

OPINION 8

WHO IS AN  
INDIAN?

WORLD 12

US ASKS TURKEY TO STOP  
SYRIA OP, ERDOGAN DEFIANT

SPORT 15

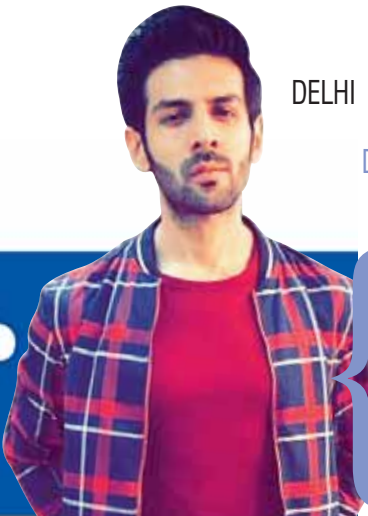
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OF LIVERPOOL CLASH

BHUBANESWAR, FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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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 Dangle 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 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 Adani 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

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

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



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 and 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.

## Delhi's odd-even rules announced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced rules for odd-even scheme that will be effective from November 4 to 15 to tackle air pollution.

The list of exempted people include President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Governors, Chief Justices of India and Judges of the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court. Emergency, enforcement, defence, paramilitary and embassy vehicles will also be exempted.

Violations of the rule will be punished with a fine of Rs 4,000 which was earlier Rs 2,000. Two-wheelers will also be exempted under the scheme.

Vehicles driven or carrying women and those carrying physically disabled persons will be exempted. But private CNG vehicles won't be exempted.

# Parking fee hike will militate against car rationing: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that hiking parking fees during the implementation of the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme will be counterproductive.

Kejriwal's statement came after the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) chairman Bhure Lal had asked the Delhi Government last week to fix parking charges as per the new parking policy so that it could be hiked in view of growing air pollution.

Addressing media persons, the Chief Minister said, "It will become very difficult for people to travel if the odd-even scheme is implemented and parking fees are also hiked."

"We are asking people to share their vehicles during



odd-even days and if parking fees are increased, they will be deterred to take their vehicles out. There will be threat of chaos," he said.

Speaking on the issue, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlrot refused that a report on parking fees was submitted to him. "I do not have information that any such report has been submitted. We will examine it whenever the report is

submitted," he said.

Meanwhile, officials of the Delhi Municipal Corporations said they are waiting for the final approval of the authorities on new parking norms, but they also assured that whatever be the new rules, no additional burden would be put on people by the civic bodies.

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the SDMC Bhupender Gupta said the Base

## EPCA directs new parking policy; Min says no report for hike received yet

Parking Fee (BPF) committee has recommended a hike in the fee by a "factor of 1-3" depending on peak hours and crowded areas such as markets. "Since, it is suggested to be increased by a factor of 1-3, we (SDMC) can increase it by a factor of one, so that it effectively the fee would remain the same. We do not want to put burden on the people unnecessarily," Gupta said.

North Delhi Mayor Avtar Singh said the BPF committee has made recommendations to the apex monitoring committee for its final approval. "We will take steps from our side, once the final picture emerges. Whatever happens, we will take steps accordingly in a way that there is balanced approach so that we neither put burden on the people nor incur loss to the corporation," Singh said.

# 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.

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 #deal — 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."

# 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 tranquillising the lion. (Left) The combo of 4 photos show the man inside the lion's enclosure at Delhi Zoo on Thursday

PTI

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy on Thursday directed all local bodies and district administrations to keep the roads named after Mahatma Gandhi and the Gandhi statue areas free from encroachment and also to keep them clean.

Tripathy issued the direction while chairing a State-level administrative committee meeting on the celebration 150th year birth anniversary of Gandhi. Culture Secretary Manoranjan Panigrahi presented updates for discussion.

He also directed the Culture, Language and



Literature Department to publish booklets on Mahatma Gandhi with focus on his lifestyle and social messages.

Continued on Page 4

## CAPSULE

### BENGAL GOV ACCORDED 'Z' CLASS SECURITY COVER

New Delhi: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar has been accorded a 'Z' category VIP security cover by the Union Government in the wake of "potential threats" to him, officials said on Thursday.

### COURT ALLOWS ED TO QUIZ PC TILL OCT 24

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday sent former Finance Minister P Chidambaram to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till October 24 in the INX Media money laundering case. Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar allowed the ED to quiz Chidambaram and also granted the former Finance Minister permission to have home cooked food, western toilet, medicines in the ED custody.

### PAK SCRAMBLES F-16S TO 'HIT' DELHI FLIGHT

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.



A demonstrator holds a placard as flags and banners are tied to railings near Parliament in London on Thursday

AP

## BIJEPUR BY-POLL

# Campaign intensifies with Naveen on scene

- ❑ Voters to give 'befitting reply' to BJD: BJP
- ❑ Congress camp demoralised 'due to want of money'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik beginning his electioneering on Thursday, the campaign for the by-election to the Bijepur Assembly constituency in Bargarh district gained momentum with the three major political parties trying to woo the voters in their favour.

The campaign for the by-poll, which will be held on

October 21, will end by Saturday evening. The counting of votes will be held on October 24.

Patnaik appealed to the people to vote for BJD candidate Rita Sahu for an all-round development of the constituency.

The Chief Minister will continue his campaign till Friday. A number of Ministers and senior BJD leaders have been camping in Bijepur to ensure that the party retains the seat by a large margin of votes

this time too.

BJP heavyweights also accelerated the pace of the party's campaign by addressing a number of meetings across the constituency canvassing for party nominee Sanath Gadia. These leaders included State president Basanta Panda, KV Singh Deo and MP Suresh Pujari.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is scheduled to reach Bijepur on Friday and campaign for the BJP till Saturday.

Basant Panda said, "Naveen Patnaik has betrayed the people of Bijepur by playing with their emotions. The voters will give a befitting reply to the BJD."

However, the Congress camp appears to be demoralised even though the party



leaders have been campaigning for their candidate Dillip Panda.

"We don't have funds like Narendra Modi and Naveen

Patnaik. We even cannot match the amount of posters and party flags they have put up for the campaign," said senior Congress leader and Jatni MLA

Suresh Kumar Routray, adding that it is "difficult" for the party to win the by-poll in view of the BJD's dominant position.



# Spl squads to check illegal parking, fee collection

## BDA asks malls, hosps to stop charging fee

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has formed Special Squads to check illegal parking and fee collection in the off-street areas of Bhubaneswar.

"Apart from the designated sites, where Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) would levy fees for parking, other establishments can collect parking charges despite own parking slots inside and outside their premises," said Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena on Thursday.

Earlier, taking note of the instances of illegal parking fee collection at commercial buildings, shopping malls, multiplexes, hospitals, apartments and housing projects in the city, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) on Wednesday asked the property owners and developers to stop collecting parking fees

from visitors on the premises immediately while terming the practice as 'illegal'.

"It has come to the notice of the BDA that different shopping malls, multiplexes and apartments are imposing parking charges/fees. This is not consistent with the provisions of the BDA (P&BS) regulations as well as the approved building plan and the developers/owners are hereby directed to stop the illegal practice of charging parking fees from the visitors, immediately," the BDA stated in a release.

The BDA further said the parking area shown in the approved building plan is being used for purposes other than parking vehicles on some such buildings. Such misuse of parking is resulting in on-street parking and thereby adversely affecting the traffic movement on the public road.

Notably, the BDA (Planning & Building Standards) Regulations, 2018 prescribe that mandatory off-street parking shall be provided in commercial buildings. The sub-regulation (7) of regulation 37 of the aforesaid regulations prescribes that the misuse of the parking spaces shall be summarily removed or demolished by the BDA.

The BDA also asked the property developers and owners to abide by the mandatory off-street parking provisions in the approved building plan. "Any deviations in the parking provisions shall be restored by the owners as per the provisions of approved building plan within 30 days from the date of issue of this notice," the release added.



# Puri cop held for raping, blackmailing woman

PNS ■ PURI

A police Constable posted at the Nimapara police station in Puri district was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly blackmailing and repeatedly raping a woman. Constable Gangadhar Rout came in contact with the woman more than a year ago when he was posted at the Satyabadi police station in the district.

The woman had come to the police station for lodging a complaint, during which the accused befriended her on the plea of helping her in the matter. Later, he allegedly blackmailed and raped her. Though police had registered a case in this connection, Gangadhar managed to get bail in July, 2019. The woman had recently approached Puri SP Umashankar Dash over the incident, following which the accused was arrested. He would be forwarded to court, police sources said.

# Odisha steel sector may face 50-MT iron ore crunch next yr

As production to be hit due to expiry of most mining leases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With almost all the iron ore leases expiring on March 31, 2020, steel sector industries are worried about acute shortage of raw materials for next two-three years leading to a serious crisis.

As the process of mining auction is slow, it is unlikely that the process will be completed before March 31, 2020, officials apprehend.

And even if the process of auction will be completed, getting statutory clearances will take a long time, even for years together.

While the Government of India is targeting for 300 million tonnes (MT) of steel to be produced by 2025, there will be serious disruption in supply of iron ore for the steel sector as more than 250 iron ore mines lease will expire on March 31, 2020.

Steel producers are very much worried over the emerg-

ing critical scenario as with expiring of the mining leases all on a sudden, there will be stoppage of production of iron ore from these mines.

Odisha, being one of the top most leaders in iron ore production, similar situation will arise in 2020-21 as majority of iron ore mines will face stoppage due to expiring of mining lease on March 31.

Though the State Government is trying hard to go for auction of the iron ore mines, but it will take at least three long years to get other statutory licences like forest clearance, environment clearance and a host of other clearances.

Sources in the Union Ministry of Steel admit that the country is likely to face shortage of about 50 MT of iron ore in 2020-21 and it will adversely affect the steel sector.

So, now, the steelmakers are requesting the Government to help them out and provide

raw material security.

In the meantime, almost all major steel makers have approached the State Government to look into the issues of raw material availability. Sources said that the State Government is planning to ramp up production in the mines of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) as the State PSU will be able to provide much needed raw material provisions in an impartial way.

And some of the private mining companies' leases are not expiring by March 2020, so that these mining lease holders can boost up their production to help out the steel makers.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Mines has allowed the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to sell 70 MT of iron ore, which are lying in the mines.

It is expected that the OMC and the SAIL will come to rescue of the steelmakers.

# No creche facility at Govt offices; OHRC seeks report

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has sought a report from the Government for its lapses in providing creche facility for the children of women employees at Government offices.

The commission has asked for a reply by December 20 this year.

A notice in this regard has been served to the Women & Child Development Department and Mission Shakti by an OHRC Bench

comprising Chairman Justice Bimal Prasad Das, Justice Raghubir Dash and member Asim Amitabh.

The notice refers to a ruling by the Supreme Court in which female workers (muster roll) of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi had moved the apex court in 2000.

A team of lawyers comprising Biswapriya Kanungo, Bijay Kumar Panda, Subhasish Panda, Golak Prasad Nayak, Subrat Mohapatra and Prakash Chandra Das has drawn the attention of the OHRC seek-



As per the National Minimum Guidelines of the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development, every establishment having 50 or more women employees should have facility of creche under the Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017.

However, the Odisha Government is yet to set up such facility for children of women employees at workplaces.

Not only in private organisations, but also in Government offices, no creche has been provided.

# VLW found hanging in guesthouse in Jaipur

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A body of a Village Level Worker (VLW) was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in a guesthouse at Baligari under the Dharmasala police station of the district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Smitarani Biswal.

Reports said that after dis-bursing allowances at Bhadanga village, Biswal had gone to the guesthouse of Rupesh Bhadra, husband of Haridaspur Sarpanch Madhusmita Bhadra, in Baligari in his vehicle.



Besides Rupesh, some of his friends also went to the guesthouse in the vehicle.

While Rupesh and his friends were busy in preparations for a feast, Biswal went to the first floor of the guesthouse to get refreshed. "Later, she was found hanging with her Chunri from a ceiling fan in the guesthouse. She committed suicide," claimed Rupesh. After receiving the information, police reached the spot and seized the body. A detailed probe was initiated to find out the circumstances under which the VLW died, said a police official.

# IN ANGUL Injection needle removed from child's genital area

## After a month

PNS ■ ANGUL

A broken injection needle was removed from the perineum of a minor boy at the Madhapur Community Health Centre (CHC) in Athmallik block of Angul district on Thursday, a month after it got stuck in his body while a nurse was administering him an injection.

Swayamjit (3), son of Sitakanta Panda of Mohankhali village, had been taken to the CHC a month ago for treatment of fever. A nurse admin-

istered him the injection to his hip, during which the injection needle broke and remained in his body, alleged the boy's father.

The child repeatedly complained of pain during the last one month. On Wednesday evening, his father again took him to the CHC, where the medical in-charge told them to visit the hospital on Thursday morning.

A team of doctors removed the needle, which had pierced the skin outwards, safely from the perineum of the child. He was shifted to the Angul District Headquarters Hospital for further treatment.

# Med negligence of 36 kids: NHRC notice to Govt

## 'Explain why ₹10 lakh should not to be paid to each child'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to the Odisha Chief Secretary directing him to reply within six weeks as to why compensation of Rs 10 lakh should not be given to each of the 36 children of Behula village under Garadapur block in Kendrapada district who had fallen ill after taking date-expired worm medicine Albendazole syrup in 2014 in a de-worming camp.

The commission also asked the Chief Secretary to take

action against the concerned authorities.

Responding to a petition filed by Odisha-based human rights activist Akhanda, the NHRC said that during an inquiry it was found that 27 Albendazole syrups were given during the routine immunisation camp on November 5, 2014. Six vials were found to be expired by date; and as alleged, these vials were taken by six children. The vials were recovered from the custody of their parents.

The NHRC ruled out negligence of the concerned ANM and ASHA staffs, who were



monitoring the camp, and said this contention seems to save the medical officers and doctors on duty who are supposed to possess technical knowledge of the medicines.

The doctors and medical officers and staffs keeping the storage of the medicines and providing such expired medi-

cines are responsible and liable to be punished adequately and departmental disciplinary action must be initiated against their negligent acts and omissions, the NHRC said. The commission further said that it is immaterial that parents did not bring their affected children for treatment to the Patkura CHC.

# Odisha girls shine at nat'l beauty pageant

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Nagaja Niranjana, Ipshita Das and Janhvi Pathak of Odisha have brought laurels to the State as they won three different titles at the finale of India's Mr and Miss Charming Face-2019 held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

While Nagaja was crowned as Miss India Charming Face Tourism Ambassador Worldwide, Ipshita bagged the Miss India Charming Face International title and Janhvi won

the Miss India Charming Face Global Universe. Besides, Rajesh Ranjan of Odisha won the Best Regional Director award, which was received by Nagaja on his behalf.

The three girls got a rousing welcome at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here when they returned home.



# 'RESTART A HEART DAY' HELD

## 9,000 die due to cardiac arrest in Odisha every yr

## AG plans to train 2 lakh people in CPR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The St John Ambulance, Accountant General, Odisha observed the 'Restart A heart Day' in the AG Office premises here on Wednesday under the guidance of Principal Accountant General Madhulita Basu.

The 'Restart A Heart' programme is an international initiative to raise awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and importance of cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation in life threatening cardiac arrest cases.

It was revealed that 6 million sudden deaths occur in the world every year. Survival chances are less than one per cent worldwide and five per cent in the USA.

Whopping 90 per cent of people experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) outside of hospitals. While 69 per cent SCA occurs in home/residence, 20 per cent happens in

public/work places and the rest 10 per cent in hospitals.

About 45 per cent of outside cardiac arrest victims outside hospital survived when a bystander administered CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation).

While 18 per cent of world population lives in India, it is estimated that India has 60 per cent of the world's heart disease burden due to modern life style, lack of physical activity, genetic predisposition and unhealthy dietary habits.

Death due to cardio vascular disease rose 1.3 million to 2.8 million in 2016. India has 30 million heart patients now and about 1.7 million Indian's heart stops beating every year.

Sudden cardiac arrest death is very high in India compared to the developed countries. The rate is 4,280 per one lakh population in India compared to 60-151 in developed countries.

People in the age group of 18-72 years lost their lives giving a bad impact on the Indian economy.

It is estimated that one-third of death of all deaths in the country by 2020 will happen due to stop of heart beating.

About 9,000 sudden cardiac arrest victims lost their lives in Odisha annually as per Registration General of India sources.

Mayurbhanja district has the highest mortality rate 25 per cent followed by Balangir, Nawarangapur, Jagatsinghpur and Nayagarh.

Heart related death is the 2nd largest death in India compared to old age death (36.5 per cent).

While 98 per cent of Indians do not know about CPR, 85 people in Japan, is 78 per cent in the USA and 56 per cent 8in Sri Lanka knows CPR.

Without CPR every minute counts and every minute lost reduces the chances of survival by eight per cent to 10 per cent.

After 3 minute of Sudden Cardiac arrest the brain cell became dead 32,000

per second. Within 8 to 10 minute of Cardiac arrest (Heart beat stop), brain will be dead and no one can save the victims.

In India, it usually takes minimum 30 minute for arrival of ambulance or medical facility available.

Early CPR can increase double or triple chance of survival.

The AG office informed that it has taken an initiative to train 2 lakh school and college students, police, paramedical staffs, doctors, fire and general people on cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) /AED in free of cost in all district of Odisha to reduce cardiac arrest mortality.

"Last month, we have already trained 5,000 school students and teachers in districts of Khordha. Bhadrak and Jajpur. Recently, 2500 IIT students and 20,000 KISS students have been enrolled for trainin in CPR," informed an official release.

CPR should be included in school syllabus and law to make CPR training compulsory in schools and work places, viewed many.

# IN KHORDHA DIST

## Boy dies as tree branch falls in school campus

## Headmaster suspended

PNS ■ KHORDHA

A minor boy succumbed to his injuries after a branch of a tree fell on him while he was playing in his school premises in Khordha district on Thursday.

The tragic incident took place at the Kshetrabasi Nodal High School in Nirakarpur.

Ritesh Pradhan, a Class-II student, was playing in the school campus during the recess period. Suddenly, the dead branch of the tree crashed on him, leaving his grievously injured.

He was rushed to the Nirakarpur Community Health Centre for treatment. Later, he was referred to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

However, he died on the way to the DHH.

As per villagers, the tree had been damaged due to the Cyclone Fani on May 3 and some dead branches were hanging from it.

They alleged negligence on part of the school authorities as the branches were not cut despite bringing to their notice a number of times.

School Headmaster Udaynath Tripathy said, "The boy had climbed the tree and fell down as the branch broke. He suffered head injuries. We rushed him to hospital. The branch could be a dead one."

A pall of gloom descended on the village after the tragedy.

Tension ran high after the incident, following which the headmaster filed an FIR at the local police station.

As per the latest report, the headmaster was suspended by the Block Education Officer (BEO),

# IN MAYURBHANJ

## Teacher locked up for molesting girl



PNS ■ BARIPADA

Tension prevailed at the Bramhanamara Upper Primary School under the Town police station in Mayurbhanj district on Thursday when a teacher of the school allegedly sexually assaulted a Class-VI girl student.

The teacher was identified as Prashant Bhujabal.

Sources said that Bhujabal found the minor girl alone at around 10 am and sexually

assaulted her. The matter came to the fore after the girl informed her parents about it.

Following this, irate locals detained the schoolteacher and locked him up in a classroom. They also vandalised his car parked in the school.

Later, getting information police reached the spot and brought the tense situation under control.

Police personnel were deployed at the school to avoid any further untoward incident.



# Demand for NRC grows louder in State

Over 40 lakh Bangladeshis may be residing!

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the reported increase in the population of Bangladeshi infiltrators and refugees and their illegal inhabitation in the State, the demand for enforcement of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) of India for identification and headcounts Bangladeshis has mounted.

According to unconfirmed sources, there are about 40 lakh Bangladeshis residing in the State now. They are living in big numbers in Kendrapada, Baleswar and other coastal districts by encroaching Government land illegally. Their presence in towns and cities is also remarkable.

Another source claimed that prawn mafia and Bangladeshi infiltrators have encroached upon two-third of coastal forestland of 350 sq km in the State.

In most of the places, the Bangladeshis have been a vote base for politicians. Under such a situation, the politicians are protecting them, and the administration is not taking any action against them, viewed many.

Bangladeshis have been enlisted in electoral roll and issued voter identity cards. They have even got Aadhaar Cards. As they speak Bengali, they are identifying themselves as residents of Medinipur district and other parts of West Bengal. Newspapers have many times reported about involvement of Bangladeshis in nefarious activities like trading of ganja, opium and country

liquor. Even though an 11-member team of MLAs had earlier written to the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and the Chief Minister urging them not to allot homestead land and Aadhaar card to Bangladeshi settlers, the demand has still remained unheard of, informed an intellectual. While MLAs have put questions many times to know about the number of Bangladeshi settlers in the State, the Chief Minister, who is in charge of the Home Department, has submitted an one-liner reply that "Information is being collected", added the intellectual.

"The National Register of Citizens should come into force in Odisha in line of Assam to identify illegal Bangladeshi settlers for security of the State and the Country," said a senior citizen.

## No Bangladeshis inside IOCL, declares IOCL

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Apropos of a news story headlined 'Bangladeshis residing within Paradip IOCL boundary walls' published in *The Pioneer* on October 16, 2019, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has raised an objection, saying it has never permitted any Bangladeshi national to stay inside the plant boundary.

"Being a Central Government PSU, we always abide by the law of the land. The IOCL Paradip Refinery Authority has never permitted any Bangladeshi national to stay inside the plant boundary. Information published in your newspaper is baseless," wrote IOCL GM (HR) Dharmesh



## DGP assures security, support to OMCs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) are the backbone of country's economy. So, the security and safety of the OMCs operating in the State is the priority of Odisha Police," said Director General of Police BK Sharma while addressing the 2nd Onshore Security Coordination Committee Meeting here on Wednesday.

Assuring of all kinds of cooperation and support to the oil companies as and when necessary, DGP Sharma said the State level Security Coordination Committee meeting should be organised at regular intervals to sort out issues relating to their day to day functioning.

He suggested formation of District Level Security Coordination Committees under the chairmanship of Superintendents of Police for sorting out local issues.

He advised the OMCs to maintain good rapport with

the staff of local police stations, so that minor issues can be sorted out at the police station level.

The relationship between police and OMCs should be at the grassroots level.

Sharma also suggested to involve officers from Fire Department in such coordination meetings in future as fire safety measures are equally important for smooth functioning of oil companies.

The relationship between police and company operators should be permanent instead of incident specific, he said. A threadbare discussion was held on various issues. OMCs' representatives raised issues pertaining to law and order, crime, land acquisition, threat of transport and tender mafias, strike and demonstration by workers, bandh and dharna by local people on local issues, looting of oil by anti-socials, regular patrolling of pipe line areas and sought early redressal for smooth operations.

# Arun Dey hails CM's 5T initiative

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Veteran politician and former Baleswar MLA Arun Dey has appreciated the introduction of 5Ts by the State Government. He observed that those opposing and criticising the innovate idea are against the development and welfare of the people. Addressing media-persons here on Thursday, he reiterated that the initiative taken by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is a welcome step, for which things are becoming better. It would have a greater ramification when it percolates down from the top, he told,



adding that inefficiency of the elected representatives led him to think and act for the interest of people of Odisha. He maintained that there are groups who find fault with everyone everywhere.

The 5T initiative is noble step and all should heartily accept and welcome it for better service and justice to the people, Dey said.

## GM secondary school students stage demo

### In protest of 8 faculty members' transfer

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Gangadhar Meher Higher Secondary School (formerly as Junior College) witnessed a turbulent situation following an agitation by the students protesting transfer of eight teaching staffs.

"In present situation, the plus two wing is facing acute staff crunch and the transfer of eight staffs at a time in the middle of the session without substitutes will add to the problem

further," alleged students.

The students closed the main gate of the university (where it is functioning) and staged a dharna demanding immediate cancellation of the order.

However, the Principal reached the spot and had discussions with the students after which they opened the main gate and allowed other students and staffs to enter college and university.



It might be mentioned here that there are 44 teaching staffs positions in the college out of which only 35 are filled up for 18 departments. And if eight staffs are transferred then studies of students would be affected badly.

However, some students alleged that the Government is taking revenge with teachers, who had supported the stu-

dents in their demand for not shifting it from the GM University campus, and is transferring them from the college. The students went to meet the Collector but due his absence they met the Sub-Collector, who has moved to Government mentioning the problem of the students and requested to cancel the transfer of the teachers.

## N'garh youth attacked for opposing ganja trade

Was threatened multiple times by peddlers

PNS ■ NAYAGARH

A Plus Three student sustained critical injuries when a group of unidentified miscreants attacked him brutally on Wednesday night for opposing ganja trade in the Parbatipur area under the Fatepur police station in the district.

orated.

Reports said Mahapatra was opposing ganja peddling in the area and spreading awareness among villagers to refrain from its consumption. Several armed miscreants, suspected to be the cronies of the ganja peddler, attacked him with swords and other sharp weapons on Bhapur-Parbatipur bypass road while he was returning home at night.

He sustained multiple injuries on his head and hands in the incident. His family members have alleged that the ganja peddler had threatened Mahapatra of dire consequences a number of times.



## Youth attacked over old enmity

PNS ■ BHAPUR (NAYAGARH)

A 20-year-old youth sustained critical injuries as a group of miscreants attacked him with sharp weapons over past enmity on in the Parbatipur area under the Fatepur police station in Nayagarh district on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Laba Mahapatra, a Plus Three third year student of the Pathani Samanta College, Nayagarh. As per reports, the miscreants came on motorcycles and attacked him near Bhapur-Parbatipur bypass while he was returning home.

He was rushed to the Bhapur CHC and later was shifted to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar after his condition deteriorated. No complaint was registered at the police station till this report was filed. Sources said attackers were known to Laba and old enmity was the reason behind the attack.



## Woman dead, six family members injured in accident

BUS HITS AUTO-RICKSHAW IN GANJAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BRAHMAMUR

A woman was killed and as many as six of her family members were seriously injured when a bus collided with an auto-rickshaw by which they were travelling near Ambagad on the Digapahandi main road in Ganjam district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Ranjita Dalai of Gunasagar village.

According to reports, Ranjita along with her family was travelling by the auto-rickshaw to visit

a temple at Ambagad in the morning when a private bus en-route to Digapahandi from Brahmapur hit it. All of them were immediately rushed to the MKCG Medical College Hospital here.

While Ranjita was declared dead by doctors, the six other family members, including a seven-year-old boy, underwent treatment at the hospital.

Later, the minor boy was shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

Meanwhile, a police team reached the accident spot after getting information, seized the bus and began investigating into the mishap.

# Shipping Minister visits Paradip Port

PNS ■ PARADIP

Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya made his first official visit to the Paradip Port as part of a regular review on Thursday.

He was extended a warm welcome by Paradip Port Trust (PPT) Chairman Rinkesh Roy and HoDs at the Jawahar Guest House. He was given a Guard of Honour by the CISE, PPT contingent at the guesthouse.

Thereafter, Mandaviya visited the port and saw the operations in the dock area. He also inaugurated the PPT's New Kalyan Mandap. He too participated in plantation drive and distributed eco-friendly cotton bags to the public from nearby localities.

The Minister also participated in a cycle rally organised by the PPT to spread the message of "Swachhta hi Sewa" and "Fit India". He said he always



goes to Parliament cycling all the way from his official residence when the House is in session.

Mandaviya had an interactive session with port users and other stakeholders and emphasised on augmenting the coastal shipping.

He also reviewed the progress with officials of IDCO and IOCL on the Paradip Petroleum, Chemicals and

Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR).

During the review, he stressed on a collaborative approach for faster development to bring an overall development of the area.

The Minister also reviewed the functioning of the port. A detailed presentation was made by the PPT Chairman. He hoped a bright future for the PPT.

# Extract more sponge iron to boost steel production, jobs



PK JENA

Production of steel is the biggest metallurgical industry in the world. The steel in different forms is meeting the fast growing needs of human beings in various sectors. The major raw materials required for iron and steel production are iron ore, coal, limestone, water and energy. Most of the steel produced at present in the world are through Blast Furnace (BF) - Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF).

only 106.5 MT during the same year.

The World Steel Association (WSA) shows that, India is languishing at the bottom rungs of the consumption ladder with a per capita consumption of only 70.9 kg, where as that for the global figure is 224.5 kg.

In order to meet the increasing demand of steel with fast industrialisation, India has to produce much more steel by utilizing the available resources.

The most important bottle neck in this regard is the non availability of coking coal in the country to produce iron in BF. The reserves of coking coal in the country are much less than that required for iron making in the BF. It is reported that the total coal reserve of India is 315.148 billion tonnes.

Out of which primary coking coal is 5.313 billion tonnes, medium and semi coking coal are 29.219 billion tonnes and non coking coal is 279.028 billion tonnes and tertiary coal is 1.5888 billion tonnes. Out of the total reserves of coal in the country the coking coal is only 20% and the

rest is low grade non-coking coal. Therefore, India has to import a large quantity of coking coal to produce iron in BF by spending a huge amount of foreign exchange.

In view of this, it is necessary to produce iron which is the main raw material for the steel, by an alternate route, that is Direct Reduction Iron (DRI). The DRI is also popularly known as sponge iron because here unlike in BF, the iron is produced without melting in a porous form.

In this case unlike in BF, the iron is formed in solid state from the iron ore lumps or pellets (formed out of iron ore fines) using hot reducing gases or non coking coal. Both the processes are commercially available.

In the gas based process, the reducing gas is produced by chemically reforming a mixture of natural gas (containing mostly methane) and flue gas from the reducing furnace in order to produce a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide. Typical examples of the gas based processes include MIDREX and HYL. This method is preferred in coun-

tries where natural gas is abundant and cheap. In the coal based DR Process, the reducing gas is produced from non coking coal in the reduction zone of the furnace, typically a rotary kiln.

**Sponge iron plants**  
The typical examples of coal based process include SL/RN and ACCAR processes. Such coal based sponge iron making from iron ore, is popular both in India and China. However, in the world almost 80% of sponge iron is being produced by gas based DR process. Both the gas and coal based DRI technology are gaining importance due to comparatively less investment cost, flexibility in using the raw materials like cheap iron ore fines, non coking coal and natural gas. Generally, the scale of operation of gas based DRI is 0.82-1.2 MT per annum but coal based one is comparatively smaller (0.3 to 0.15 MTPA).

According to the survey of Indian sponge iron industry prepared by Joint Plant Committee of Ministry of Steel, during 2005-2006, the gas-based sponge iron units are mainly three belonging to Essar

Steel, Vikram Ispat and Ispat Industries, all are in western region mainly due to proximity to natural gas sources. At that time, their report has shown that, the total number of coal based sponge iron units are 147 and the concentration of the units is maximum in Chhattisgarh (38) followed by Odisha (33) and West Bengal (30). The total capacity reported to be about 11MT of sponge iron; in Chhattisgarh 4.5 MT, followed by 2.2 MT in Odisha and 1.6 MT in West Bengal.

In India, most of the sponge iron producers do not have captive mines of any of the raw materials namely hematite, non coking coal and limestone which are used for sponge iron production.

Therefore, they fully depend upon other agencies to get their raw materials. Now the major constraints being faced by these industries are high price and non availability of quality raw materials. The right grade hematite of proper size has become scarce and very costly.

Most of the high grade non coking coal has been earmarked for thermal power

plants and only inferior grades like 'F' and 'G' are available that too in a limited quantity. Most of the units are producing sponge iron much below their capacity mostly due to want of proper raw materials.

In India, due to availability of large amounts of high-grade hematite and non-coking coal, the sponge iron industry has tremendous scope for further development.

But various problems being faced by the industries at present as mentioned above, have made this industry sick.

As during the years to come we need large amounts of steel, it is essential to promote both the non coking coal and gas based sponge iron industries.

These industries, besides supplying enough sponge iron for steel production, can provide a lot of employment to skilled and semiskilled people in the country. In view of this, it is highly desirable to promote these industries by implementing the following programmes:

(a) In view of non availability of high grade lumpy iron ore as well as because of its high

cost, it is appropriate to utilize the cheap and abundantly available low grade iron ore fines after suitable beneficiation and then agglomerating those as pellets. In this way, the cost of the major raw material the iron ore will be cheaper than the lumpy iron ore and also with better reducibility. This practice is being followed in many DRI units in the world as well as recently in India by some units.

(b) Similarly, the very low grade coal (F / G grade) can be upgraded to suit the requirement of the rotary kiln DRI units through washing and beneficiation. Again coal washing units can be setup in a cooperative manner by the concerned companies to meet their requirements.

(c) All sponge iron units should have captive power plants to meet their energy requirements. As a lot of heat is lost in DRI units, Waste Heat Recovery Boiler (WHRB) captive power plants, with electrostatic precipitator should be installed. In such captive power plants, the waste coal fines and char fines of the concerned unit can also be utilised.

(d) The water requirement of each of the DRI units can be met by harvesting rain water both on surface as well as recharging the aquifer, inside the plant premises or nearby areas. This would enable the sponge iron units to be independent of outside water sources.

(e) By adopting various pollution control measures which are already available in the country for DRI units, the plant area can be kept pollution free. For example, it is possible to bring down the dust emission from about 12 tonnes to only 58 kg per day of a 100 tonnes per day kiln by adopting various air pollution controlled measures.

(Padma Shri Jena is ex-Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India, ex-Planning Board Member, Government of Odisha, Founder Chairman, Institute of Advance Technology and Environmental Studies and Founder President, Natural Resources Development Foundation. Email: prof.pkjenaiates@yahoo.com)



# Talcher coalmines remain paralysed

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Mining operations at Talcher Coalfields continued to remain paralysed on Thursday affecting about 35,000 tonne coal production at Balram, Kaniha and Lingaraj opencast projects leading to about 30,000 tonne short supply to the consumers. Workers of a private firm VFPL engaged in mining operations had resorted to stoppage of coal production at Kaniha and Lingaraj mines, affecting at least 16,800 tonne

coal production a day at Lingaraj OCP and about 18,000 tonne a day at Kaniha OCP. While Kaniha OCP continued to remain paralysed, workers of VFPL at Lingaraj OCP called off stir on Thursday afternoon and resumed work. Since the workers had left due to the agitation, the full-fledged operations by the contracted firm will take some time. Meanwhile, stoppage of mining operations at Balram OCP by Danara villagers

entered eighth day on Thursday. Till now, 1,20,000 tonne coal supply, around 50,000 tonne coal production and more than 2.2 lakh cubic meter of over burden removal has been affected from Balram OCP due to the internal rift of Danara and Solada villagers. A meeting of villagers from Solada and Danara was conducted by civil administration in the presence of local mine management, but it remained unsuccessful.

# Coal crisis: Nalco shares drop 5%

PNS ■ ANGUL

After the shutdown of pots in Smelter Plant of Nalco due to acute shortage of coal, the company's shares dropped nearly 5 per cent on Thursday. The Nalco shares opened at ₹ 40.40 against the last close of ₹ 41.65 on the BSE and later dropped 4.68 per cent to ₹ 39.7 apiece. Today's low is mere 2.8 points above from the 52-week low of ₹36.90, recorded on August 23, 2018. As per market depth data on BSE, there was 53 per cent buying against 47 per cent selling in the stock. In its BSE filing, the Nalco

informed, "Short supply of coal has severely impacted aluminium production of Nalco and also the cost of power." The Nalco's requirement of coal for its CPP at Angul is around 17,000 tonnes per day. Out of this, Nalco's CPP is receiving around 8,000 - 9,000 tonnes per day and there is a shortfall of around 7,000 - 8,000 tonnes. As the coal supply position is not improving, the State-run aluminium manufacturer may be forced to further shut down up to 227 electrolytic pots in phases, depending upon the power generation in CPP, matching with coal receipt.

# Rail bar fencing to prevent jumbo deaths

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to prevent elephants from being run over by trains, the Railways and the State Forest Department have decided to put up rail bar fencing at vulnerable places. The decision was taken at a coordination meeting between the railway authorities and the Forest Department here. Also, it was decided that the Forest Department would identify locations for underpasses, which would be constructed by the railways. The elephant movement control room in Khurda Road Railway office and Sambalpur Railway office would be upgraded by the Forest Department for better coordination, said an official who attended the meeting. Apart from Forest Department officials, railways Chief Passenger Transportation Manager Shailendra Kapil and Chief General Engineer Victor Joseph were present in the coordination meeting.

# 'Keep Mahatma Gandhi roads...

From Page 1 Photos of Mahatma Gandhi and stories of his visit to Odisha will be part of the book. Bapuji had visited the State eight times and stayed for a total of 79 days. Culture and Language and Literature Director Bijay Nayak informed that the ongoing celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi would continue to be observed in all district headquarters and at the State level till October 2, 2020. Each district has been provided Rs 2 lakh to observe important days having links with Mahatma Gandhi. Opinions of Gandhian leaders have been preserved electronically. Rs 19,50,000 has been provided to 17 organisations working on Mahatma Gandhi

# IN BRAHMAPUR

# BJD holds CM b'day with slew of activities

# 618 units of blood collected

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The BJD undertook various social activities, including a Jeevan Bindu camp, to mark the 74th birthday of its president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here on Wednesday. Leaders and workers offered earthen lamps at the Shree Ganesh Temple at Hillapatra seeking long life for Patnaik. MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, MLAs Bikram Panda and Dr Pradeep Panigrahi, former MLA Dr Ramesh Chandra Chyapatnaik, former BDA Chairman Subash Moharana, former



Corporators Danda Pani Nayak, Durga Prasad Panda and Sangamitra Dalei were present, among others. A blood donation camp under the Jeevan Bindu programme was held at the Town Hall under the guidance of MLA Panda. MP Sahu inaugurated the camp. A total of 618 units of



blood were collected from the camp. In the afternoon, a meeting was organised to convey birthday wishes to the Chief Minister. Meals and dresses were distributed to students and Balashram inmates on the occasion. BJD district general sec-

retary Anil Sahu, Bhishmacharya Choudhury, BCC Bank president Alekha Choudhury, former Assembly Deputy Speaker and senior BJD leader Rama Chandra Panda, Sanjit Panigrahi, R Murali Mohan, Rajanish Mishra, Sudheer Rout and Kinnar Sweetie were present.

# Monumental Tricolours at 26 railway stations



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As per the directions of Ministry of Railways, the

East Coast Railway (E C O R) will install National Flags atop 100 feet tall poles at 26 stations over its jurisdiction in the current financial year. Such monumental tricolour flags have already been installed at Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam. The proposed list includes 13 stations in Khurda Road Railway Division,

seven in Waltair and six in Sambalpur Railway Division keeping in view good visibility, availability of space and other safety and security measures. These stations include Puri, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Kendujhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Khurda Road, Khurda Town, Nayagarh Town, Brahmapur, Chhatrapur and Paradip in Khurda Road Railway Division, Sambalpur, Bargarh Road, Balangir, Nawapada Road, Bhawanipatna and Mahasamund in Sambalpur Division and Koraput, Rayagada, Paralakhmundi, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Jagadalpur and Dantewada in Waltair Railway Division.

# 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, Kiloi, 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. On the other hand, Congress Legislative Party leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda addressed around half dozen rallies in the state emphasising 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.

# Elephants enter Athagarh forest



PNS ■ ATHAGARH

A herd of 12 elephants entered into the Athagarh forest by crossing river Mahanadi from the Chandaka-Damapada forest on Thursday morning. When they reached Kandarpur village, hundreds of villagers were seen teasing the pachyderms by which the big

animals were running here and there. However, on information, forest staff reached the spot and kept a vigil on the movements of the elephants, told Athagarh Forest Range Officer Aisha Akhatria Nisha. On the other hand, the farmers of the nearby areas remained alert to disperse the elephants if the animals try to enter into the cornfields.

# HOCKEY OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

# Ticket sale, redemption begin in Bhubaneswar

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Sale of tickets for the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium here on November 1 and 2 began at various outlets across the city from Thursday. The Qualifiers is the biggest tournament of the year for the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey teams as they look to place their births at Tokyo Olympics, 2020. The Indian Men's Hockey Team, currently World No-5, will face Russia in qualifiers in a two-legged tie, while the World No-9 Women's team will face the USA in their two matches here. Tickets for each of the two match days (one match-day includes two matches) will be available across the city at various outlets and also at the Box Office situated at Gate No.9 of the Kalinga Stadium. The fans, who have already



purchased their tickets online, can redeem their online vouchers at the redemption counter located at Gate No.4 of the stadium. The sale of tickets along with the redemption of online vouchers will begin on Thursday from 11 am to 6 pm. The tickets have been reasonably priced at Rs 300 for

East Stand, Rs 200 for North and South Stand and Rs 500 for West Stand. The outlets where the tickets would be sold are Sports Emporium, Sister Mobile in Bhawani Mall, Sister Mobile in Bapuji Nagar, SS Frozen World, B21 in Kharabela Nagar, B21 in Saheed Nagar, Bharat

Petroleum Petrol Pump, District Center In and Out, ClearPrint.in in Jagamara, C Décor's in Chandrasekharpur, FH17 Saloon, Ujala Car Fashion, Reliance Food Court in Master Canteen, Klassic Boutique and Beauty Salon, House of Candy and Fresh and Frozen Mount.

# Punjab Govt takes firm steps to control stubble burning

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To check stubble burning more effectively, Punjab government on Thursday decided to depute nodal officers in nearly 8000 paddy growing villages across the state identified by the Agriculture Department where paddy stubble is traditionally being burnt. Secretary Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kahan Singh Pannu said that all the Deputy Commissioners had already been asked to depute the officers in each of such villages to create awareness about the ill effects of paddy stubble burning hazardous for human health and environment. These nodal officers have been asked to keep a close vigil over the post harvesting operations.

# Odisha FC launches new kit for Hero ISL



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

New Hero Indian Super League (Hero ISL) club, the Odisha FC officially launched their kit and held an interaction with the media at a hotel here on Wednesday. The erstwhile Delhi-based outfit had earlier signed an MoU with the State Government on August 31 in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The event started with a cultural show, highlighting the State's rich heritage followed by

the launching of the kit by the squad members, and various interactions with the media. The event was attended by Sports and Youth Services Department Director Vineel Krishna and other dignitaries from the government, sponsors and commercial partners of Odisha FC, fan groups of Odisha FC and representatives from the local and national media. Speaking on the occasion, Odisha FC Director Rohan Sharma said, "I've always looked forward to the unveil-

ing of a new kit because it symbolises new beginnings. This is our new beginning for football in Odisha and I'm excited and humbled to be a part of it! I hope the fans wear the kits with pride everywhere they go." Odisha FC CEO Ashish Shah said, "The players and the coaching staff have been settling down in Bhubaneswar and taking advantage of the excellent training infrastructure at Kalinga Stadium." Among others, coach Josep Gombau also spoke.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corrigendum to Bid Identification No Online-EESNG-02 of 2019-20**

The tender for the following works invited vide Bid Identification No Online-EESNG-02 of 2019- 20. are hereby cancelled in pursuance to Letter No: 24511 Dt. 30.09.2019 of Chief Engineer Buildings, R.W. (O) Bhubaneswar.

Sl. No. in NIT	Name of Work
6	Construction of F type twin quarter at Majhpara CHC of sadar block under OMBADC for the year 2019-20
12	Construction of Meeting Hall (FF) at Hemgir CHC of Hemgir block under OMBADC of Sundargarh district for the year 2019-20
36	Construction of 4 nos E type quarter (multistoried) at Bargaon CHC of Bargaon block under OMBADC of Sundargarh district for the year 2019-20 (Block-B)

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
R.W. Division, Sundargarh

25046/11/0014/1920

**Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Notice**

**Bid Identification Notice No. 28 of 2019-20**

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

- Nature of Work : Supplying all labour , material T&P for laying of rising main and Distribution pipe line of HDPE/GI/DI, construction of pump house, compound wall, RCC ESR, UGR,SV chamber, Stand post with other ancillary works for different water supply schemes under Bhubaneswar Division
- No. of Tender : 05 Nos.
- Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10000.00
- Value of Work : From : Rs.60.08 to 88.49 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : B "A"
- Date & time of availability of Bid document in portal : 23.10.2019 4.00 P.M. to 04.11.2019 Upto 3.00 P.M.
- Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : 23.10.2019 4.00 P.M. to 26.10.2019 Upto 3.00 P.M. during office hour
- Date & Time of opening of tender : 05.11.2019 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/O E.E., RWSS Divn., Bhubaneswar
- Time of Completion : 180 days
- The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the web site : <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Corrigendum if any shall only be published above web site.

Sd/-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
RWS&S DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR

25011/11/0016/1920

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that our client, **M/s. Muthoot Finance Ltd. (GSTIN 32AABCT0343B127)**, Registered Office: **2nd Floor, Muthoot Chambers, Banerji Road, Kochi - 682018, Kerala, India CIN: L65910KL1997PLC011300, Ph: +91 484-2396478, 2394712, Fax: +91 484-2396506, mails@muthootgroup.com, www.muthootfinance.com** is conducting Auction of ornaments (NPA accounts for the period up to **30.06.2018**), pledged in its favour, by the defaulting Borrowers, as detailed hereunder. All those interested may participate.

**Date of Auction: 23.10.2019**

**Baripada Town - (OR):** MGL-3729, MUL-713, 1265, 1463, 1759, 1805, 1825, 1916, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1990, 2018, 2062, 2087, 2089, 2090, 2117, 2160, 2187, 2218, 2223, 2352, 2397, 2409, 2413, 2421, 2427, 2500, 2516, 2518, 2530, 2533, 2534, 2549, 2590, 2613, 2694, 2695, 2700, 2748, 2797, 2805, 2830, 2832, 2833, 2856, 2859, 2888, 2925, 2932, 2933, 2943, 2963, 2979, 3002, 3024, 3034, 3041, 3060, 3069, 3083, 3117, 3161, 3164, 3169, 3175, 3259, 3337, 3372, 3412, 3426, 3495, 3519, 3533, 3593, 3643, 3671, 3680, 3706, 3754, 3769, 3833, 3886, 3915, 3933, 3973, 3980, 3987, 4017, 4053, 4070, 4133, 4146, 4222, 4287, 4290, MWS-16, 24

**Date of Auction: 24.10.2019**

**Balasore - Remuna Golei Chhik:** MAL-459, MGL-1057, MLS-139, 142, 183, MUL-133, 157, 254, 269, 334, 342, 477, 721, 773, 810, 813, 944, 959, 981, 1012, 1080, 1094, 1150, 1151, 1215, 1283, 1294, 1327, 1329, 1335, 1351, 1356, 1383, 1464, 1487, 1560, 1576, 1634, 1649, 1771, 1821, 1866, 1903, 1973, 2034, 2133, 2143

**Date of Auction: 25.10.2019**

**Soro Town - (OR):** MGL-823, MSL-9630, 10051, 10702, 10703, 10704, 10719, MUL-163, 194, 384, 410, 507, 572, 576, 577, 621, 633, 637, 650, 672, 680, 699, 705, 763, 816, 842, 876, 887, 953, 969, 975, 977, 1000, 1017, 1041, 1161, 1171, 1180, 1207, 1309, 1326, 1370, 1404, 1444, 1463, 1496, 1519, 1520, 1526, 1527, 1532, 1534, 1537, 1565, 1566, 1589, 1598, 1653, 1672, 1721, 1724, 1748, 1804, 1902, 1925, 1951, 2008, 2026, 2036, 2086, 2098, 2135, 2171, 2172, 2252, 2346, 2372, 2399, 2430, 2434, 2454, 2478, 2479, 2523, 2651, 2663, 2733, 2780, 2794, 2822, 2876, 2934, 3030, 3130, 3344, 3348, 3393, 3403, 3450, 3485, 3529, 3533, 3615, 3724, 3764, 3801, 3803, 3808, 3863, 3974, 3985, 3986, 3987, 3990, 4037, 4147, 4155, 4233, 4279, 4366, 4474, 4531, 4682, 4684, 4840, 4881, 4933, 5030, 5174, 5195, 5239, 5329, 5415

**Auction of Spurious/Low purity ornaments, (Accounts for the period up to 31.12.2018)**

**Date of Auction: 25.10.2019**

**Soro Town - (OR):** MUL-1873

The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.

However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date then the auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be issued in this respect.

**Kohli & Sobti, Advocates,**  
**A 59A, First Floor, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi - 110024**

**Note:** Customers can release their pledged ornaments before the scheduled auction date, against payment of dues of our client. Customer can also contact Email ID: [auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com](mailto:auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com) or Call at 7834886464, 7994542641.

# 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 JDU were unambiguously set aside by the BJP president Amit Shah, who, on Thursday, affirmed that the JDU-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 JDU 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. JDU 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. JDU has also not been backing triple talaq 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 CRPE, 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 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, BPCL 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 from 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 NHAI

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 NHAI (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 NHAI 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, NHAI 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 percent.

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

Ministry sources said NHAI 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 (toll) 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 NHAI'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 NHAI for works under the Bharatmala Project and the money will come from the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), Permanent Bridges Fee Fund (PBFF) and Monetisation of National Highways Fund (MNHF).

# 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-Janmbhoomi-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 percent), 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 in a 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 — Parthivjyoti Saikia and S Hukato 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 specialities, 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 corridor except 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**



IN WAKE OF POTENTIAL THREATS

# Bengal Guv accorded ‘Z’ class security cover

PNS ■ 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 Aof 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 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 skeptic 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 NRC.”

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 coucillors 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 coucillors 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 coucillors 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 coucillors to rejoin it.

“They (the coucillors) 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 Janmbhoomi 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 sanskriti” 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 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 fests 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 fests 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 after 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 to 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 Searly 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.

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Averring that history would 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 Marathwada 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 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 behove 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 saf-ron 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 descendent of Chhatrapati Shivaji Udayan Raje 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.

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 Sitharaman, 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-

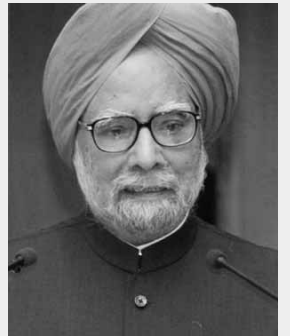
nents, in the process it is unable to find solution that will ensure revival of the economy particularly strengthening of our banking system,” the former Prime Minister said.

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 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



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

‘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’

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 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.

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## 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) 609/75, Sector-D, Pkt-6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 and (2) Raheja Revanta, Apartment No.IFI-03, Sector-78, Gurgaon, Haryana, admeasuring 1960-84 sq.ft. & 225-61, have debarred/ evicted her son namely Mr. Prabhat 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 Moveable 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

# 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 Praful 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.

# 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 19th 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 (Navsar) 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 (Vapi) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,97,43,614.55 EMD: ₹ 2,48,700/- Sr. No. 6 Tender No.: BCT/19-20/260 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Valsad) 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.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Manual offers will not be considered. follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL**

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat – 362 266  
CIN: U65990GJ1991PLC064603

**“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 (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 Paisa) due to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited Secured Creditor from M/s Shalin Invest 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 1849.00 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 Sirhau, 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 Sirhau, 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



## 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-Jannabhoomi-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 depredation, 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 Lalla 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 Lalla, 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. Alarming 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.

# opinion08

## 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

“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”

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)

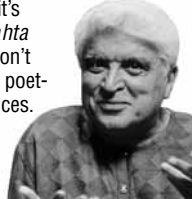
## SOUNDBITE

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 Chahta 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 cricket 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-



Ganapathi Bhat  
Akola

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.

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

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



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 uptake 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 honeycomb 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 uptake 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 Doomsday 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)

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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 picturesque 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 Mughals 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. Here, 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)



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)



# Sensex rallies 453 pts, Nifty tops 11,550

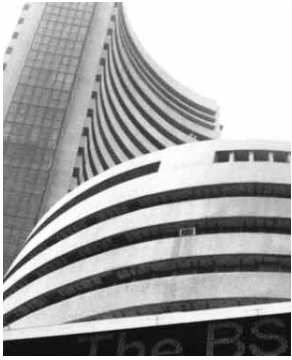
PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 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 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-

age, which has also slashed growth forecast to 6 percent 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 slowdown 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 Divyangjan (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, Ajai 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 from 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, Shailendra 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 wireline 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 connect 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



**Sapna**  
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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
Tele: 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

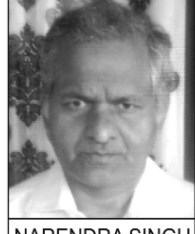
General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Narendra Singh Chauhan S/o Kaptan Singh Chauhan R/o H.No.494 Devli village, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped the area of P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi. In this regard, a case **DD No. 65-A dated 25.09.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Neb Sarai, 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website:

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**

**Sd/- S.H.O.**  
**P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-29551597**

DP/5761/SD/19



NARENDRA SINGH

## 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 **PS. Aman Vihar**. In this regard a case **DD No. 52-A dated 05.10.2019** has been lodged at PS. 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in),  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

**SHO**  
**PS. Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-23014046, 23015218**

DP/3364/RD/19.

## 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 **PS. Neb Sarai**. In this regard a case **FIR No. 320/19 dated 14.09.2019** u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in),  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

**SHO**  
**PS. Neb Sarai, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-29551597, 8750870835**

DP/5768/SD/19.

## 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **P.S. Paschim Vihar East,**  
Fax: 011-24368639 **Delhi**  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **Ph: 011-25263471, 25267286**

DP/2750/OD/19

## 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 chappale 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **Ph.No. 011-25946710, 7065036129**  
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
DP/2786/OD/19



Sebi rejigs primary market advisory panel

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi has reconstituted its Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) that advises it on policy framework, development of initial public offerings and other such segments.

The panel, which is chaired by TV Mohandas Pai, chairman of the Manipal Global Education Services, has now 26 members. Earlier, the panel has 23 members, according to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The other members of the panel include BSE MD and CEO Ashish Chauhan, HDFC Vice-Chairman and CEO Keki Mistry, NSE MD and CEO Vikram Limaye, Dolphy Dsouza Partner at E&Y, Prime Database chief Prithvi Haldea and Sunil Sanghai founder and CEO of Nova Dhruva Capital.

The panel also has representatives from Sebi, RBI, and finance and corporate affairs ministries. Sebi's Whole-Time Member Ananta Barua, its

Executive Director Amarjeet Singh Chief General Manager Jeevan Sonparote and RBI Chief General Manager SK Kar are part of the panel. The Sebi's PMAC is significant as it advises the markets regulator on policy framework related to the primary markets, as well as on matters required to be taken up for changes in legal framework to introduce simplification and transparency in systems and procedures in the primary market.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Existence of BSNL is in strategic interest of the nation and the government is looking to resolve issues plaguing it, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Thursday.

The law and telecom minister acknowledged that there are problems in the telecom sector, which are being looked upon by the government.

"BSNL is in strategic interest of the nation. Whenever there is flood, cyclones, BSNL is the first one to offer services for free. 75 per cent of its rev-

enues goes into salary of employees while others manage it in 5-10 per cent. There are legacy issues, which we are looking in to," Prasad said at India Economic Conclave.

The debt-ridden PSU has not been able to pay salaries of employees for September.

There have been reports that the Finance Ministry wants public sector telecom firm BSNL and MTNL to be shut down.

A group of ministers headed by Home Minister Amit Shah has approved a revival plan proposed by the DoT.

The group of ministers

had earlier approved a revival package for the loss-making public sector telecom firms in mid-July. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad were part of the GoM that approved the plan. However, finance ministry officials later raised over 80 objections to the proposal prepared by the telecom ministry.

Prasad said that the government is also working to resolve problem in the telecom sector, but it also expects service provider to be responsible by upgrading their network and ensuring that customers

are satisfied with the services.

The minister did not give any timeline for the launch of 5G services in India, while the government has officially set target to roll out the next generation services by 2020.

Prasad, however, said he would like India become a hub of 5G intellectual property rights and need to work carefully keeping in mind the development of global ecosystem.

"We have given spectrum for demonstration purposes. I would like India to become good hub of 5G IP but we have to work carefully as to what

kind of ecosystem develops in the world as far as 5G is concerned. Will it come in one year or two year, it will create opportunity, it will create problem also," he said.

He said that there are issues around 5G technology like who will be responsible if a driverless cars causes an accident.

"There are many issues of 5G. Our Prime Minister is very clear that both artificial intelligence and 5G must be used for healthcare, education, in agriculture and we are very keenly pushing it," Prasad said.

Sell our assets to pay off PMC Bank's dues, Wadhawans write to RBI, agencies

Mumbai: Promoters of real estate group HDIL, Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, who are the prime accused in the PMC Bank scam, have requested the RBI and investigation agencies to sell off their assets, including a yacht, a Rolls Royce and an aircraft, to pay off the bank's dues.

The Wadhawans, who were remanded in judicial custody by a court here on Wednesday, in a letter to the Enforcement Directorate, the Union Finance Ministry and the RBI, requested that they be allowed to sell

off 18 of their attached assets.

The letter was released by a spokesperson of the Wadhawans. According to the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing, which first arrested the Wadhawans, the scam at the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank is worth ₹4,355 crore.

The assets listed in the letter include ultra-luxury cars such as a Rolls Royce Phantom, Bentley Continental, a BMW 730 LD, as well as a humble Ambassador, owned by Rakesh Wadhawan.

Housing sales down 25%, new launch dips 45%: PropTiger

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales declined 25 per cent in nine major cities to 65,799 units during July-September quarter, while new launches fell 45 per cent as consumers sentiments and demand remained subdued, according to property brokerage firm PropTiger.

Earlier this month, Anarock and JLL India also reported 18 per cent and one per cent, respectively, decline in housing sales during July-September period across seven major cities.

In its report 'Real Insight', News Corp-backed PropTiger

said that housing sales declined to 65,799 units during July-September 2019 from 88,078 units in the same period last year.

New launches fell to 33,883 units from 61,679 units during the period under review.

These cities are — Mumbai Metropolitan Region (including Navi Mumbai & Thane), Pune, Noida (including Greater Noida & Yamuna Expressway), Gurugram (including Bhiwadi, Dharuhera & Sohna), Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Ahmedabad.

"New launches continued to show a downward trend in

the September quarter even as the government continues to move towards a solution to the ongoing NFBC issue, a problem that has dried up a key source of finance for real estate developers in India. As buyers postponed their purchase decisions to time it with the festive season, sales numbers also fell during the quarter," said Dhruv Agarwal, Group CEO, Elara Technologies.

Singapore-based Elara is full stack real estate technology platform that owns PropTiger.com, Housing.com and Makaan.com.

"While new launch numbers might continue to fall in

the coming quarters due to the liquidity crunch, we expect home sales numbers to improve in the subsequent quarter, factoring in the higher purchase activity that normally takes place during the festival season," he added.

According to the data, housing sales in Mumbai region fell to 21,985 units during July-September 2019 from 28,563 units in the year-ago period. In Pune, sales fell to 13,644 units from 16,946 units.

In Bengaluru, demand declined to 7,772 units from 10,929 units. Housing sales in Hyderabad went down to 6,141 units from 6,783 units.

Housing sales in Ahmedabad fell to 3,951 units from 5,413 units, while demand dipped in Chennai to 3,656 units from 4,898 units. Kolkata saw sales of 3,081 units as against 4,030 units.

Gurugram witnessed sales of 2,742 units as against 3,988 units, while Noida saw sales of 2,827 units compared to 6,528 units during the period under review.

PropTiger said that unsold inventory declined 13 per cent year-on-year, primarily because new launches fell at a faster clip than sales did. As of September,

builders in India's nine top markets have an unsold stock consisting of 7,78,627 units. Notably, more than half of this unsold inventory is affordable stock.

Barring Hyderabad where property prices have seen a jump of 15 per cent y-o-y, prices have undergone only slight changes in other markets.

However, only two markets have seen a downward movement in pricing in the past one year, Gurugram ( 4 per cent) and Chennai ( 1 per cent). Other markets saw prices appreciation by 2 to 4 per cent y-o-y.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11466.30	11599.10	11439.65	11586.35	122.35	
YESBANK	41.90	48.20	40.70	47.40	6.35	
TATAMOTORS	127.10	144.35	125.10	142.55	16.70	
EICHERMOT	19500.00	20789.00	19455.00	20750.00	1529.40	
INDUSINDBK	3176.00	3266.00	3140.00	3235.00	65.50	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3009.00	3140.00	2995.00	3138.00	114.30	
SBIN	256.40	264.00	255.60	265.30	9.25	
TATASTEEL	346.00	361.35	340.35	359.90	12.50	
ASIANPAINT	1772.00	1816.65	1756.00	1811.00	45.30	
AXISBANK	690.50	712.40	690.00	710.35	16.95	
BAJAJFINSV	8154.00	8357.40	8102.00	8316.65	182.35	
COALINDIA	194.00	199.95	192.90	198.85	4.30	
MARUTI	6977.00	7155.55	6940.00	7126.00	151.00	
BAJFINANCE	4020.05	4117.20	4001.00	4096.00	79.60	
BRITANNIA	3176.00	3266.35	3160.00	3235.00	58.25	
HDPC	2056.95	2090.05	2050.10	2085.45	36.75	
HINDUNILVR	1367.50	2108.00	2061.95	2106.50	35.50	
RELIANCE	2075.00	1399.00	1372.00	1394.95	22.60	
JSWSTEEL	218.30	224.70	214.35	223.75	5.45	
TCS	2014.00	2038.00	1999.30	2029.00	27.60	
GAIL	126.70	129.05	125.85	128.40	1.60	
ICICIBANK	436.00	443.35	437.40	440.75	3.45	
ZEEL	260.60	274.00	255.80	262.70	3.05	
HEROMOTOCO	2609.00	2644.00	2582.00	2631.00	28.00	
NESTLEIND	14383.00	14630.35	14160.00	14505.00	155.50	
ITC	244.00	246.70	243.85	245.95	2.30	
DREDDY	271.10	273.00	2699.00	2726.00	24.55	
NTPC	117.70	119.20	116.95	118.40	1.00	
M&M	581.10	596.35	578.75	589.00	4.75	
IOC	145.90	147.00	143.75	146.40	0.85	
HINDALCO	185.50	187.95	182.55	188.60	0.65	
UPL	585.00	593.70	580.35	590.60	1.85	
TITAN	1285.00	1285.55	1271.10	1276.00	1.45	
SUNPHARMA	401.60	402.55	396.80	400.00	0.30	
LT	1428.00	1436.80	1420.20	1425.00	0.80	
HDPCBANK	1227.50	1229.85	1213.10	1221.50	0.40	
BHARTIARTL	385.00	387.50	379.05	384.95	-0.30	
BPCL	512.40	515.30	504.10	511.50	-0.90	
KOTAKBANK	1610.00	1613.60	1586.50	1602.00	-3.55	
WIPRO	248.90	250.15	246.60	248.30	-0.60	
INFY	767.00	770.55	765.10	769.40	-2.05	
CIPLA	445.00	447.70	439.40	445.50	-1.30	
TECHM	725.00	731.00	715.95	724.80	-2.90	
ONGC	141.10	141.90	139.15	140.95	-0.70	
ADANIPORTS	409.10	411.20	404.60	407.95	-2.05	
POWERGRID	198.75	199.75	196.50	197.40	-1.15	
INFRAEAT	255.00	257.95	253.55	255.60	-1.10	
ULTRACEMCO	4271.00	4280.00	4221.05	4254.05	-31.25	
GRASIM	728.15	730.85	712.00	725.50	-5.35	
VEDL	148.05	149.70	144.75	148.45	-1.45	
HCLTECH	1100.00	1102.20	1084.55	1089.20	-11.70	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27275.60	27650.60	27230.80	27627.60	387.05	
NIACL	120.00	136.60	115.50	136.60	22.75	
IBULHSGFIN	168.45	204.00	165.80	197.40	24.35	
MOTHERSUMI	99.50	112.00	99.25	111.65	12.20	
PEL	1374.90	1475.00	1368.00	1464.40	88.70	
BERGEPAINT	472.00	490.95	475.50	488.00	17.35	
PAGEIND	20900.00	21755.00	20820.50	21524.95	703.35	
ASHOKLEY	71.40	74.10	71.00	74.00	2.35	
SBILIFE	880.00	928.50	880.00	903.60	26.25	
PNB	57.40	59.30	57.05	59.00	1.65	
L&T	83.05	86.00	80.70	85.45	2.35	
SRTANSFIN	1039.00	1075.00	1021.60	1068.00	28.45	
NIACL	120.00	136.60	115.50	136.60	22.75	
HEG	888.00	956.95	884.45	938.00	12.60	
TATAMTRDVR	56.85	64.20	55.70	61.95	9.85	
ADANIENT	158.50	165.15	157.65	162.60	5.30	
MINDTREE	748.50	720.00	729.35	729.35	-14.00	
LTTS	1551.00	1600.30	1551.00	1593.25	47.25	
RAJSEHPO	672.45	678.60	671.50	674.45	1.85	
SAIL	32.75	33.75	32.00	33.55	24.30	
AUROPHARMA	464.00	468.25	457.20	466.40	1.60	
CIPLA	447.00	447.50	439.50	446.30	1.90	
IBREALEST	41.20	44.40	40.20	44.30	3.10	
M&M	583.80	596.20	578.75	593.15	6.95	
SUNPHARMA	400.00	402.60	396.70	401.40	63.05	
BATAINDIA	1700.00	1750.55	1689.60	1747.45	6.65	
JSWINDIA	585.00	609.50	584.95	606.35	8.55	
NAUKRI	2289.70	2298.00	2258.00	2284.45	2.50	
BHARTIARTL	384.90	387.10	379.30	385.75	14.15	
JUBLFOOD	1323.95	1354.70	1305.03	1343.35	84.25	
PFIZER	3200.00	3217.20	3184.15	3198.05	17.45	
LICHSGFIN	374.25	382.70	370.00	381.55	4.00	
FORCEMOT	1105.00	1174.00	1070.50	1084.15	6.55	
TATAPOWER	58.20	60.15	57.60	59.80	1.60	
IOC	145.60	146.80	143.80	146.45	8.20	
NBCC	33.50	34.50	33.00	34.30	0.90	
ONGC	142.00	142.00	139.10	141.35	0.20	
HINDALCO	186.40	189.70	182.40	188.85	1.10	
WIPRO	249.00	250.15	246.70	248.05	0.10	
CANBK	180.00	187.10	179.00	186.50	4.30	
UBL	1317.00	1326.00	1291.20	1318.65	-5.50	
COALINDIA	194.80	199.95	193.00	199.35	-4.30	
EMAMILTD	317.00	351.65	317.00	342.25	-5.85	
ITDC	338.75	362.25	328.05	351.70	-4.00	
SPICEJET	120.45	123.50	119.60	122.30	-0.80	
GODFREYPROP	988.45	1015.00	982.05	989.90	-121.90	
BANKINDIA	60.95	64.10	60.55	63.65	-2.65	
PIIND	1317.75	1318.00	1301.50	1314.15	-4.80	
BERGEPAINT	479.00	490.65	471.10	486.40	-1.60	
GRASIM	730.50	730.50	711.90	724.75	-70.40	
CEATLTD	980.00	982.00	956.00	969.45	-15.60	
ULTRACEMCO	4286.00	4286.05	4221.00	4257.40	-6.00	

Bse 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	
YESBANK	41.90	48.20	40.65	47.40	
IBULHSGFIN	169.80	204.00	165.95	197.15	
RBLBANK	256.00	293.90	253.65	289.85	
TATAMOTORS	126.95	143.80	125.15	138.15	
HINDUNILVR	2068.00	2108.00	2061.85	2103.60	
SBIN	256.00	266.10	255.85	265.45	
MARUTI	6970.15	7157.00	6944.25	7123.10	
RELIANCE	1378.00	1399.00	1372.15	1396.15	
TATASTEEL	346.95	361.25	340.40	355.65	
INDUSINDBK	1273.00	1344.60	1272.25	1339.80	
BAJFINANCE	4029.80	4115.25	3997.20	4105.20	
ZEE	261.00	273.75	256.00	264.70	
TCS	2015.00	2037.80	2001.00	2030.70	
AXISBANK	691.50	712.40	691.00	710.55	
BAJAJCON	251.50	270.90	250.80	261.90	
EICHERMOT	19451.10	20780.40	19451.10	20518.00	
PEL	1373.60	1475.00	1368.15	1467.95	
TVSMOTOR	409.80	451.45	399.10	437.15	
HDPC	2060.00	2094.95	2050.55	2088.20	
ICICIBANK	435.30	443.25	433.75	440.55	
EXIDEIND	183.00	183.50	170.70	177.70	
BAJAJFINSV	8100.00	8361.90	8100.00	8295.65	
APLAAPOLLO	1422.85	1422.85	1386.00	1410.80	
MOTHERSUMI	100.00	111.70	99.30	108.60	
HDPCBANK	1224.00	1229.50	1213.05	1220.80	
BANKBARODA	87.30	89.40	86.30	89.00	
PNBHOUSING	389.00	423.60	371.90	410.65	
JSWSTEEL	219.80	224.60	214.50	223.35	
INDUSTAL	101.80	105.95	99.70	104.55	
UPL	588.75	593.60	580.25	592.40	
BPCL	513.45	515.00	504.30	513.15	



# 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 at 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 missive 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/](http://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-4/12 Model Town Phase-III, Delhi, vide Relinquishment Deed dt. 20.02.2015 executed by Mrs. Meenal Kumar, regd. 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 Mrs. 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 howsoever or otherwise is hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their 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)**

<b>NIT No.</b>	93195643B
<b>Name of work and its location</b>	AFTC Tuning unit style T1 21 for frequencies A/6 =6 Nos., B/6 =6 Nos., C/6 =6 Nos. & D/4 =4 Nos. Make -Bambardier or similar
<b>Approx Cost of work</b>	With Approximately cost is Rs. 2808786.86/-
<b>Earnest Money</b>	Rs. 56180/- ( <b>Note</b> : It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.
<b>Quantity</b>	22 Nos.
<b>Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender</b>	Upto 11:00 hrs on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs
<b>Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen</b>	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
<b>No. Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93195643/2019</b>	3320/2019

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**


**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

<b>NIT No.</b>	93195449A
<b>Name of work and its location</b>	AFTC End Termination unit (ETU) style T1-21 for different frequencies A/4, B/6, C/6 & D/6, Make-Bambardier or similar.
<b>Approx Cost of work</b>	With Approximately cost is Rs. 37,77,911/-
<b>Earnest Money</b>	Rs. 75,560/- ( <b>Note</b> : It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.)
<b>Quantity</b>	23 KMS
<b>Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender</b>	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs.
<b>Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen</b>	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
<b>No.: Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93195449/2019</b>	3319/2019

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**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ON LINE BIDDING**

01) Name of Area: MM Deptt, ECL (HQ). 02) Tender No. & date: ECL/HQ/Pur/Open/21953060-RC/2019-201V Fluid/061. 03) Name of Work: Conclusion of Rate Contract for 2 years for supply of IV Fluids (Infusions). 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.easterncoal.gov.in](http://www.easterncoal.gov.in) or <https://eprocure.gov.in> or <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>.

**VISIT US AT [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in)**

# N Ireland's DUP oppose UK Gov't'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.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**


**TENDER NOTICE**

**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

<b>NIT No.</b>	93195645B
<b>Name of work and its location</b>	AFTC End Termination unit (ETU) style T1-21 for different frequencies A/4, B/6, C/6 & D/6, Make -Bambardier or similar
<b>Approx Cost of work</b>	With Approximately cost is Rs. 3523174.82/-
<b>Earnest Money</b>	Rs. 70460/- ( <b>Note</b> : It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.
<b>Quantity</b>	22 Nos.
<b>Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender</b>	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs.
<b>Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen</b>	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
<b>Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93195645/2019</b>	3321/19

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age** : Approx. 45 years, **Height** : 5'7", **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**

DP/709/ON/19

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that Sale Deed registered on 21.10.2005 in favour of Mr. S.P Garg Document No. 7222 for First Floor of Property No. 48, Block -A, Pkt-2, Sector 5, Rohini Delhi has been misplacated from the custody of the owners, Public are warned not to deal with the Document and any person dealing with the said Document would do so at their own risk, responsibility & liability and Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Arora has agreed to create mortgage of the Property in favour of our client, IDFC First Bank Limited, off at Rajendra Place, N.D.-8. Any person(s) coming into possession/ Knowledge of the aforesaid Document having any claim against the Property, are hereby requested to intimate the under signed at the under mentioned address below within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

**Vishal Diwan, Advocate**  
For Diwan and Company LLP, Advocates and Solicitors  
H No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex N.D.-19 M 9818399999

**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](http://www.ireps.gov.in) For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E- Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenders 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/fax 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](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials: **SN.1. Tender No.** : 30/19/1089/OT/020/19. **Brief Description**: Stock absorber. **Quantity**: 462 Nos. **Closing/Opening Date**: 08-11-2019.

**PCMM**  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

## 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

**IANs ■ 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 Araqchi was quoted as saying by local media. Araqchi 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. Kuashalya 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 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 SAIGAOIN INFRATECH PRIVATE LIMITED (Lan No-LQNOD00035280620) 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. Snehl 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, Manisha Jain W/o Sh. Arun Kr. Jain, Sagar Chand Jain S/o Late Sh. Bhullani Singh Jain, Smt. Sushila Jain W/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain and Manish Jain S/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain are the owner of the Built Up Property area 90Sq.Mtr. in Block and Pocket A-22, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085 having three floors. We have lost previous original three chains / papers notary files of all the three floors of the above said property. If any person found the same pls. contact 9250539198 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, Sultanpuri 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 going 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 Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

**Public Notice**

This is to inform to the public at large that my client, **Md Shoab** S/o Md Mohsin, R/o S-9, Nafees Road, Palhawal 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. Shoab)  
**Nehal Siddiqui (Adv)**  
Delhi High Court  
**Office:** I-97, Batla House, Jamia Nagar Okhla, New Delhi -110025



**Regd. Office:** ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli 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 proviso to rule 8(6)]

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(G)	(H)
1.	Bhoopendra Singh (Borrower), Renu Singh (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00002141352	Apartment No.1609,16th Floor, Block Maple, Paramount Symphony Group Housing Polt No. 06, Crossing Republik Dundaheera, Ghaziabad, UP. Area-1465 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 55,77,655/- as on Oct 10,2019	Rs. 40,00,000/- From 03:00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M.	Nov 12, 2019, From 11:00 A.M. to Onwards	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 Mortgagors/ noticee 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, 2 nd 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 on 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 DD/ PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindlycontact 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](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date:** October 18, 2019  
**Place:** Delhi/ NCR

**Sd/-**  
**Authorised Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



## 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 Sjon. Skarsgard and 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 Budhbraja, "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 Deekshitha 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 Arrestor) 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 Kareenge?*, 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 Parasrampuria (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 Parasrampuria (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 Kareenge?* 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. Even the audience won't feel 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 Kareenge*? 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 Kareenge*? 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 show-pieces 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

lavash which is a soft, thin unleavened flatbread cooked in tandoor. Most food experts say that giving a shape to *dahi kebabs* is the toughest part while preparing them. However, here, even the shape was 10 on 10. Certainly, the

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 human tears 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.

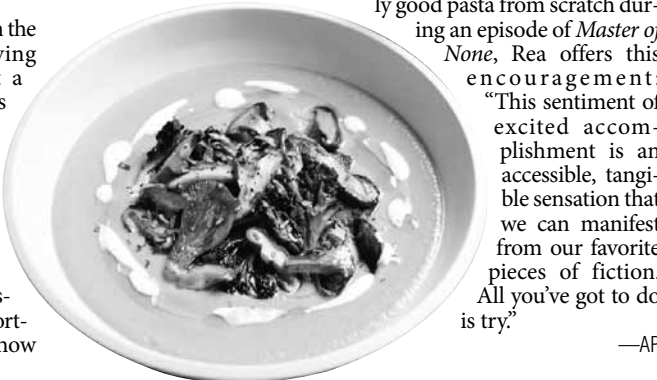
The focus is on the food. And the more tangential a recipe's connection to pop culture — like the beef Wellington only casually mentioned in a flirtatious riff delivered by John Slattery's Roger Sterling on an early episode of *Mad Men* — the more determined Rea seems to be to offer the best and most 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.

Whether 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



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



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

### WHOLE SOME 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

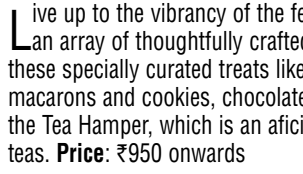
#### METHOD

- 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.



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





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

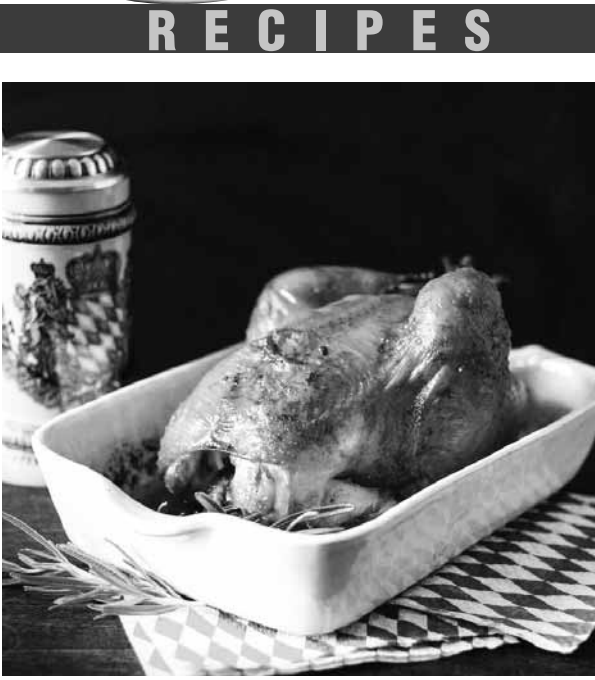


- Divide the dough into six pieces and roll each piece into long sausages.
- Take three sausages and connect them at one end. Braid them, and connect to the other end. Repeat the process with the next three sausages.
- Now, twist the two braided breads into one single bread and fold the two ends under 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.



### 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 bunch 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 "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 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 wicketkeeper 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 MC 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 medallists 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 Elliot 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 rebuilt 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 match 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 prodigy 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 changes 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' Fazal 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.





# Eye opener

Proteas opener Elgar says India tour is a good learning curve for him

PTI ■ RANCHI

South Africa opener Dean Elgar says he got “stretched” as a cricketer and learned a lot more about himself during what has been a humbling India tour, part of which included visiting “smaller places and staying in hotels” not that good.

After managing a 1-1 draw in the T20 series, South Africa suffered big defeats in the first Two Tests of the three-match rubber against a dominant outfit led by Virat Kohli.

“It’s a challenging tour. You get stretched as a person, you get stretched as a cricketer, I think you get to know yourself quite a lot as a person when you come to the smaller places where the hotels are maybe not as good, and you get challenged on the field,” Elgar said.

“It’s always a good learning curve coming to India.”

The introduction of the World Test Championship means South Africa still have “quite a lot to play for” in the third Test despite conceding the series, Elgar said.

“Back in the day it was always a bit of a dead rubber game but now with the World Test Championships around, we still have points to play for,” Elgar said.

“We can still get 40 points by fol-



South Africa's Dean Elgar bats during fourth day of second Test between India and South Africa in Pune

AP

lowing our process against India in the last Test. That’s something we can’t neglect going into this game. There is still a lot to play for,” he added. Elgar, who became the first South African batsman to score a

hundred in India after nine years during the opening Test, said the Proteas batsmen will have to go back to the basics to tackle the Indian bowlers in the final game.

“It’s no secret that it’s been a bit

of a challenge for all of us. We haven’t played our greatest cricket, consistent cricket. But we are trying to be positive. The senior players are trying to keep the guys motivated. We are still representing our country

which is an immensely proud moment for every player.

“We still motivate everyone within our squad. It has been a challenging few weeks but it’s still not too gloomy for us. We are upbeat, the

morale in the camp is still very good.

“We still have one game and we can actually change quite a lot. We are still pretty hopeful and pretty positive going into the last Test,” he asserted.

## Self destruction

‘Frustrated’ Markram punches object, injures wrist to be ruled out of 3rd Test

his injury.”

Markram has had a mixed tour of India. While he scored two hundreds in the practice games, he couldn’t carry forward his form into the Test series. After scoring 5 and 39 in the first Test, he was dismissed for a pair in the second.

He left for South Africa on

Thursday morning. The team management hasn’t called up any replacement.

A disappointed Markram admitted he has let his team down and said, “It’s sad to be going home on this note and I completely understand what I’ve done wrong and take full accountability for it.”



## Indian pace attack reminds Lara of old Windies

PTI ■ MUMBAI

West Indian batting great Brian Lara on Thursday praised the current Indian pace attack, which reminded him of the deadly West Indian attacks of yore.

The Indian pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami, in 2018, picked the record 142 wickets among them in Test matches.

Asked what makes Indian team special, Lara said: “It’s the Indian pace attack. Unbelievable. I saw them in the West Indies. When you look at the quality — (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Shami, (Umesh) Yadav — all these guys, and the guys on the sidelines, like Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) are unbelievable.”

“It reminds me a little bit of the (pace bowling) strength that the West Indies had in the 80s and 90s. The reserve strength is very important in assessing a team’s ability. It means that your attack has quality,” Lara added.

Lara, who had scored 11,953 Test runs, was also lavish in his praise for Virat Kohli, whom he termed the ‘Ultimate Captain’.

“He’s (Kohli) the ultimate captain. In terms of his performances, he leads by example. And I mean that in all facets of the game, and off the field too. He is came off very well in the background of MS Dhoni, who laid the foundation, and did things in a different way.

“So, I think Indian cricket, as we all know, is headed in the right direction. It’s influenced by some of the best people, and is reaping the benefits of it,” Lara told reporters here.

Lara also seemed happy that a player of Rohit Sharma’s calibre is set to play regularly across formats.

“I think that Rohit is an awesome player in all formats of the game. Obviously, in the limited overs game, he’s been very successful. I don’t see any reason why he should not be in Test cricket. It seems that he has the passion to play and wants to prove himself on that stage (Test cricket) as well.

“To exclude a player like that (from the Test team) will be very difficult, with the talent that I see. So, hopefully, he will be successful. He is a gifted batsman,” said Lara.

Lara, who holds the record for highest individual run scorer in Tests, also welcomed the ICC move of Test Championship, saying it has provided contest to the game.

“I think (World Test Championship should have started earlier). In terms of Test Championship, where there is an end, it culminates into a team becoming Championship, that is something that should have happened a long time ago and happy to see it now. Even if you play against the minnows—Afghanistan, Bangladesh — it means something.

## Al-Amin back in B’desh T20 team

PTI ■ DHAKA

Left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny and pacer Al-Amin Hossain were recalled as Bangladesh on Thursday announced a 15-member squad for next month’s three-game T20I series against India.

Opener Tamim Iqbal also made a comeback after a break during which he missed the tri-series at home involving Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.

Both Sunny and Hossain have been out of contention for a long time having played their last T20I in 2016.

The 33-year-old Sunny, who has taken 12 wickets in 10 T20Is, was suspended during the 2016 ICC World Twenty20 for an illegal bowling action. He had also spent two months in jail after being arrested in 2017 for his involvement in a family dispute.



Al-Amin Hossain in a file picture

The 29-year-old Hossain also last featured in the 2016 ICC World Twenty20.

“We have recalled Sunny because we need someone experienced for India, which is a tough country. Al-Amin comes

into the squad as some of our other fast bowlers are injured,” said chief selector Minhajul Abedin.

The selectors also decided to drop Sabbir Rahman, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Rubel Hossain and Taijul Islam from the team of the last T20 Bangladesh played during the tri-nation series at home.

The T20I series will begin with the first match on November 3 at Arun Jaitley stadium in New Delhi. The next two games are at Rajkot and Nagpur on November 7 and 10 respectively.

**Squad:** Shakib Al Hasan (C), Tamim Iqbal, Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Naim Sheikh, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Afif Hossain, Musaddek Hossain, Aminul Islam Biplob, Arafat Sunny, Mohammad Saifuddin, Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shafiuil Islam.

## Score heavy in 1st innings: Faf tells SA batsmen

**RANCHI:** Having already lost the three-match series, South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis has called on his players to come out with an improved performance, especially with the bat when they face India in the final Test beginning Saturday in Ranchi.

The Proteas have not been able to make use of their first innings — barring the Vizag Test where they managed to score 431 in reply to India’s 502. India, on the other hand, have dominated by getting big runs in their first innings. In the first Test,

the hosts scored 502 runs while they put on 601 runs in Pune.

And, du Plessis wants his batsmen to learn from the Indian batters and make most of their first innings in the final Test.

“We need to put big runs on the board in the first innings,” said du Plessis while addressing a press conference on Thursday.

“When you get runs in the first innings anything from there is possible. For us first innings runs will be vital and then anything could happen in the second innings,” he added. **IANS**

## India sans Kohli sweat it out at optional practice

PTI ■ RANCHI

Skipper Virat Kohli and opener Rohit Sharma skipped the optional practice session but spinner Kuldeep Yadav looked to hone his batting skills ahead of India’s third and final Test against South Africa here on Thursday.

Kuldeep, who sat out of the first two Tests, made full use of the net session displaying some elegant cover drives in their afternoon practice which was also attended by Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal and Ishant Sharma among others.

Earlier chief coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharat Arun had a close look at the pitch which wore a dry look, indicating that it would have something for the spinners.

Spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have been the key bowlers for India, bagging 14 and 10 wickets each and Kuldeep’s inclusion will only be at the cost of a pacer.

The pacers too have made crucial contributions with Mohammed Shami claiming eight wickets at a strike rate of 41 and Umesh snapping six wickets at an even better strike rate of 21 and it remains to be seen if Kohli tinkers with his winning combination.

The Proteas trained in the morning session with focus on their batsmen.

South Africa’s training was attended by skipper Du Plessis, Temba Bavuma, Theunis de Bruyn, Qunitor Kock, Senuran Muthuswamy as they faced the net bowlers.

Vernon Philander was seen among the bowlers but the new-ball bowler was mostly seen honing his batting skills.



## Marsh set to miss Pak Test

AFP ■ SYDNEY

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh is set to miss the opening Test against Pakistan after fracturing his right hand punching a wall, with Australian coach Justin Langer branding him “an idiot.”

The Western Australia captain took his frustrations out in the changing rooms after he was dismissed for 53 in a Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania on Sunday.

Scans revealed a fracture, and an apologetic Marsh said he faced up to six weeks on the sidelines.

That would almost certainly rule him out of the opening Test against Pakistan in Brisbane starting on November 21.

“It’s my middle finger, just below the wrist — a fracture straight through



the bone,” Marsh, who was sporting a cast on his arm, told reporters.

Marsh had only been recalled to the Test side for the final game of the Ashes against England last month after a long period out of favour and there are no guarantees he will win a spot back.

“It’s a good lesson for me. Hopefully it’s a good lesson for other people as well,” added Marsh, whose blunder could open the door for Marcus Stoinis in Brisbane.

“At the end of the day, it’s a game of cricket. Sometimes you get beaten, sometimes you get out, and you can’t be punching walls.”

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## Reputed coach can help Indian sprinters: Carmelita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Three-time Olympic medallist Carmelita Jeter is impressed with India’s Dutee Chand and said a reputed coach can guide the country’s talented sprinters reach the highest level in future.

“I have seen Dutee Chand compete at the Olympic Games. She has done some remarkable things. I hope more young ladies will step up and represent the country,” said Jeter, who is the international event ambassador at the 15th edition of the *Airtel Delhi Half Marathon*.

“I feel that all sprinters need good coaches. If a big name coaches Indian athletes, then you will certainly see a rise of Indian sprinters in the future,” said Jeter.

The fastest woman alive, Jeter is delighted to see over 40,000 participants ready to give it their all at the Half Marathon, which is an IAAF Gold Label Road Race, on Sunday.

A world record holder, Jeter had finished with a winning time of 10.64 seconds at the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix in 2009, giving her a spot in history as the second-fastest woman ever



in the 100 meters.

Carmelita Jeter was a part of the historic 4x100m USA team which set the world record at the 2012 Olympics. The American said that sharing a medal with three other women was even more special than an individual medal.

“It was a moment for the USA team. It was a special team out there. People think that four of the fastest runners form a good 4x100m group, but no, a team has to have four people who trust each other and have chemistry. It was great to share a Gold medal with a team. Winning a medal with three other women was even more special,” she said.

## India’s campaign end in Denmark

PTI ■ ODENSE

India’s campaign at the \$ 775,000 Denmark Open came to a disappointing end with the trioka of PV Sindhu, B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma — all exiting after suffering straight-game losses, here on Thursday.

World Champion Sindhu, seeded fifth, yet again struggled to buck the trend of recent early exits as she was knocked out after she lost 14-21, 17-21 to Korea’s An Se Young in a 40-minute second-round women,s singles clash at the BWF World Tour Super 750 event.

It turned out to be a dismal day for Indian shuttlers in general as B Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma, and men’s doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also went down in straight games in their second rounds.

While Praneeth was outclassed by two-time World Champion Kento Momota of Japan 6-21, 14-21 in yet another dominating show, Sameer lost 12-21, 10-21 to Olympic champion Chen Long of China.

Thailand Open champions Satwik and Chirag also suffered a 16-21 15-21 defeat against sixth seed Chinese combination of Han Cheng Kai and Zhou Hao Dong in men’s doubles.

Later in the day, Pranaav Chopra and N Sikki Reddy put up a gallant fight before going down 24-26 21-13 11-21 to fourth seeded Malaysian pair of Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying in the mixed doubles competition.

## Wawrinka reach Antwerp quarters



Stan Wawrinka celebrates after win

AGENCIES ■ ANTWERP

Stan Wawrinka was made to work hard at the European Open on Wednesday as the Swiss veteran outlasted Feliciano Lopez 6-7(4) 6-4 7-6(4) to reach the quarter-finals in Antwerp.

The 34-year-old Wawrinka, seeking his first ATP trophy since he lifted the title in Geneva two years ago, served 17 aces — one less than Lopez — and converted one out of four break-point opportunities to edge the tight match.

Up next for the world number 18 is unseeded Gilles Simon, who powered past his French compatriot Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-4, 7-5.

Wawrinka has beaten Simon four times in seven meetings but the Frenchman prevailed in straight sets the last time they played each other on the hardcourts of Shanghai in 2016.

Argentina’s Guido Pella joined the duo in the last eight after beating South Korea’s Kwon Soon-woo 7-5, 7-5 to set up a clash with Ugo Humbert or second seed David Goffin.

In first-round action, Pablo Cuevas beat Hugo Dellien 6-4, 6-3 and will take on Briton Andy Murray next. American Frances Tiafoe overcame Germany’s Yannick Maden 7-6(7), 6-3.