spain's Euro 2020 qualifier against Sweden on Tuesday.

"David needs a scan," Solskjaer told Sky Sports. "I think he'll be out. It certainly looked like it anyway judging on last night so it's just one of those things."

France midfielder Pogba has missed five of United's last seven matches with an ankle injury, and after spending part of the international break recuperating in Dubai, Solskjaer said the 26-year-old is still not ready for first-team action.

"Paul had an injury, he came back, he worked really hard. He came back and played a couple of games, maybe played through the pain barrier," Solskjaer added.

"He had a scan after the Arsenal game and maybe needed a few weeks' rest in a boot so hopefully he won't be too long, but he won't make this game, no."

United have recorded two wins in their opening eight league matches this season and sit two points above the relegation zone in 12th place.

Anthony Martial, Luke Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka are likely to return from the treatment room but Solskjaer is yet to make a decision on their availability.

"Hopefully, Aaron and Anthony will last the training this week and be available for selection," the Norwegian coach added.

"If it's for half a game or 30 minutes I don't know but let's see where they're at."

Liverpool have made a perfect start to the season with 24 points from eight matches and will look to equal Manchester City's record of 18 consecutive top-flight victories when they visit Old Trafford.



Manchester United's Paul Pogba battles for ball possession with Liverpool's Joel Matip during Premier League 2018-19 season match AP/File Picture

REINFORCE SQUAD

Manchester United will try to sign one or two players in the January transfer window to improve their chances of finishing in the top four but will not spend big on transfer fees and wages, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

United are 12th in the Premier League ahead of Sunday's home game against league leaders Liverpool after a poor start to the season that has been further disrupted by injuries to key players.

Solskjaer sanctioned the departures of forwards Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez in the close sea-

son without reinforcing United's attack.

"We're looking at one or two new signings. We're one or two players light," Solskjaer told Sky Sports. "If the right ones are available in January then we might do something. If not, these players will give everything (for a top four finish)."

"I'm not going to go down the route of bringing players in on big contracts and big fees if they're not the right ones for the whole group and for the future. The money is there to strengthen in January and in the summer."

United started the season with a

4-0 win over Chelsea but have scored five goals in seven league matches since and Solskjaer said an injury to forward Anthony Martial, who has not played since August, was a factor in their struggles.

"There's many reasons, but one of them is injuries to Anthony," the 46-year-old former United player said. "Creating chances has been a challenge for us with teams dropping deep."

"But we're practising patterns every single week. When we get the players fit, I'm going to make Marcus and Anthony score those scruffy goals, as that's what I did."

Pochettino rules out big changes in Jan

LONDON: Mauricio Pochettino does not want to make major changes at Tottenham in the January transfer window despite a poor start to his sixth season in charge.

Spurs have won just three of their opening 11 games in all competitions, crashing out of the League Cup and suffering a humiliating 7-2 defeat at home in the Champions League. That has led to suspicions that the current Tottenham squad has grown stale, with little movement in the transfer market in recent years. However, Pochettino retains faith in the players that have helped the club make huge strides over the past five years, reaching the Champions League final in June.

"I don't believe (there will be any signings)," said Pochettino on Thursday. "I believe in the players that we have."

"If it is my decision I am going to stick with my players because I know they have the quality. It is only to unlock some situation that is going on in their minds. I know we have the quality to be fighting for the things we expect to fight for." AFP



Reid happy with India's consistency

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Coach Graham Reid is impressed with Indian hockey team's all-round growth and wants his players to play at the highest level while tackling Russia in the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

The Indian team won the FIH Men's Series Finals Bhubaneswar in June and followed that with victory in the Tokyo Olympics test event in August.

The team remained unbeaten on its recent Belgium tour, where it won all five matches against the world champions hosts and world number eight Spain.

Reid said he had a lot of "good takeaways" from the Belgium tour.

"Our GPS numbers were great, which means that the running, effort, speed and intensity was actually even higher than last year's World Cup. So they were very good numbers for us to see, and for the players to understand that to play at that level, you need to be achieving those consistently," said Reid.

"Another part was the consistency of our performances against Belgium and Spain, and it was good to see that we kept building momentum as the tour progressed."

Reid, who took over as the chief coach in April 2019, said while taking on Russia in the the FIFA Qualifiers on November 1 and 2, his wards will be focused on doing the

INDIA PRESENTS BID TO HOST MEN'S WC IN 2023

LAUSANNE: India is among the three nations who have presented their bids to host the next edition of the men's World Cup, the International Hockey Federation said on Thursday.

India, who have hosted the men's World Cup thrice, wants to conduct the event in the January 13 to 29, 2023 window.

Belgium and Malaysia are the other two nations who have also sent their bidding dossier to conduct the men's event but they prefer to host the event in the July 1 to 17, 2022 window.

For the Women's World Cup, five countries have presented their bids, the FIH said in a release.

PTI

right things. "There is always the concern about playing a team like Russia and it is, that they hold the ball very well, they like to be in possession. Trying to get the ball off them is always difficult, so that is something we need to keep an eye on, and make sure that our tackling, interception, and pressing skills are at the highest level. "We want to make sure that we are playing at our best, and there will be no complacency. It does not matter who we play, we will approach the game in the same manner, that is, in a professional and respectful way."

Azhar likely to be Pak Test skipper

LAHORE: Pakistan's top-order batsman Azhar Ali is likely to replace Sarfaraz Ahmed as the national team's skipper in the longest format of the game while wicket keeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan could serve as his deputy.

Pakistan's head coach Misbah ul Haq is unhappy with Sarfaraz's performance and according to sources, Misbah has made it clear to the PCB that Sarfaraz should not continue as the captain of the Green Brigade but the board is unwilling to take any chance with a new captain on a tough tour of Australia.

According to reports, the management is experimenting with young players for the Australia tour and in case the team fails to deliver results, the management can give the excuse of the team going through a transition phase.

Nikhat writes to Rijiju, demands trial bout against Mary

NEW DELHI: Former junior world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen has written to Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, demanding a trial bout against the celebrated M.C. Mary Kom before India's squad for next year's Olympic Qualifiers is decided.

Mary Kom (51kg) claimed her eighth world medal at the recently-concluded championships in Russia. She was selected for the event ahead of Zareen, who was refused a trial by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), which decided to go by Mary Kom's consistent performances while making the choice.

The BFI now also plans to send Mary Kom for the Olympic qualifiers on the back of her Bronze-winning show at the world championships, moving away from the previous decision

to give direct selection only to the Gold and Silver winners.

The qualifiers will be held in China in February next year.

"Sir, the very basis of sport is fairplay and need to keep proving oneself each and every time. Even Olympic Gold medalists have to fight again to qualify to represent the country," she wrote in the letter.

"I have been inspired by Mary Kom since I was a teenager. The best way I can do justice to this inspiration was to strive to be as great a boxer as her. And Mary Kom is too big a legend in sport to need to hide from competition and not actually defend her Olympic qualification," she said.

"After all, if 23-time Gold-medallist Michael Phelps has to re-qualify every time for the Olympics, the rest of us should

do the same."

Mary Kom has maintained that she would follow the BFI guidelines on selection trials and will compete if asked by the federation.

The Sports Ministry is not entitled to intervene in selection matters of any national federation unless requested by the parent international body as any such unilateral move is considered a violation of the Olympic Charter.

Zareen said even if she were to lose the trial bout, should she get one, she would feel content about at least getting a chance.

"I look for no favours, just fairplay. And whether Mary Kom or any other boxer qualifies after the trial, we can at least sleep at night knowing that every one of the candidate for the best possible opportunity to make India proud at Olympics," she said. PTI

AC Milan suffer record 146m euro losses

AFP ■ MILAN

Troubled former Italian footballing giants AC Milan have suffered record losses, according to reports in Italy.

Gazzetta Dello Sport claimed that in the year to June 30, 2019, losses rose by 16 percent to 146 million (\$ 162 million) euros compared to 126 million euros for the same period the previous year.

Gazzetta said the figures were far worse than the predicted loss of 90 million euros.

US hedge fund Elliott took over the debt-ridden seven-time European champions from Chinese businessman Li Yonghong in



July 2018.

The club's absence from European football has had an impact on merchandising and sponsors, with income from sponsors slipping by 6.7 million euros and ticket sales down by 1.2 million euros.

However, revenues from TV rights rose from 109.3

million to 113.8 million.

Milan finished fifth in Serie A last season but surrendered their Europa League berth after breaching UEFA's financial fair play rules.

Revenues from the sale of players in particular dropped from 42 million euros to 25.5 million euros. To keep the club afloat, Elliott have injected 325 million euros in total up until this September, Sky Sport Italia reported.

On the pitch the 18-time Serie A champions are also in turmoil with Marco Giampaolo sacked as coach after just seven games and Stefano Pioli coming in as the club's eighth coach in five years. Milan won their

last Serie A title in 2011, and have not played in the Champions League since the 2013-2014 season.

The club are 13th place in Serie A, following a run of four defeats in seven games.

Italian media mogul and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who oversaw Milan's glory years during his 31-year ownership, sold the club to Li in 2017 with Elliott assuming control after the Chinese businessman defaulted on a loan payment.

AC Milan are currently working with city rivals Inter Milan on a new 1.2 billion euro (\$ 1.34 billion) stadium project to rebuild the San Siro and the area surrounding stadium to the west of the city.

RACISTS MUST BE 'KICKED OUT' OF STADIUMS: FIFA BOSS

AFP ■ SOFIA

Racists must be "kicked out" of stadiums, FIFA President Gianni Infantino said on Thursday, as he pressed for a worldwide ban on spectators who abuse black footballers.

Speaking days after England's Euro 2020 qualifier in Bulgaria was twice stopped because of chants targeting English players, Infantino insisted the world body would punish racism.

"If there are racists that abuse footballers, we have to stop the game," he told a press conference on a visit to Dhaka.

"We cannot let the racists win. The football has to continue and we have to punish the people," Infantino said during his visit.

He added it was now easy to identify the culprits in modern stadiums with closed circuit TV and that a "strong message" must be sent.

"They have to be taken, kicked out of the stadium, they must not be allowed to enter into football stadiums any more, and criminal proceedings should be brought against them."

"It's a crime and it should be a crime in all countries of the world to commit a racist abuse," he said.

Infantino reaffirmed that if a country bans a spectator because of racism, "FIFA will extend it worldwide because racists have no place in football in any country and no place in any football stadium or arena in any part of the world."

Six Bulgarians have been indicted for abuse at Monday's Bulgaria-England game when monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes overshadowed England's 6-0 win. Three more are being sought.

One 18-year-old was indicted on Wednesday for using Nazi salutes and four others have been fined and banned from sports events for two years.

Infantino had already condemned the inci-



dent in a statement on Tuesday, calling racism an "obnoxious disease that seems to be getting even worse in some parts of the world."

He said Thursday that on top of stadium action better education was needed.

"We have to educate our youth, our children and those who are a bit older as well," he said.

Infantino also said that the 2022 World Cup in Qatar "will be the very best World Cup ever" despite new controversy over the heat and empty stadiums after the world athletics championships in September saw some long distance races badly affected.

The FIFA boss insisted that it would be cooler as the football tournament would be in November and December.

"I am sure in Qatar we will witness from a technical point of view, the very best World Cup ever." He also expressed confidence that the stadiums would be "full".

"Football is the number one sport in the world. We will fill the stadiums in Qatar and anywhere else in the World easily with the World Cup."

The best of the Toughest PKL- 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The seventh season of VIVO Pro Kabaddi League has entered its twilight stages, with the grand final between Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors looming. Interestingly, VIVO PKL will have a new winner whatever be the result, with both teams playing their first final of India's top Kabaddi tournament.

The final itself is testimony to the competitive nature of season seven that saw favourites stumble while young stars scripted new records. Three-time champions Patna Pirates failed to reach the playoff stages despite another stellar season for Pardeep Narwal while pre-season favourites Tamil Thalaivas' poor run reminded everyone how Kabaddi is a team sport and not just about a group of talented individuals.

A SEASON OF HIGHS

'High-flyer' Pawan Sehrawat was once again the standout raider of the season and brought Bengaluru Bulls within touching distance of a place in the finals. The defending champions were heavily reliant on Pawan's raiding skills and he scored 346 points in 24 matches with 18 Super 10s and a staggering strike rate of 75%. While Naveen Kumar didn't exactly match Pawan Sehrawat's points, his 20 consecutive Super 10s was the key in Dabang Delhi's road to the finals. The 20-year-old, a produce of the Future Kabaddi Heroes (FKH) programme, scored 283 points in 22 matches, and will end the season behind only Pawan Sehrawat and Pardeep Narwal



(302) in overall points.

Ever since the dawn of the VIVO PKL, Kabaddi as a sport has evolved, and season seven was once again proof to the fast changing nature, with the defenders having a bigger say in results. While UP Yoddha's Nitesh Kumar couldn't match his 100-point tally from last season, you could see a distinct change in approaches as the corners starting tackling more eagerly. In fact, the success of teams like U Mumba, UP Yoddha and Bengal Warriors was down to effective corners. U Mumba's 'Sultan' Fazel Atrachali topped the chart with 82 tackle points. UP's duo of Sumit and Nitesh Kumar scored 77 and 75 respectively while Sandeep Dhull clinched 73 despite playing for a Jaipur Pink Panthers side that failed to qualify for the playoffs.

A FINAL ON MERIT

The League stage's top two teams — Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors — will fight it out for the coveted trophy tomorrow. Both teams have shown remarkably consistency throughout the season and deserve a shot at the title for their all-round performances. The Bengal corner combination of Baldev Singh and Rinku Narwal will be keen to stop Naveen 'Express' Kumar from reaching another Super 10 while at the other end the experienced duo of Ravinder Pahal and Joginder Narwal will look to thwart the Bengal raiders. The Warriors haven't been beaten by Delhi this season but it remains to be seen if their talisman Maninder Singh will be fit enough to start against Dabang.

Federer to play French Open in 2020

AFP ■ PARIS

Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer on Thursday said he will play the French Open in Paris next year.

"I will play the French Open. I probably won't play much before that because I need some time away from it (tennis) and I need some time with the family," the 38-year-old told CNN.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion returned to Roland Garros this year after a three year absence, falling to Rafael Nadal in the semi-finals.

Federer has confirmed he will compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics after Wimbledon and prior to the US Open.

But his priority before the French Open which he has won only once in 2009 will be a family vacation.

"We need a vacation, we need a break, and especially if I am playing the Olympics and all that," he said.

In Tokyo he will be in competition for a men's singles Gold medal, the only major prize he has yet to win.

Earlier this week he said he had been debating with his team on his programme after Wimbledon and before the US Open.

"At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again," he said.

