

OPINION 8
WHY CONG
OWES AN ANSWER**WORLD 12**
RESPECT DEAL OR WILL
ESCALATE OP, WARNS ERDOGAN**SPORT 15**
DELHI FACE BENGAL
FOR PKL-7 TROPHY

BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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SC shifts Assam NRC chief to MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented order of its type, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre and the Assam Government to immediately transfer the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela to Madhya Pradesh for the maximum period possible. Hajela has been facing threats and criticism from several quarters for exclusion of names from the updated NRC list.

A native of Madhya Pradesh and a 1995 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre with BTech in Electronics from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Hajela was appointed the NRC coordinator by the top court to oversee the mammoth and sensitive exercise of finalising and publication of Assam NRC data.

A special Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and RF Nariman ordered the inter-cadre transfer of Hajela on deputation to his native State for maximum possible period.

Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, sought to know the reason behind the unprecedented order of the top court, to which the CJJI responded, "can any order be passed without a cause or reason". The Bench, however, did not spec-



NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela

ify the cause or the reason for passing the order, leading to speculation that the officer might be apprehending some kind of threat.

Two FIRs were filed last month against Hajela for "discrepancies" in the final updated NRC list. A lawyer and indigenous Muslim students' organisation — All Assam Goriya-Moriya Yuva Chatra Parishad (AAGMYCP) — filed separate FIRs against Hajela in Dibrugarh and Guwahati.

Court provides no reason; order comes against backdrop of life threat to Hajela

- Hajela had overseen the mammoth exercise of finalisation and publication of Assam NRC
- No report sought from Assam Police about threat to Hajela, says IGP
- Prateek Hajela, a native of Madhya Pradesh, is a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre with BTech in Electronics from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

cise in Assam.

Another complaint was lodged against the NRC coordinator at Guwahati's Latalil police station by the AAGMY-CP, claiming "deliberate" anomalies in the final list. "The names of many indigenous people were excluded from the list, and it was done deliberately by the NRC State Coordinator," the FIR filed by the students organisation said.

Meanwhile, IG (Special Branch) Hiren Nath said no report was sought from Assam police about threat to Hajela.

"Reports about threat perception to Hajela have not been sought from us. There have been, however, criticism against Hajela in the social media. Various organisations in Assam are vocal on the NRC with many speaking against the NRC and the State Coordinator," he said.

Chandan Mazumdar, whose name does not figure in the final NRC list, filed the complaint against Hajela at Dibrugarh police station. Mazumdar alleged that he had submitted all documents, but his name was not included in the updated NRC due to "inefficiency and criminal conspiracy of employees".

The FIR held Hajela responsible for "discrepancies", as he was tasked with supervising the NRC updation exer-

FATF warns Pak: Stop terror funding or else...

Pak granted Feb deadline to fulfil remaining 22 of 27 tasks to avert blacklisting

PTI ■ PARIS

Putting Pakistan on notice, the international terror financing watchdog FATF on Friday warned it will be black-listed if it does not control terror funding by February next, voicing serious concern over that country's failure to deliver on most of its 27 targets.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) gave the warning to Pakistan at its five-day plenary which concluded here on Friday while deciding to again put the country on the "Grey List". By making this decision on Pakistan public, the FATF has given notice to the global financial institutions that they need to prepare to red flag the jurisdiction and ready their systems in February 2020 if the country falters in meeting the targets.

"It was again decided by consensus that FATF would retain Pakistan on the Grey List and warn Pakistan that if it did not complete its full Action Plan and show significant and sustainable progress action will



FATF President Xiangmin Liu, left, and Executive Secretary David Lewis talk to each other after a media conference at the OECD headquarters in Paris on Friday AP

be taken," said an official privy to the development said.

Since Pakistan continues to be in the FATF "Grey List", it would be very difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, ADB and the European Union. There is also the risk of reduction in rating by Moody's, S&P and Fitch, making Pakistan's financial condition more precarious.

According to a FATF statement, the FATF plenary noted that Pakistan addressed only five out of the 27 tasks given to it in controlling funding to terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen, responsible for a series of attacks in India.

The FATF said it strongly urges Pakistan to swiftly com-

plete its full action plan by February 2020.

"Otherwise, should significant and sustainable progress not be made across the full range of its action plan by the next plenary, the FATF will take action, which could include the FATF calling on its members and urging all jurisdictions to advise their Financial Institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan," the global body said in the statement.

Such action could include calling upon global financial institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan. This language is the same as used for Iran, which is already in the blacklist category.

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BIJEPUR BYPOLL

Naveen campaigns for BJD's Rita for 2nd day

DHARMENDRA, NARASINGHA FOR BJP, CONG, RESPECTIVELY

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With only a day left for the campaigning for the Bijepur by-election, star campaigners of three political parties, the BJD, the BJP and the Congress, conducted road shows and addressed public meetings at different places in the constituency on Friday.

BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik campaigned for his party candidate Rita Sahu by conducting road shows and addressing a huge public meeting in Gaisail block.

"I have come to your place. I will continue to work for development of Bijepur. Bless me and give me another chance to serve you," Patnaik urged voters.

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Chandra Sarangi and BJP State president Basanta

Panda also held roads shows urging voters to vote for BJD candidate Sanat Gadtia.

Criticising the BJD, Pradhan asked Rajya Sabha member Prasanna Acharya to clarify why he had urged Naveen Patnaik to contest from Bijepur in the last general elections and why Patnaik resigned from the seat thereby burdening the people here with a by-poll.

To this, Acharya said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi had won two MP seats in the 2014 elections. Can Pradhan say that the PM betrayed people of the Parliamentary constituency he quit in 2014?"

Congress MLAs Narasingha Mishra and Tara Prasad Bahinipati and other senior party leaders addressed meetings at different places to woe voters in favour of party candidate Dillip Panda.

'Mo Upakari Bagicha' to eradicate malnutrition

Starvation-free GPs to be awarded

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Friday launched a new programme "Mo Upakari Bagicha" (my beneficial garden) to undertake various kinds of cultivations for eradication of malnutrition from the State.

Under the programme, people would be encouraged to grow vegetables in their back gardens to get fresh vegetables to meet their need, said Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pratap Jena.

Jena said this while inaugurating the international seminar of "Promotion of Nutritious Foods", organised jointly by the Panchayati Raj Department and the State Livelihood Mission with support of the Azim Premji Philanthropic Indicatives.

Stating that the Infant Mortality Rate has come down from 65 in 2005-06 to 40 in 2015-16, the Minister said the

State Government is making all efforts to make the State free of malnutrition.

Panchayati Raj Secretary Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh delivering the welcome address said that the Government would give awards to malnutrition-free gram panchayats. He said the "Mo Upakari Bagicha" would also support people to rear goats and hens.

Women and Chief Development Secretary Anu Garg stressed on coordination of concerned departments for making the "Mo Upakari Bagicha" a grand success.

Among others, Azim Premji Philanthropic CEO Anand Swaminathan and senior officers of Bangladesh and Philippines Governments were present.

Women would participate in the "Mo Upakari Bagicha" programme in big numbers to make it sustainable, said Agriculture Secretary Dr Sourbh Garg.

5-T POLICY

3 police officials compulsorily retired

PNS ■ KHORDHA

Three police officials were compulsorily retired from service on Friday under Rule 71 of the Odisha Service Code for doubtful integrity, said DGP BK Sharma.

The compulsory retirement orders of Sub-Inspector Banamali Nayak, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Kishore Kumar Bag and Birabar Lenka were given by concerned Superintendents of Police in pursuance of 5-T policy of the State Government, tweeted the office of the DGP.

Khordha SP had on Thursday compulsorily retired SI Banamali Nayak, posted at the district SP office despite Nayak having four years of service still left. Earlier, he was arrested by the Vigilance Directorate on charges of bribery.

"Vigilance cases were pending against the three cops who have been given compulsory retirement. Under a new initiative of the State Government, such cops would be identified and action would be taken against them," DGP Sharma said.

'Babus appearing in courts must be in polite dress'

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Government officials, appearing in person before any judicial court or tribunal in connection with any case matter, should always come wearing proper formal dresses. An instruction to this effect has been issued to various heads of departments by the office of the Advocate General here.

"In fact, similar instructions had earlier been issued by the AG office regularly. But still there are certain unyielding officers, who turn up to the courts in informal and casual dresses only to be reprimanded by the judges in open courts," said an Additional Government Advocate (AGA) on Friday.

Although there is no such standing instruction or any executive or judicial guideline in place, yet, it was imperative and expected that a government official while appearing in person in courts must wear

sober and decent dress, the AGA said, urging the Babus to uphold the majesty of the courts.

Reports said that several Benches of the High Court have recently expressed oral displeasures over the unbecoming conduct of government officers appearing before them. On many occasions, the judges have severely criticised and warned the erring Babus over their poor dress sense.

On one occasion, an IAS officer had appeared in a court in jeans and "T" shirt with sports shoes on; and he was asked by the court to go back and come again in proper dress. The officer was reprimanded by the court saying that the court did not summon him to play tennis in the courtroom.

On another occasion, an electrical Executive Engineer had appeared in a court wearing a bright-coloured striped half shirt.

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Ban on plastic in rural areas from Oct 2 next

Use of plastic wastes in road projects stressed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

After putting a full stop on the use of polythene carry bags in cities and towns, the State Government has decided to ban single-use plastic in rural areas from the coming Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2020.

The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy here on Friday.

It was also decided that plastic waste processing centres would be opened in all the districts. The women self-help



groups (WSHG) would be engaged in manufacturing paper and cloth-based carry bags which will replace the polythene carry bags in villages.

The Chief Secretary directed the Panchayati Raj Department to put systems for proper management of plastic wastes in rural areas and the Public Works Department (PWD) to use plastic wastes in construction of roads.

Notably, the single-use plastic has been banned in all urban areas of the state from

Gandhi Jayanti this year. The Government has prohibited manufacture, sale, trade, import, storing, carrying, transportation and distribution of the single-use plastics.

The ban was imposed on polythene carry bags of any shape, thickness and size (excluding compostable), Polyethylene Terephthalate (Pet/Pete) bottles of less than 200 ml capacity.

The authorities also banned single-use disposable cutleries made up of thermocol (polystyrene), polyurethane and similar products, of plastic such as dish, spoon, cup, plate, glass, fork, bowl, pouch to store liquid and container of any size and shape except for packing and selling of milk and other ancillary milk products and thermocol decorative materials.



BY KUSHAN MITRA

For those of you who have seen the new ₹100 note, you would have noticed that there is a stepwell featured on it. Stepwells are a common feature across many parts of western India and were commonly used by Rajput kings and their predecessors in the earliest example of rainwater harvesting. Many of them have fallen into disrepair and disuse though they were all ornate at one time. Many, because they were often associated with religion, were destroyed when invading armies came into the region. But not the stepwell we see on the ₹100 note. The Rani Ki Vav



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at Patan, Gujarat, survived thanks to it being covered in sand and mud.

Whether that was a deliberate act to protect it from armies that raided the prosperous traders of Gujarat is unknown, but it survived. It was

not affected by the large-scale loot of antiquities by colonial powers thanks to it being lost in time and it was not "discovered" until after Independence and excavated in 1958.

We might criticise the Archeological Survey of India

India's westernmost State might be famous for its businessmen but it has some of the most significant historical sites in the country

(ASI) for several things, including the large-scale "disappearance" of historical monuments in a city like New Delhi but it must be complimented for the astounding work it has done in restoring the Rani Ki Vav, which is a major reason that UNESCO made it a world heritage site. However, if there is any criticism of the ASI, it is that there can be much more information on the importance of the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon, who have been painstakingly carved in three-dimensional ways into the stone. This site is a tremendous validation of the skills of craftsmen from Gujarat.

There is also the spectac-

lar Surya Mandir in Modhera an hour from Patan, with its 12 carved "adityas" or manifestations inside, which is a must-visit. Both the well and the temple were built during the rule of Bhima I, the founder of the great Solanki dynasty, the well being built by his consort, Queen Udaymati. These sites, just a couple of hours from Ahmedabad, are a reminder of not only the great wealth of this part of the nation, which is as true now as it was then, but also the skill and patience of the rulers and the people.

It is a crying shame that there are fewer and fewer people taking up some of these intricate crafts. The Patola saris of Patan for example, with geometrical designs inspired by patterns on the vav, and the "double-ikat" method, requiring an understanding of complex mathematics, used to be made by 200 families.

Continued on Page 4

‘Let NRC enumeration done in every State’

RSS supports Common Civil Code: Joshi

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh Sarakaryavah Suresh (Bhaiyaji) Joshi said here on Friday that National Register of Citizens (NRC) enumeration should be carried in every State to identify infiltrators from neighbouring countries to check growing demographic imbalance and threat to country's security.

"Such an exercise has become essential as some States have been overflowing with outsiders collaborating with anti-national forces and working against Hindus," said Joshi.

Addressing a Press meet on the valedictory occasion of three-day Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari

Mandal (ABKM) meeting of the RSS here, Joshi said the RSS is expecting a favourable verdict from court concerning Ram Janmabhoomi issue.

Joshi said the abolition of article 370 and 35A has made the situation conducive for the return of Hindus, who have been brutally thrown out of Jammu and Kashmir since 1990, to the valley.

"I hope the Hindus who have survived the brutalities will now return to their original roots," he said.

To a question, he welcomed a Common Civil Code for the country and said this was one of the primary demands of the RSS. "Why should a country have different laws for its citizens," he questioned.

He said the Government should implement such a code without any hesitation.

Expressing concern over ethnic cleansing Hindus in West Bengal, Joshi said this has

to stop immediately. The silence of the West Bengal Government was somewhat surprising given the fact that Bengal had a history of peace and amity.

Joshi said that the RSS has been privy to massive support in rural India. "It has good organisational acceptance over one lakh villages of the county and still growing," he said.

The enthusiasms of the people have been overwhelming. RSS sakhas are active in 60,000 locations of the country, he mentioned.

Determined to ameliorate the condition of villages, he said RSS has began taking up rural development work on a massive scale. "We are focusing on 18-35 age groups to carry the work to its logical target.

RSS Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Arun Kumar and Saha Prachar Pramukh Narendra Thakur were also present, among others.



Wanted Puri criminal nabbed in encounter

9 mm pistol, ammo, bike seized



Bhagu, a resident of Balighat under the Talabania police station in was shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, after preliminary treatment at a hospital in Pipli

PNS ■ PURI

Wanted criminal Bhagirathi Pradhan alias Bhagu was nabbed in an exchange of fire with police at Tarakarja Chhak near the Pipili over-bridge in Puri district late on Thursday night.

Getting inputs about the movement of Bhagu, police laid a trap for him near the Pipili over-bridge. But sighting the cops, he fired at them in a bid to escape from the spot.

But in the retaliatory firing by the police team he suffered bullet injuries in his left leg and was subsequently nabbed.

The cops seized a 9 mm pistol, live ammunition, and a motorcycle from his possession.

Bhagu, a resident of Balighat under the Talabania police station in was shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, after preliminary treatment at a hospital in Pipli.

He is wanted in more than 20 criminal cases including extortion, attempt to murder and illegal possession of arms in different police station areas in the district.

80% of suicides preventable: Psychiatrist

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Over one million people commit suicide worldwide every year of which 90 per cent have a treatable mental illness or are addicted to substance abuse with the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimating suicide to be the 13th leading cause of death.

Sixty per cent of these people have a depressive disorder, but such deaths are preventable, Prof Surjeet Sahoo, Head of Department of Psychiatry at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here, said on Thursday.

"Suicide deaths are most preventable in the developed countries today. A person contemplating suicide invariably sends out warning signs which

should not be ignored," he said while addressing a programme organised to mark the conclusion of the World Mental Health Week.

Describing suicide as a psychiatric and medical emergency, Dr Sahoo said 80 per cent of the suicides are preventable; and mental illnesses and substance abuse are almost always associated with such deaths. The major risk factors include depression, suicidal thoughts, loss of support from family and friends, living alone, unemployment, drugs and alcohol abuse and stress.

Suicide, he said, is the third leading cause of death for young people in the age group of 15 to 24 years with two-thirds of such deaths among the youth occurring when they

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people in the age group of 15 to 24 years with two-thirds of such deaths among the youth occurring when they are between 18 and 24 years



are between 18 and 24 years.

"Most people, who commit suicide, send out some clue or warning of intent before doing it. A suicide attempt is also usually made during a particularly stressful time; but if the person receives timely help in managing that crisis, he or she can often move on with life successfully," he said.

People, while contemplating suicide, give warning signs

and it is for others to pick up the signals and take preventive action. Some people even talk of their suicide plans which are often not taken seriously.

"When someone is dropping hints of not being around for long or visiting a friend to say goodbye or giving away belongings to friends and relatives, it should be viewed seriously and action taken to prevent any tragedy," Prof Sahoo said.

Ollywood actor Bobby Mishra, who attended the programme as chief guest, narrated his experience when he went through bouts of depression while pointing out that it is hopelessness which gives birth to suicidal tendencies. "A person suffering from mental depression needs counselling which is the way out of the situation," he observed.

Other experts said expectation, emotion and ego are the three major factors which spawn depression and push individuals to the brink of death. "Expectation is the most dangerous cause as parents today want their children to be toppers, pushing them hard without realising whether they can cope with the pressure," an expert said.

BBC LIST

Odia space techie among 100 most influential women

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha-born space entrepreneur Susmita Mohanty has made the State and the country proud as she is featured in international media BBC's 100 most influential women's list.

'India's spacewoman' found a place in the BBC's list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for the year 2019. Susmita is a spaceship designer who founded India's first space startup.

Susmita, a climate action advocate, uses her business to help monitor and understand climate change from space, the BBC has written in a description page.

Born to former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist Nilamani Mohanty, Susmita started her career early with various space organisations. She received her training in prestigious institutions such as India's National Institute of Design and France's International Space University (ISU).

After acquiring PhD in aerospace architecture from Sweden, she worked at Boeing and NASA. She was also asso-



Susmita, a climate action advocate, uses her business to help monitor and understand climate change from space, the BBC has written in a description page

ciated with the European Space Agency (ESA) and even with the ISRO, among other space organisations.

Susmita started her startup, Earth2Orbit, in 2008 and has been working on climate change.

The BBC on Wednesday released its list of 100 influential women, which has seven Indians from various walks of life. The list includes Precious Adams, Parveena Ahanger, Fiona Kolbinger, Aranya Johar, Vandana Shiva and Natasha Noel.

LABOUR TRAFFICKING

50 middlemen held in 3 districts

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Launching a major crackdown on illegal labour trafficking, police arrested as many as 50 agents and middlemen from three districts on Thursday night.

The accused persons involved in the illegal trade were arrested during simultaneous drives in Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi districts on Thursday tweeted DGP Bijay Kumar Sharma on Friday.

He said an investigation is underway to trace their links in the trafficking network.

Last week, as many as 41



middlemen were arrested in Balangir and Nuapada districts and forwarded to court for allegedly trafficking labourers to other States.

The SPs of the two districts had formed special squads to identify and track the middlemen and agents based on prima facie evidence.

Injured boy posts another TikTok video from hosp

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Passion for posting TikTok videos crossed all limits as a 19-year-old boy, who had fallen off a roof a few days ago while making a video on the mobile phone and then hospitalised, created another TikTok video while undergoing treatment at a hospital here.

Anil Gochhayat had fallen off a two-storied building in Sector-6 here on October 15. He has been admitted to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) for treatment. Surprisingly, he posted another TikTok video from the hospital bed.



Odisha's dwindling wildlife a wakeup call

BISWAJIT MOHANTY

In the last nine years and a half since April 2010, as many as 727 elephants have died of which 257 (more than 35 per cent) have died due to unnatural causes — 113 due to electrocution, 77 to poaching, 26 to poisoning, 26 to train kills, five to road kills and 10 after falling into manmade structures like open wells and irrigation projects. The reasons for death could not be ascertained in 147 cases as carcasses

are found in decomposed State and some just skeletal remains.

Last year, 2018-19, saw the highest elephant mortality till date — 91 of them, of which 36 were due to unnatural causes and in 27 cases the reason could not be known. The year also saw the highest number of electrocutions till date — 24 of them of which 12 were by sagging power lines and 12 by hooking of live wire for poaching. The electrocution of seven elephants together near Kamalanga, Dhenkanal on October 27, 2018 is recorded as one of the biggest ever tragedies in the annals of India's wildlife

Despite Govt observing Wildlife Weeks

history. The recent months saw seven train kills, four of which were in one incident near Teldihi in Jharsuguda on April 16, 2018.

The period also saw the highest number of human kills by elephants — 92 humans as the human- elephant conflict worsened.

During 2019-20, with six months still to go, Odisha has already lost 33 elephants and human kills by elephants is at an alarming 59, heading once again to a all time high mortality for both elephants and

humans. The road kill of three elephants on the National Highway at Balijodi, Keonjhar on August 22 is among the worst-recorded elephant deaths on Indian roads.

While tiger population has gone up in most Indian States, in Odisha it has come down or remained static. In 2004, the State had claimed the presence of 192 tigers which came down to 28 in 2014. Even after spending crores of rupees on tiger conservation during the last four years, the numbers continued to be stagnant at 28

as per the 2018 census.

Satkosia witnessed an ill advised venture into tiger tourism in June, 2018 which went horribly wrong within two months as one of the two tigers relocated from Madhya Pradesh was poached and the other had to be caught and brought back into an enclosure after she attacked humans. Ironically, the Government opted for the Rs 26 crore relocation project but five years ago had preferred to keep a straying Sakosia male tiger at Nandan Kanan Zoo in 2013 instead of releasing him to bolster the tiger population there.

The Sunabeda sanctuary which had got an in principle approval about a decade ago from MoEF to turn it into a Tiger Reserve has not been notified yet by the Odisha Government despite constant reminders from the NTCA.

Leopards are being regularly poached for their skins and body parts.

While the Olive Ridley turtles, Odisha's sports mascot, continue to be massacred in thousands off the Odisha coast by illegal trawlers, the Rushikulya river mouth nesting site did not witness mass nesting this year and yet again the Ridelys avoided the Devi river

mouth. The fresh water turtles of Odisha are having a bad time too, being poached in large numbers for smuggling to other States and abroad.

Pangolin, the most trafficked wild animal in the world, was rampantly poached in the last 15 months.

This is evident from the several seizures of pangolin scales and live pangolins. On June 18, 2018 when Shamsuddin Khan was caught with 5 kg of pangolin scales near Daspalla, Nayagarh, it was not known to the forest department that he was one of the most wanted wildlife smugglers in the State until the

Crime Branch of Police took over the case.

Though the Forest Department has introduced a toll free number at the Chief Wildlife Warden's office for receiving information about wildlife poaching and smuggling, the Wildlife Crime Cell is inactive.

The credibility of the Odisha State Board for Wildlife, whose chairman is the Chief Minister himself, has a questionable existence since the last two decades.

(Dr Mohanty is secretary, Wildlife Society of Orissa, M: 9437024265)

INBRIEF

BALESWAR DRAINAGE EXE ENGINEER IN VIG NET

Baleswar: Acting on the complaints of accumulation of assets disproportionate to his income by Balasore Drainage Division Executive Engineer Basant Panda, vigilance sleuths on Friday conducted raids on his residence at the Jail Road and in-laws' and ancestral houses at Amarda Road here. The team detected assets, including cash, deposits, jewellery and other valuable items, worth lakhs of rupees, said sources.

KIIT INT'L SCHOOL CHAIRPERSON GETS GLOBAL HONOUR

Bhubaneswar: KiIT International School, Bhubaneswar chairperson Dr Mona Lisa Bal has been honoured by the NRI Welfare Society (UK Chapter). She received the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award from the NRI Welfare Society in the House of Commons in London for her contribution in the field of education. She was among 25 such awardees from across the globe. Notably, Mother Teresa and Gaur Gopal Das have been recipients of this award. Dr Bal expressed her gratitude to KIIT & KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samantara for his transformational leadership which has been the catalyst in her quest for education with a human touch.



U SAMMILANI'S NEWS MAGAZINE RELEASED



Bhubaneswar: The Utkal Sammilani released its news magazine here on Friday. Odia Language Literature and Culture Director Bijay Kumar Nayak attended as chief guest and unveiled the magazine. On the occasion, Sammilani Mancheswar branch president and magazine editor in chief Dillip Dashsharma felicitated Nayak with a memento. Among others, Odia Language Literature and Culture Deputy Director Debananda Barha, Sammilani VP Sital Chandra Mohanty, joint secretary Ashok Paltasingh and magazine editor Prasanna Kumar Rath were present.

55K ODISHA SHOPKEEPERS TO BECOME PART OF UNIKET

Bhubaneswar: The Reliance-backed Fynd has launched Uniket, a unique direct-to-retail solution that is helping Odisha retailers grow their businesses by getting direct access to the brand's inventory and the flexibility to buy anytime, anywhere and in any configuration they like. Through Uniket, the Fynd also provides the shopkeepers with their own free website and app with selling capability of over 50,000+ styles from 50+ brands. Shopkeepers no longer need to worry about customers leaving their shop dissatisfied due to a lack of choices in their favourite brands.

Blind woman grips audience with her songs



PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

Though a blind artist, 39-year-old Meghamala Panda is captivating audience with her sweet voice. She is not only visually-challenged but also very poor. She learned the art of singing from a very young age of six being inspired by her parents. She had even not got a harmonium for rehearsals and to practise music.

Braving extreme poverty and limited opportunity in the KBK region of Odisha, Meghamala acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Hindustani Vocal Classical

Music at the Allahabad Kala Parishad. And she did her Bachelor's Degree in Odishi Vocal from the Prachin Kala Kendra, Chandigarh.

She particularly sings popular songs of Lata Mangeskar, Asha Bhosle and Anuradha Paudwal. People flock to her for listening to varieties of songs, be it from Ollywood, Bollywood and devotional songs.

Meghamala is currently serving as a Music Teacher at the Red Cross school for the blind in Bhawanipatna. The God-gifted artist is in need of more training and funding from various sources.

NMDC WANTS MINING LEASE TO BAIL OUT AILING NINL

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While the Odisha Government is urging the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to bail out another public sector company Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL), the latter has shown positive inclination to pump in funds to the ailing steel maker.

However, the NMDC urges for a major iron ore mines in Odisha so that it will be able to set up a mega iron ore project in the State.

As the NINL, based at Kalinganagar in Odisha, is in dire straits due to paucity of funds, the State Government, as one of the major investors, had requested the NMDC to help in arranging funds for NINL to run its operation.

The NINL requires ₹300 crore for running its operation and the Ministry of Commerce and Industries had requested the Odisha Government to pump in funds as the steel maker is closing one plant after another due to paucity of funds.

Looking at the grim scenario, Union Minister Commerce and Industries, Piyush Goyal in a meeting had advised the MMTC and the Odisha Government to pump in required amount of funds to the NINL.

While disinvestment of NINL is on move and at this stage if plants are closed down then its value will go down and share holders will lose their money.

The NMDC is interested for a mining lease in Odisha and the NINL has a huge iron ore deposit.

So if the NMDC invests in thr NINL, then its stake for a mining lease brightens up, feel senior officials in Department of Steel and Mines.

Sources said the NMDC has shown positive mindset to invest more in NINL though insiders say that the NMDC has already invested ₹100 crore in the NINL, including ₹49 crore in Konarak Met Coke Limited and ₹51 crore in NINL.

After the investment of ₹100 crore in NINL, the NMDC has not got any mining lease, pointed out an insider of NMDC.

Under this backdrop, it seems NMDC is interested to further invest more funds in NINL with a rider that the Odisha Government is needed to reserve a major iron ore deposit for NMDC.

The NMDC authorities are in touch with the State Government officials in this regard and want an iron ore deposit worth more than 200 Million Tonnes.

Major iron ore mines like Malangtoli, Mankadnacha, Khandadhar and others are now available and the NMDC has requested the Odisha Government to reserve one of these iron ore blocks for the Central mining major.

Now, the Odisha Government would take a final call in this regard as NMDC is interested to take up Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in a big way in the peripheral areas of the iron ore mines, which would be allocated to the NMDC, sources said.



Exempt DMFs from taxes: Odisha ranks 12th in innovative index

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BID Rajya Sabha member Amar Patnaik has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to amend the Income Tax Act and the GST Act to ensure that the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) are exempted from taxes.

In a letter, Patnaik has requested the Finance Minister to amend the Income Tax Act 1961 exempting the DMFs from tax and the filing regulations.

He has also requested the Minister to introduce an amendment to the GST Act so that services offered by the DMFs are exempted from GST.

Under the GST law, the activities of the Governments and local bodies and trusts registered under Section 12 A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 are exempted from GST. While public services/activities such as roads and public transport are exempted from tax, many other public services are taxed.

So, Patnaik has requested the Union Finance Minister to clear the confusion and amend the GST Act.

Odisha ranks 12th among 29 States in the India Innovation Index (III), 2019, a NITI Aayog report released in New Delhi on Thursday.

Karnataka is the most innovative major State as per the list published in partnership with the Institute for Competitiveness. Odisha has positioned itself above Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh are the other major 10 States positioned between Karnataka and Odisha.

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

The index is a great beginning to improve the environment of innovation in the country as it focuses on both the input and output components of the idea, viewed others present at the releasing ceremony.

The aim of the Innovative India Index 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 respective regions.

The States have been bifurcated into three categories: major States, north-east, and hill States, and Union Territories/city States/small States.

Bus falls into gorge in G'pati; 20 hurt

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

A private bus en route to Parilakhemundi from Bhubaneswar skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge at Marlava near Titising in Gajapati district in wee hours of Friday.

Though, fortunately, no death casualty was reported, around 20 passengers were injured, including six critically, in the mishap.

According to information, the mishap took place as the driver of the bus named 'Ispat' lost control over the vehicle.

On receiving information, the Khajuripada police reached the spot and rescued the injured with the help of locals and rushed them to the Community Health Centre (CHC) at Khajuripada for treatment.

Police on Friday arrested 10 persons here for allegedly assaulting a married woman and a youth suspecting them of having an illegitimate affair.

Police said the youth had visited the house of the woman at New Jagannath Colony under the Paradip Model police station on Wednesday night when her husband had gone outside. Suspecting them of having an extramarital affair, some residents of the locality locked the duo in the house.

Then they dragged the two out of the house and assaulted them besides torturing the victims.

Later, the youth claimed that he had come to the woman's house for repaying a borrowed amount. Acting on a complaint lodged by the woman, police arrested ten locals, including seven women, who were allegedly involved in assaulting the duo.



Rat snake trapped in finger ring in Banki

Injured reptile taken to OUAT

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A rat snake was injured after getting trapped in a finger ring at Charchika Sahi of Banki in Cuttack district.

The snake was taken to the Veterinary Science College of the OUAT in Bhubaneswar to get it freed from the ring.

According to reports, the three-foot-long rat snake had entered into a house of one Raja Mohapatra. After spotting the snake, the panicked family members had informed the Snake Helpline.

A helpline member reached the spot and rescued the snake.

During the rescue operation, the snake catcher found injuries in its body caused due to a finger ring. The snake was injured after its tail portion got trapped in the metal ring.

The Snake Helpline member took the retile to the OUAT to save it by chopping the ring off without hurting it.



KUB holds faculty dev meet on data analysis

32 faculties, researchers from 10 districts take part

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Khallikote University, Brahmapur (KUB) began a seven-day Faculty Development Programme on Data Analysis in Management and Social Science Research here on Friday.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Director Prof KVR Chary, MKCG Medical College Principal Prof RN Tripathy, KUB Vice-Chancellor Prof Amarendra Narayan Mishra, PG Council Chairman Prof J Panigrahi, Registrar KC Das, University Syndicate Members Dr NC Padhy and Prof NC Sahu attended as guests.

Prof Chary addressed the participants about the difficulties a researcher faces during the preliminary stages while formulating the research domain. He further mentioned that the complexities of understanding the bulk of data available at his or her disposer and the need to understand the knack of analysis of the same.

The other speakers shed light on the need of research and the role of it in formulating solutions to the global issues like environmental degradation and inter-cultural tussle among people of various regions.

In the programme, as many as 15 faculty members and 17 researchers from 12 different institutions and universities from over 10 districts are participating.



Schoolboy commits suicide in Rourkela

PNS ■ ROURKELA

An 11-year-old boy was found hanging from the ceiling of his house at E-18 in Basanti Colony under the Uditnagar police station on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Harekrushna Sahu, a Class-VI student of a local English medium school.

Father of the deceased Pradip Sahu said that his son committed suicide when he and his wife are out of the house for some work. "I have brought food for him and later went out of the house with my wife for some work. When we returned the door of the room was locked from inside. We broke open the door and found him hanging," said Sahu.

The father further said he was clueless about the motive behind his son taking such an extreme step. "He did not go to school today. He also told me that he would continue to attend classes from Monday," he added.

Police began an investigation after sending the body for postmortem.

Behave well with visitors: B'pur SP to cops ALSO ASKS IICS TO FOLLOW 5T PRINCIPLES



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Reviewing implementation of the Mo Sarkar and 5T programmes, Brahmapur SP Pinak Mishra directed the IICs of all police stations in the Brahmapur police district to behave well with people coming to their police stations to lodge complaints.

The SP said all police personnel, from Constables to IICs, should treat visitors in good manners. "All eyes are on Ganjam district as it is the home turf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Thus, police personnel should keep this in mind and provide quality service to people with good behaviour," said Mishra.

Mishra also advised IICs to follow the 5T principles of the

Dist-level 'Housala' held in B'pur

BRAHMAPUR: A district-level competition 'Housala' was held here on Friday in which about 200 inmates of 13 child-care homes took part. The competition included both physical and mental tests which were held at the Brahmapur Stadium and the Utkal Balashram, respectively, in different categories.

ADHO Dr Manoj Panda, Rangeilunda BEO Dr Pravati Mohapatra, CWC Chairman Harihara Padhy and District Child Welfare Officer S Sarangi attended the events as guests and awarded the winners. Senior PET Kedar Choudhury and staffs of the District Child Welfare office coordinated the programme. Winners in different streams will take part in the State-level competition 'Housala' to held in Bhubaneswar on October 30 and 31.

PNS



No normalcy at Balram mine; zero output for 9 days

MCL loss crosses 1.3L tonne coal supply; 60 K tonne production

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Balram opencast project (OCP) of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) remained paralysed on ninth day on Friday, with no signs of

the villagers on October 6, while they stopped over burden removal at Mahalakshmi patch on October 10.

Daily 30,000 cubic meters of over burden removal, 10,000 tonne each of coal production and supply has been affected from Balram OCP due the clash of interest between villagers of Solada and Danara.

Fuel supply to coal consumers, including Nalco, JITPL, JSPL, BSL and GMR was affected from Balram OCP, which has a capacity of 45 lakh tonne annual production.

Meanwhile, villagers of another village, Telaipassi, in the peripheral area of neighbouring Bharatpur Area, forcibly closed office of the Project Officer and Workshop of Balram OCP along with

Bharatpur mine on Friday morning.

The villagers later removed obstructions and the work at Bharatpur mine resumed.

Even interventions by the civil administration on repeated requests from local mine management have not yielded any positive outcome in the Solada and Danara issue.



MO SARKAR

5T delivery to decide bureaucrats' career graphs

BHUBANESWAR: The State Government has decided to reflect implementation of 5T charter and the Mo Sarkar initiative in the annual Performance Appraisal Report (PAR) of different categories of Government employees.

This will be applicable to the employees of the departments which are implementing the Mo Sarkar initiative.

"It has been decided to accord 20% weightage for per-

formance of government employees in implementation of 5T components. Out of the allotted weightage of 20% for 5T charter, 5% will be assigned in respect of performance under 'Mo Sarkar' initiative," said a notification of the General Administration and Public Grievance Department.

In the case of IAS officers, out of overall numerical assessment of 10, a value of 2 would be assigned with respect to per-

formance of an officer on 5T and Mo Sarkar initiative in the following manner:

1.0: 5T Charter of Department
0.5: 5T Charter of Government
0.5 – Mo Sarkar

In the case of Government employees, weightage of 20% assessment for performance of the officer will be as follows:

10%: 5T Charter of Department
5%: 5T Charter of Government
5%: Mo Sarkar

Youth dies, friend hurt as trucks hits bike in B'swar

Man run over by unidentified vehicle in Kalahandi

PNS ■ BALESWAR/KALHANDI

Over-speeding and rash driving claimed the lives of two persons in separate incidents in Baleswar and Kalahandi districts late on Thursday night.

Reports said a youth Santosh Rout (23), a resident of

other friends was returning to Baleswar from Soro.

The truck driver immediately fled the spot with his vehicle following the mishap.

In a separate incident, a person was killed after being run over by a four-wheeler at Khaliakani on Golamunda road in Dharamgarh of Kalahandi district.

The youth identified as Durjana Majhi died on the spot while the driver escaped from the scene with his vehicle.

PURI WOMAN RAPE CASE

NHRC summons BBSR DCP for appearance

Accused moved freely for 11 months, alleges victim

PNS ■ PURI

Accepting a petition pertaining to rape of a married woman of Puri town, for which a complaint had been registered at the Khandagiri PS in Bhubaneswar on September 23, 2018, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has summoned Bhubaneswar DCP Anup Sahu for appearance.

The apex rights body has directed the DCP to depose in person if he fails to submit a status report of the case before November 29 this year.

The NHRC was also surprised over a letter from the rape accused. A copy of the letter was also sent to the Bhubaneswar DCP.

The letter mentioned a

hidden cause behind the incident.

The complaint of the women at NHRC is that the accused remained scot-free for 11 long months with support of the police, where DCP Sahu allegedly played a role. She alleged that the accused took her to a room in Bhubaneswar last year and raped her in her unconscious condition and captured a video of the act.

In another incident linking the same woman, a case has been registered at the Baselisahi police station in Puri against the rape accused for publishing her name and address in a Bhubaneswar newspaper and, thus, tarnishing her image. She also held proprietor of the newspaper responsible for publication of her name and address, which is illegal.

The complaint lodged at the Baselisahi PS states that the rape accused was working as a reporter of the newspaper.

Bombs hurled over group clash in Khordha

Locals nab 2 youths

Khordha Town police started investigation into incident

PNS ■ KHORDHA

Several youths on Friday hurled bombs at Dalatala village under Begunia block in the district over a group clash, which had taken place on Thursday.

A heated exchange of words had erupted between two groups of youths over passing of objectionable comments at Dalatala village when a cultural programme on the occasion of Laxmi Puja was ongoing.

On Friday afternoon, some youths of Saipadar arrived at Dalatala and created ruckus besides hurling three bombs at a market near the village. Locals nabbed two of them while they were trying to flee and handed them over to the police.

The Khordha Town police started investigation into the incident.

CBI nabs Asst Post Master taking bribe

PNS ■ BARIPADA

The CBI on Friday caught an Assistant Post Master in Mayurbhanj district red-handed while accepting bribe.

The accused identified as Snehashish Parida was caught by a team of officials from the CBI Regional Office in Bhubaneswar.

Parida posted at Chitrada Sub Post Office under the Morada police station as Assistant Post Master was caught accepting Rs 4,000 from a postal agent's husband.

Parida allegedly demanded a bribe from the postal agent Kuntala Mahanta following which her husband Brajakishore Mahanta had filed a complaint with CBI.

Parida had asked Mohanta to come to a mutually agreed place near Sirsawal Square to handover the money.

As per the deal, Mohanta arrived at the place and offered the money.

While Parida was accepting the money, the CBI officials nabbed him.

After being apprehended, Parida was first taken to the post office and later to Chitrada outpost for questioning.

Guv's 2 escort vehicles collide; 7 injured

PNS ■ BARIPADA

As many as seven people were injured after two escort vehicles of Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal collided with each other near Purunapani in Udala town of Mayurbhanj district on Friday. The incident took place when the Governor was returning from Udala to the Baripada Circuit House.

Reports said a cyclist suddenly got into the Governor's

convoy near Purunapani. In order to save the cyclist, one of the escort vehicles applied sudden brake and the other escort vehicle hit it from backside, leaving seven persons injured.

The injured persons were rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital here.

However, the mishap occurred after the Governor's convoy had already crossed the spot. The Governor is on a two-day visit to Mayurbhanj district.



Odia filmmaker honoured in Dubai

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Recently, a young filmmaker from Odisha Amrutendu Baral received the prestigious India International Excellence Award in Dubai.

India International Excellence Awards is a SAWE (Society for Acknowledge for Work Excellence) initiative to recognize and acknowledge talented individual for their exceptional work. The Dubai edition was held at Hotel Armani, Burj Khalifa. The IIEA Edition was launched by Bharat Ratna Shree Pranab Mukherjee at the Constitution Club, New Delhi.

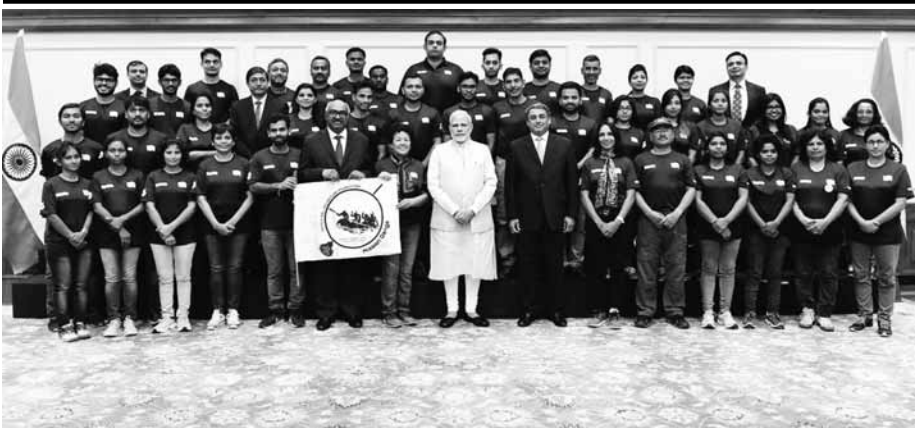
Baral was awarded in the

category of "Film Maker of the Year, Documentary, for his adventure film - Mission Gange, which was a Tata Steel Adventure Foundation Project.

After receiving appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the project has successfully cleared 50 tones of waste from the river banks of Ganga.

"It feels great to be acknowledged and I thank India International Excellence Awards for recognising my work. I am proud that I could represent my State Odisha on an international platform. I also thank Padma Bhusan Bachhendri Pal for being a guiding strength in my adventure journey" said Baral.

After receiving appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the project has successfully cleared 50 tones of waste from the river banks of Ganga



AAI inks pacts with State Govt Capital Hosp, Niali CHC to get ₹11.48 crore for development

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Airports Authority of India, BPIA, Bhubaneswar and the Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for construction of two modular operation theatres (OTs) and one general operation theatre at the Capital Hospital at Rs 4.74 crore.

Similarly, another MoU was inked between the Airports Authority of India, BPIA, Bhubaneswar and CDMO, Cuttack for funding of Rs 6.74 crore for construction of Maternity Ward with modern equipments and expansion of existing building of the Niali Community Health Centre (CHC).

The Airports Authority of India has decided to donate Rs 11.48 crore for healthcare infrastructure from its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

On behalf of AAI, Biju Patnaik International Airport Director Suresh Chandra Hota signed the MoA with Health and Family Welfare Special Secretary Hara Prasad Pattanaik in presence of Health and Family Welfare Secretary Dr Pramod Kumar Meherda.

Health and Family Welfare Additional Secretary Sushant Mahapatra, Joint Secretary Smita Biswal, Capital Hospital Director, CDMO Cuttack and other senior officers of the Department were present.

Institute of Town Planners meeting today

East Zone Conf to discuss several issues

The TOD aims to develop planned, sustainable urban growth centers having walkable communities with high density mixed land use

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The East Zone Conference by the Institute of Town Planners, India, Odisha Chapter, will be organised in the city on Saturday.

Prof Dr MS Meshram, president, Institute of Town Planners, stated that several issues will be discussed in the meet like Transit Oriented Development (TOD), etc.

The TOD aims to develop planned, sustainable urban growth centers having walkable communities with high density mixed land use.

In TOD citizens have an access to open green and public places at the same time transit facilities are effectively utilised.

The TOD mainly focused on creation of high density mixed land use development in the influence zone of transit stations.

On 'Future Sports City: Bhubaneswar', he opined that sporting needs to catalyze with activities like tourism, exhibition, convention centers and festivals, but it is essentially part of 'Recreational Land Use'.

As Bhubaneswar has already hosted World Cup Hockey in 2018 and Asian Athletics Meet in 2017, it has potentials to develop as sports city as well, which needs to be explored, he said.

All the relevant issues will be discussed in detail in zonal conference on Saturday and recommendations will be sent to the concerned agencies for their consideration, he added.

7 tippers, 1 JCB seized; 2 detained

PNS ■ JAJPUR ROAD

The Jajpur Road Forest Sleuths headed by Range Officer Debendra Patnaik seized seven tippers and a JCB machine for illegal mining of murrom at Korabandi under Korai police station limits on Thursday.

During seizure, the drivers managed to flee, though the cops detained two persons.

Neither the raising con-

tractor nor the vehicle owners could produce any document before Forest department like raising order and R-form from the Revenue Department.

The role of Revenue Department officials is also mysterious as the Vyasagar Tehsildar visited the spot after the incident and said that an application of the accused was pending at the Tehsil Office for raising order.

As the area falls on De

marketed Protected Forest (DPF), it is not at all leaseable. On the other hand, huge truck loads of murrom used on the Chandikhol-Bhadrak NH-5 were raised illegally from the area by contractor, Gayatri Projects Ltd.

Meanwhile, Cuttack DFO Sudarshan Patra said the vehicles will be released after collection of fines and penalty.

According to sources, cores

FOR ILLEGAL MINING MURROM IN JAJPUR ROAD



pf rupees were earned by the mafias in raising murrom illegally for the widening work of NH between Chandikhol and

Bhadrak. They are supported by influential political leaders, sources alleged.

FIH HOCKEY OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

4 from Odisha in India's men, women squad



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Hockey India on Friday named 18-member each Indian Men's and Indian Women's Hockey teams for the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, Odisha.

While Amit Rohidas is the lone player from Odisha found place in Indian Men's Hockey team captained by Manpreet Singh and Vice-Captained by SV Sunil, women players Deep Grace Ekka, Lilima Minz and Namita Toppo were selected in Indian Women's Hockey team for qualifiers scheduled on November 1 and 2 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

The Women's team includes goalkeepers Savita and Rajani Etimarpu, drag-flickers Gurjit Kaur, Deep Grace Ekka, Reena Khokhar, Salima Tete, Namita Toppo, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Nikki Pradhan, Monika, Neha Goyal, Lilima Minz, Rani (Captain), Vandana Katariya, Navneet Kaur, Lalremisiami, Navjot Kaur and Sharmila Devi.

The Indian Men's Team comprises of goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak, while the outfield players named in the side include drag-flickers Rupinderpal Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Surrender

Kumar, Gurinder Singh, Amit Rohidas, Manpreet Singh (Captain), Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Simranjeet Singh and attacking players Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, SV Sunil (Vice-Captain), Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Ramandeep Singh.

The two teams are scheduled to take part in the Qualifiers where the World No.5 Indian Men's Hockey team will be up against World No.22 Russia, while the World No.9 Indian Women's Hockey Team will face World No.13 USA, the Hockey India said in a release.

FATF warns Pak: Stop terror funding...

From Page 1

The FATF blacklist is a shorthand descriptor for the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up (EEFU) list, since it is the last rung of a 4 step rating. Similarly, the FATF "Grey List" refers to gradings of Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCT).

Interestingly, FATF President Xiangmin Liu, who is from China — Pakistan's "all weather friend"— also referred to Islamabad's "deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism system".

The global watchdog said all deadlines for Pakistan in the action plan have now expired.

Ride with long-lost treasures

From Page 1

Today just three Salvi families are in the trade. But Patola saris are still in demand while the kite-makers of Jamalpur in Ahmedabad are not so much, their creations being supplanted by cheap Chinese imports. These are also vital handicraft skills that we must all do more to preserve.

The Hyundai Venue has been a boon considering the roads around Patan and Modhera are a bit on the poor side. There were roadworks ongoing but the car negotiated the tough rides without a problem. And even after covering 700 plus kilometres over two days on both highways and urbanised areas, the Venue diesel that is being driven returned an astounding fuel economy of over 21 kilometres a litre and has proven its maneuverability through the narrow lanes of the old city of Ahmedabad.

'Babus appearing in courts must be in polite dress'

From Page 1

The court threatened to send him to jail directly from the courtroom asking him if he thought he was summoned by the court to act in a movie or a album song.

But in each such unpleasant situation, the Government advocates present in the courtroom at that point in time always stepped in to protect the humiliated officer and immediately prompting the shamed official to seek an unconditional apology.

Other lawyers back HC Bar strike

From Page 1

High Court, ever since the courts reopened on Monday after the Puja vacation. The lawyers have decided to continue their protest till Monday, the day on which the Full Bench of the High Court is scheduled to meet again to adjudicate over the contempt petitions arising out of frequent lawyers' strikes in the State.



Govt of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. E.E._RWS&S_ 09 /2019-20

1. The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double cover system according to the norm of "e"Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different PWS Schemes in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.

2. Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.

3. No. of Tender : 08 Nos

4. Tender paper cost : Rs.6000/-

5. Tender Cost : Rs. 49.11 Lakhs to 88.14 Lakhs

6. Class of Contractor : 'B' Class to 'A' Class

7. Date and Time of availability of bid : dt 29-10-2019 at 11.00 AM to 08-11-2019 up to 5.00 PM

8. Date of Opening of Bid : dt. 13-11-2019 at 11.00 AM

9. Period of completion : 90 (Ninety) days

10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RWS&S Division Bhanjanagar.

25021/11/0001/1920

Defence export to touch ₹35K-cr mark: Army chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

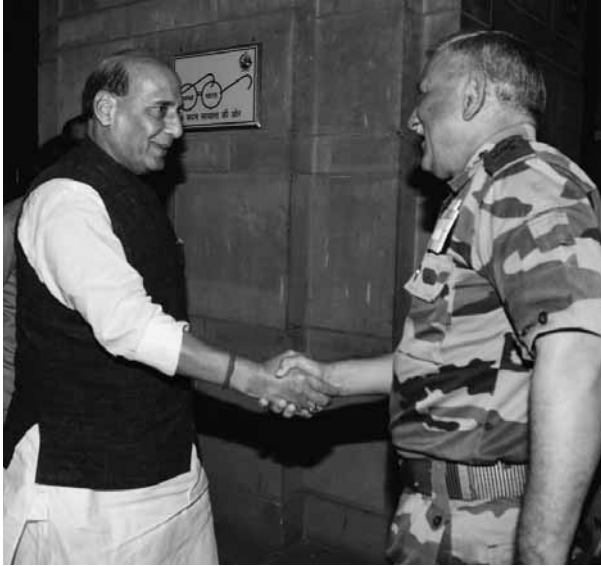
With the Government giving a determined push to 'Make in India' in the defence sector to achieve indigenisation, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on Friday said attempts are on to further "lower bureaucratic barriers" and simplify procedures to promote domestic defence manufacturing. He also said the Government is reducing processes and focusing resolutely on the outcome of these processes.

Reiterating what Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said a few days ago, the Army chief said exports of Indian weapon systems will touch the ₹35,000-crore mark by 2024 from the ₹11,000 crore annually at present.

The energy and enterprise of 'Make in India' will be spanned further in defence corridors being set up with a "bouquet of advantages we offer in the form of land clearances and tax concession. The initiative will fundamentally transform the defence landscape in our country," Rawat said. He also urged to the defence industry to provide solutions for the armed forces.

In the last few years, numerous initiatives have been taken and various schemes launched to energise the defence sector in India, so we remain deeply committed to the ethos of indigenisation, Rawat said.

"We are manufacturing weapons and ammunition not just to arm our defence forces but now we are gradually becoming an export oriented industry. Our defence exports currently range just about ₹11,000 crore annually are set to grow to ₹35,000 crore by 2024," he said while addressing the 4th Defence Attaches conclave jointly organised by the Defence Ministry and news



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is received by Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat at the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Friday

portal Bharat Shakti. The theme of the event was 'Enhancing Defence Capabilities through Cooperation'.

Newly-formed IDEEA (Indigenous Defence Equipment Exporters Association) was also launched on the occasion.

Talking of Def Expo 2020 to be held in Lucknow, Rawat said several new technologies will be on display and added, "We will be coming forward to certify some of the equipment on display."

Speaking at the conclave, Vice Chief of Army Lt General MM Naravane said Indian officers posted as Defence Attaches abroad "have been tasked to interact and advertise with host countries of the Indian equipment available."

Addressing the conclave, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh spoke of the foreign cooperation initiatives which include capacity building, training, exchanges and joint exercises. "India is hosting a

large multilateral exercise MILAN 2020 at Visakhapatnam and we have invited 41 countries," he stated.

All patents developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) numbering over 1,700 are now available for use by the Indian industry, said Dr. Sateesh Reddy, Chairman DRDO. He added that the Defence Ministry has just unveiled a policy under which all technologies will be available free of cost for use by the Indian industry.

Rawat also said India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the "wider region" and the Army will continue to partner with friends to "confront any kind of emerging threats."

The Navy chief cited maritime threats such as piracy, which, he said, has "transnational" ramifications. He pitched for having greater maritime cooperation and leveraging "collective military competency" of the world.

Ultrasound machine notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From November 1, next year, import, manufacture and sale of the ultrasound machines will be allowed only under the legal ambit of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The Union Health Ministry has issued a notification in this regard on Thursday according to which the device intended for external or internal use in human beings has been categorised as drug with effect from November 1, 2020.

The step aims to regulate the import, manufacture and sale of the devices to stem the drastic decline in India's sex ratio, as per the Ministry. The move followed recommendation from the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the Government's chief advisory body on drugs.

According to an official from the Ministry, from November next year, the Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO), the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices, will become the approving authority for import, manufacture and sale of ultrasound machines. The companies will also have to apply for permission from the Drug Controller General of India, who is responsible for approval of licences, before the scanners are sold in India.

The health ministry feels that the move is crucial to save the girl child as it will check misuse of such techniques for sex selection after conception. Imported machines have flooded the market, in the absence of any regulatory check, they cannot be tracked.

The Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic



Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act, 1994 currently regulates the sale of ultrasound machines only to entities registered under the law. However, the Ministry

was not finding the existing rules sufficient to deter the medical professionals and the user, to avoid ultrasound to determine the sex of the foetus. Mainly because of its easy availability on online as well.

Under the Medical Device Rules (MDR) and the D&C Act the government will regulate additionally the quality import and manufacturing of the equipment, he said.

While welcoming the move, Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator of the AiMeD, an umbrella association of Indian

Manufacturers of Medical Devices covering all types of medical devices including consumables, disposables, however was not happy at the

Government's 'pick and choose policy.'

He said that the manufacturers have been confused with informally and arbitrary choosing of products and notifying them as drugs. "At AiMeD we welcome regulations but not of these kinds. Our members seek a predictable and comprehensive regulatory framework that allows for adequate transition and is predictable. Only then will investments speed up as manufacturers get discouraged to be regulated as Drugs, item by item and not as a category," said Rajiv Nath.

The move is also in keeping with the Health Ministry- DTAB Roadmap that aimed to regulate all devices in a phased manner and assured an adequate transition period of nearly four years for high Risk and near High Risk Devices. "The one year transition period is not as per the assurance given of four years," he added.

Khadi-Thago organised in Bhutan to promote eco-friendly fabric

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi Government's vision to promote Khadi as a global fabric has received a boost with a proposal to set up Khadi India's first international venture in Bhutan. Indian Embassy in Bhutan, Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) and Royal Textile Academy (RTA), Thimpu has organised an event 'Khadi-Thago', on October 16 to jointly celebrate the textile heritage for Khadi and traditional Bhutanese fabric on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) curated the fashion show.

Khadi-Thago, organised at the RTA, which is also one of the most prominent tourist spots in Thimphu, witnessed

presence of high-profile audience including Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck as the Chief Guest, Vinai Saxena, KVIC Chairman as the Guest of Honour, Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering, Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors and several other distinguished guests, during the event.

The Indian ambassador Ruchika Khambhoj said that the objective of this event was to promote environmental friendly fabric Khadi of India with Bhutanese designers, to enhance the Khadi foot print in the country. KVIC chairman Vinai Saxena said khadi means Sincerity, purity, honesty and swaraj.

Indian designers Anamika Khanna, Rajesh Pratap Singh

and Samant Chauhan showcased innovative Khadi-based garment lines along with works of Chadrika Tamang, Kencho Wangmo, Tshering Choden and Sangay Choden of Bhutan. In addition, Anjana Bhargav, Nitin Bal Chauhan, Paras Gairolia, Payal Jain, Rahul Mishra & Renu Tandon curated special Khadi ensembles which were also displayed in the event followed by Banarasi Satvik Bhojan. Sunil Sethi of FDCI was also present.

Interestingly the four Bhutanese textile designers who showcased their work at the Khadi-Thago, had also visited India on invitation from FDCI.

A Bhutanese designer, Dorothy Gurung, would be opening the first Indian Khadi outlet in Bhutan towards the end of the year.

Govt shows no signs of concern over slowdown: Yechury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that rural household consumption had slumped to a seven-year low, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday alleged the "callous" Government was enthusiastic about writing off unpaid loans of rich borrowers and tax cuts for the super-rich but shows no signs of concern over the slowdown.

Yechury said the signs of the agrarian distress and near-stagnant rural incomes have been there for long but the Modi government is busy with trying to "divide and polarise".

A media report said in the September quarter, rural India

grew at five per cent in terms of value, sharply slower than 20 per cent reported in the year earlier. Urban India grew at eight per cent compared with 14 per cent in the year-ago period, he said. "A callous Central government shows no signs of concern over the slowdown tumbling into a much graver problem. There is enthusiasm in Modi govt only for tax cuts for the super-rich and writing off unpaid loans of rich borrowers.

"The signs of the prolonged agrarian distress and near-stagnant rural incomes have been there for long. But this govt is busy with trying to divide and polarise," Yechury said in a tweet.

Willing to give some land for Ravidas temple in Delhi, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that it was willing to hand over land measuring 200 sq m to devotees for construction of Guru Ravidas temple in South Delhi but with certain conditions.

A bench of justices Arun Mishra and S Ravindra Bhat took on record the offer made by Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, and asked parties seeking construction of the temple to submit objections, if any, by October 21. At the outset, Venugopal said he had held consultation with all parties including devotees and government officials and Centre has agreed to give the same piece of land considering sensitivity and faith

of devotees for the site.

"That same 200 square metre area of the site can be handed over to a committee of devotees for construction of temple but with certain conditions," Venugopal said, adding that five out of seven petitioners, who approached court against demolition of temple have agreed to the proposal.

He said that only two of the petitioners are not agreeable to the proposal but "the entire belief and faith of the devotees of Guru Ravidas is at the site where he stayed and therefore in the interest of peace and harmony we want to return the site to the devotees". Counsel appearing for one of the petitioner, who have objected to the proposal said that they need to see the offer and file their response.

Don't accept Ayodhya panel 'settlement': Muslim parties

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Muslim parties, sans the Sunni Waqf Board, made clear on Friday that they do not accept the Supreme Court-appointed mediation panel's proposal on purported settlement to resolve the Ayodhya land dispute and expressed surprise over reports suggesting that the Board was willing to withdraw the claim on the site of the mosque.

The mediation panel headed by former apex court judge Justice FMI Kalifulla had filed a report in a sealed cover in the Supreme Court indicating a "sort of a settlement" between the Hindu and the Muslim parties in which the Wakf Board agreed to give up its claim over 2.77 acre disputed land at the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri masjid site if certain conditions are fulfilled.

"We are taken aback by the media reports attributed by



Shahid Rizvi, advocate on record that Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board was willing to withdraw the claim on site of the Babri Masjid," Eijaz Maqbool, counsel for legal representatives of key Muslim litigants M Siddiq and Misbahuddeen, and four other advocates for Muslim parties said in a statement.

The lawyers said the mediation panel's report was leaked to the media and they do not approve the procedures adopt-

ed in the process and the suggested compromise formula of withdrawal of the lawsuit.

"Accordingly, we must make it absolutely clear that we the appellants before Supreme Court do not accept the proposal made

which has been leaked out to the Press, nor the procedure by which the mediation has taken place nor the manner in which a withdrawal of the claim has been suggested as a compromise," the statement reads.

"This was broadcasted by all Media agencies and newspapers that UP Sunni Central Waqf Board has agreed to abandon their claim subject to certain conditions. This news was obviously leaked out either by the Mediation Committee or

Nirvani Akhara which claim the right on the Mosque or others," it said, adding that the "leak was in total violation of the orders of the Supreme court that had directed that such proceedings should remain confidential."

The statement said it was "difficult" to accept that any mediation could have been done especially when the main Hindu parties (deity 'Ram Lalla' through next friend and others) had clearly stated that they were not open to any settlement and wanted a judicial decision.

"The recent attempts before Mediation Committee were not representative," it said.

On October 16, when a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi reserved its verdict in the case after 40 days of hearing, the mediation panel's report was also submitted to the court.

CJI Ranjan Gogoi recommends Justice SA Bobde as his successor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Friday sent a letter to the Centre recommending Justice SA Bobde, who is next in seniority, as his successor.

Official Sources told PTI that Justice Gogoi wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law and Justice recommending Justice Bobde to be the next chief justice.

Justice Gogoi, who was sworn in as the 46th Chief Justice of India on October 3, 2018, will demit office on November 17.

Official sources said the chief justice has gone by the convention to recommend the name of the next senior judge after him as his successor.



Justice Gogoi as the Chief Justice has a tenure of 13 months and 15 days while Justice Bobde, who will be sworn in as CJI on November 18, will have a tenure of about 18 months.

According to the Memorandum of Procedure, which governs the appointment of members of the higher judiciary, "appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office".

NDA will make clean sweep in Bihar: Paswan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling NDA will win byelections to all five Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar on October 21, claimed BJP ally and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Friday.

He said a "divided and discredited" Opposition in the State stands no chance to give an equal fight to the ruling alliance.

Polls will be held in five Assembly seats and the Lok Sabha constituency of Samastipur as incumbent MLAs were elected to Parliament during the recent general election while MP Ram Chandra Paswan, brother of Ramvilas Paswan, died of a heart attack.

All three NDA parties — BJP, JD(U) and LJP — are contesting elections. While Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) is contesting on four Assembly seats, the BJP and the LJP have put up their candidates in an Assembly and the Lok Sabha seat respectively. Ram Chandra Paswan's son Prince Raj is fighting from Samastipur.



"All our candidates will emerge victorious. We have run a united campaign and people have full faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar," LJP president Ram Vilas Paswan said.

BJP president this week gave a boost to the unity of BJP-JDU-LJP alliance in the state by dismissing any change in the alliance pattern in Bihar and saying unambiguously that the next assembly elections to the state would be fought collectively under the leadership of JDU leader Nitish Kumar.

Paswan said the opposition 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) is divided and dis-

credited.

With unity eluding the grand alliance, some of its partners have put up their candidates after its two main partners, RJD and the Congress, divided all the seats between them.

His party, he said, has also deployed its workers to campaign for the BJP in Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly polls. He expressed confidence that the saffron party will retain power in both the states.

BOX

Leaders from other parties continued to switch over to the BJP. Former MLA Kartar Singh Bhadana from poll-bound Haryana quit the BSP to join BJP on Friday. He said BJP is not new to him as he was with the party earlier. Bhadana is brother of Congress leader Avtar Singh Bhadana and the family has influence, especially in the Gurjar community. Kartar Singh Bhadana has been an MLA from Haryana two times and from Uttar Pradesh once. Haryana is scheduled to have assembly election on October 21 and the counting of votes is due on October 24.

EC replaces observers in Nashik, Ambala for poor performance

Deploys spl observer for Sikkim bypoll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing unsatisfactory performance, the EC on Friday replaced the police observer and a returning officer of Nashik in Maharashtra, and the expenditure observer of Ambala in Haryana, ahead of the October 21 Assembly elections. It also appointed a former IPS officer as a special observer for the Assembly bypolls being held in Sikkim on Monday.

"The Election Commission has replaced police observer of Nashik and one returning officer of Nashik district after reviewing the electoral preparedness of the state of Maharashtra," the EC said in a statement. It said the police observer was removed for "not performing the task of observation satisfactorily".

On the basis of input regarding progress of photo voter slip distribution, which was very important to inform each and every elector timely, it was found that the perfor-

mance of an assembly constituency in Nashik district was "very poor", it said.

Reviewing this, the commission ordered replacement of the returning officer of Nashik West. The new officers will join on Friday itself.

The poll panel also ordered replacement of the expenditure observer of Ambala for "not supervising the enforcement activities in right earnest". It said his overall performance was not found satisfactory.

The EC has appointed retired IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre Vivek Dube as special observer for the assembly bypolls of Sikkim.

Dube has been deputed to specifically report to the EC about the law and order situation and oversee the deployment and other security related issues there. "The commission has taken the decision in view of inputs and complaints received," it said. Three seats in Sikkim are going for by-elections on Monday.

Dube was deputed earlier also as special observer to West Bengal during the Lok Sabha in April.

SC turns away PMC account holders seeking end to cash withdrawal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea filed on behalf of scam-hit PMC Bank account holders seeking lifting of restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on cash withdrawals.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said, "We are not inclined to entertain this petition under article 32 (writ jurisdiction). Petitioner can approach the high court concerned for appropriate relief".

The Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank has been put under restrictions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following the discovery of a Rs 4,355-crore scam.

Deposit withdrawals have been capped at Rs 40,000 over a six-month period, causing panic and distress among depositors. During the hearing on Friday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government is aware of the seriousness of the situation and the Enforcement Directorate is taking appropriate action against the culprit.

Advocate Shashank Sudhi,



appearing for petitioner Bejon Kumar Mishra, said he has filed the petition on behalf of 500 PMC Bank account holders seeking lifting of restrictions imposed by the RBI on cash withdrawals.

On Wednesday, around 50 depositories of the PMC Bank staged a protest outside the RBI demanding revoking restrictions on cash withdrawal, currently capped at Rs 40,000 over a six-month period.

A depositor of PMC Bank allegedly committed suicide in Mumbai on Tuesday while another died of a heart attack a few hours after taking part in a protest by bank customers seeking their money back.

The petition filed before the court sought a direction for issuance of "exhaustive and comprehensive guideline" to

safeguard the banking and cooperative deposits in the eventuality of emergency financial crisis where citizens are financially stranded by acts of a few "unscrupulous persons".

The plea said the Centre and the RBI should be directed to ensure complete insulation and insurance of the hard-earned deposited money of people in various cooperative banks, including nationalised banks, by enacting an appropriate measure of 100 per cent insurance coverage towards the deposited amount.

It said that a high-powered committee should be constituted to look into complete affairs of working and their operation in all cooperative banks in order to have a robust and transparent mechanism which can inspire confidence of common public in cooperative banks.

Real estate firm HDIL allegedly accounted for 70 per cent of the bank's Rs 9,000 crore advances. According to the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing, HDIL's loans turned non-performing assets, but the bank management hid this from the RBI's scrutiny.

Opp slams Goyal for ‘belittling’ Abhijit

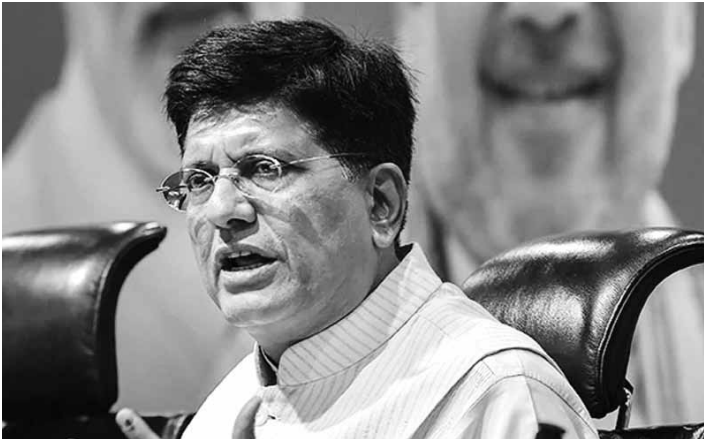
SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal political parties and civil society have slammed Union Minister Piyush Goyal for attacking Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee for his alleged Leftist leanings.

Faulting Goyal for, “unnecessarily bringing politics to malign a Nobel Laureate who has made India proud” Bengal Congress leader and MP Pradip Bhattacharya on Friday said “it is unfortunate that our Ministers are so uneducated and biased that they do not even think twice to belittle a Nobel Laureate who has made India proud by unnecessarily brining politics to malign him.”

Scuffing at Goyal he said, “the literacy level of our Ministers is so high that they do not even think twice to invoke Newton’s second law in Albert Einstein’s name,” and wondered “why a stalwart will have to be belittled just because he has Left leanings.”

Earlier while congratulating Abhijit for his remarkable achievements in the field of economics



Goyal said, “I congratulate Abhijit Banerjee for winning the Nobel Prize... (but) you all know that his thinking is totally Left-leaning.” He backed his comments by saying how “Banerjee supported Nyay (poverty alleviation scheme of the Congress) but people of India rejected that ideology.”

Questioning Goyal’s “political wisdom” the Congress MP said “just because a political party got a man-

date and another party did not get it you get the license to negate a Nobel Laureate’s scholarly findings. It is a political party that got the people’s mandate and not the theory of ‘Nyay’ which was supported by Abhijit Banerjee,” he said.

“Considering the sliding economic condition of the country during the BJP’s rule the time is coming when the people who are attacking day will go to him and sit at his

‘It is irrelevant whether the Nyay found political success or not. The question is whether the prescription of Mamata which has won him the Nobel Prize is relevant and affective in conquering poverty’

—Bangla poet Subodh Ghosh

feet to take lessons on economic development,” he maintained.

Bangla poet Subodh Ghosh also attacked Goyal for “failing to understand Banerjee’s achievements as an economist.” He said “it is irrelevant whether the Nyay found political success or not. The question is whether the prescription of Banerjee which has won him the Nobel Prize is relevant and affective in conquering poverty.”

Economist and State Financial Advisor Abhiroop Sarkar said, “it is unfortunate that someone of Abhijit Banerjee’s stature will get such reception from the national government.”

Bengal Guv hits out at State Ministers’ sense of decorum

PNB ■ KOLKATA

Even as the distance between Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (State Secretariat) widened, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar once again lambasted the Trinamool Congress Ministers for repeatedly making adverse comments against him.

Speaking to an audience Dhankhar on Friday said “every time Governor (Dhankhar) does something sensible you (Ministers) come out with a statement defying decorum. I am not a tourist. I am here to discharge my constitutional duties which I will continue doing.”

The Governor was particularly referring to senior State leader and Minister Subroto Mukherjee’s comments questioning his initiative to hold an administrative meeting in North Bengal town of Siliguri. “It is nothing but a gimmick,” Mukherjee had said adding the

Governor was just a “tourist in the State.”

He said “some call me a tourist, others called the Siliguri visit a gimmick” and vowed to “continue discharging” his constitutional duties, reminding that he was not the one who crossed his Laxman Rekha and adding it was upon Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take action on her Ministers.

The distance between the Trinamool Congress and Dhankhar had been widening ever since he personally went down to Jadavpur University to rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was trapped amid agitating students.

Subsequently he told the media about his being “humiliated” by the State Government during the Durga Puja carnival which was hosted by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

An emotional Governor said he “felt insulted at the carnival. I am

deeply hurt and disturbed. The insult was not to me but to every people of West Bengal. They will never digest such as insult. I am a servant of the people of West Bengal. Nothing can deter me from performing my constitutional duties,” with his voice literally trembling.

“Speaking out of my injured heart” the Governor said “for four hours or more I was there and your press coverage was totally blacked out...This is unheard of. You will never find it anywhere else. Someone told me it was reminiscent of the Emergency.”

Meanwhile, Subroto Mukherjee once again attacked the Centre for breaking all constitutional norms and rules of federalism by bringing the Governor under Z category security to be provided by the central forces. “This is an utter infringement on State’s federal rights,” Mukherjee said.

WB Govt to run 100 minibuses to reduce commuter sufferings

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Government has decided to run 100 minibuses in the northern outskirts of the city from November one to reduce the hardship of people caused by closing of Tallah Bridge on the arterial B T Road for heavy vehicles, State Minister Suvendu Adhikary said on Friday.

Movement of buses has been stopped across the bridge after experts found it to be in a rickety condition.

The Barrackpore Trunk (B T) Road connects vast parts of the northern outskirts and North 24 Parganas district to the city. Adhikary, the transport minister, said several 24-seater

buses have already been put into service to reduce the problem of the people travelling on these routes.

Diversion of bus routes to avoid Tallah Bridge have also led to pulling off services by many operators citing losses owing to increased fuel costs and lack of passengers.

To compensate for the reduced number of buses on this route, the government will run 100 minibuses of West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) on diverted routes bypassing the bridge, Adhikary said.

He said the Metro Railway has also agreed to run 10 extra trains from northern terminal station Noapara to cater to the increased load of passengers.

Mamata assures legal help to kin of murdered schoolteacher

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday assured the relatives of the murdered schoolteacher of Murshidabad district of providing all legal help if needed in connection with the case.

Six relatives of the dead teacher Bondhu Prakash Paul, whose body was found along with that of his wife Beauty and six-year-old son lying in polls of blood at their house at Jagun on October 8 during the Durga Puja festival, had met Mamata at the State Secretariat on Thursday.

The killings took on a political colour when the BJP slammed the state government over the incident and claimed



that the man was its supporter. Both RSS and BJP had claimed that Pal used to participate in ‘Milan’ the Sangh’s weekly programme.

The man’s mother and his relatives have denied any involvement by him with RSS.

The chief minister assured us of providing legal assistance if required. We have not

asked for any financial help from her, Rajesh Ghosh, his cousin, told newsmen at the secretariat.

We are happy with the police investigation into the murder and appier now after meeting the chief minister, he added.

Asked they said, “There is no political connection with the family.

A mason, from whom Paul had taken money promising an insurance policy has been arrested for allegedly killing the family.

Earlier in the day, the Paul’s relatives went to the state police headquarters at Bhawan Bhawan in the city and met senior police officers in connection with the case.



Hindu Jagran Manch members protest at District Collector’s office against alleged killing of an RSS worker and his family members in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district, in Bikaner on Friday

PTI

Anti-development face of Opp stands exposed: Yogi

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attacked the opposition in his election rallies in the State on Friday and said their anti-development face has been exposed.

Adityanath also accused the Opposition of indulging in hooliganism and corruption while in power and claimed that the BJP worked for the welfare of people.

The CM was addressing rallies in Aligarh, Rampur and Saharanpur for the bypolls in the state.

“Only those people are not admiring our work during whose tenure the power was merely a synonym for anarchy, corruption and hooliganism. The SP, BSP and the Congress were all involved in this,” he said.

“They never had development on their mind. And now when their anti-development face has been exposed, people have been rejecting them since 2014,” he claimed.

Mentioning the develop-



ment works carried out by his party, the UP Chief Minister said during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, around three crore people got houses.

“The Ayushman Bharat Yojana has become a boon for the destitute. Free houses and gas connections were distributed among the poor. Farmers of the state were benefited under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana,” said the CM, adding that the government had been working to “double” farmers’ income.

“By making them happy, we want to realise dreams of Chaudhary Charan Singh,” he

said.

Lambasting the Congress, the chief minister said, “It only gave us terrorism, corruption and insulted Babasaheb Bhimro Ambedkar by granting a special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.”

He claimed that the BJP achieved what the other parties could not in the past 70 years.

“The Congress needs the power to loot. The SP and BSP continued with their corrupt practices. The BJP brought an end to all this and paved a way for the prosperity of people,” he said.

Referring to Aligarh Muslim University, Adityanath said Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh played a very significant role in establishing the institution.

“He had given land for it but his name has not been mentioned on any plaque,” Adityanath said, adding that the UP government was reviving the lock industry in Aligarh through the ‘one district, one product’ programme.

In UP, mini version of Assembly polls tomorrow

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will on Monday see a mini version of Assembly elections with bypolls in 11 constituencies, coming just months after the BJP swept the State in the Lok Sabha elections.

The UP bypolls for Gangoh, Rampur, Iglas (SC), Lucknow Cantonment, Govindnagar, Manikpur, Pratapgarh, Zaidpur (SC), Jalalpur, Balha (SC) and Ghosi seats are being held along with the Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.

It is a four-cornered contest with the BJP, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress fielding candidates on all 11 assembly seats.

While the ruling BJP will try to build on its Lok Sabha success, the opposition parties hope the results will help them galvanise its cadres ahead of the 2022 elections for the 403-member Uttar Pradesh

Assembly.

The Congress, in particular, hopes to show signs of revival in UP after its battering in the Lok Sabha polls in when it won just one seat, party chief Sonia Gandhi’s Rae Bareilly constituency.

In contrast, the BJP won 62 of the 80 parliamentary seats in the state and an ally bagged two more.

“We have several challenges before us. But with the blessings of the seniors and the support of the youth, no one will be able to stop the party from coming to power in 2022,” newly appointed Congress state president Ajay Kumar Lallu said recently.

Lallu said the Congress will become the voice of the deprived, farmers, youth and women in the state.

He exhorted workers to overcome all hurdles through determination and hard work, and function unitedly.

UP’s political outfit chief found murdered at home

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The president of a little known Hindu Samaj Party was found murdered at his home in the congested Naka Hindola area of the city here, police said on Friday.

Kamlesh Tiwari (45) was earlier associated with a faction of the Hindu Mahasabha, they said.

The Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha in a statement condemned the incident.

Police said briefs protests were held in the area by local residents after the murder.

“Kamlesh Tiwari was found murdered inside his house. Two persons had come to meet him. Both were speaking to Tiwari when the latter sent one of his aides to get ‘paan’ for them,” Vikas Tripathi, ASP (Lucknow West), told PTI. “When his aide returned from the market, he found Tiwari in a pool of blood,” Tripathi added.

A senior UP Government official said the visitors shot Tiwari dead after talking to

him for little over half an hour.

Police reached the spot and gathered the CCTV footage.

UP DGP OP Singh told reporters, “Those who have murdered Tiwari are said to be his acquaintances. They spent over half an hour with him and even gave Tiwari a box of sweets and after it the murder took place. We have got some vital clues and based on CCTV footage and other evidences, we are working on the case.”

He said teams had been formed to crack the case.

“We have also got some call details. The special task force has been engaged in the case,” he said, adding that it was “purely a criminal activity” done by two people.

The UP DGP said there were “some minor law and order problem” in the area after the murder took place with local people saying that such incidents should not take place.

“But, the situation now is under control. Police officers

are patrolling the area. In the next 48 hours, we will catch the culprits,” he said.

When asked whether there was any possible terror angle in the incident, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) PV Ramasastri told PTI, “All the angles are being looked into. And, it would be improper to jump to any conclusion.”

Senior Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi Naithani said prima facie it seemed to be a case of personal enmity.

He added that teams had been formed to crack the case. Naka Hindola SHO Sujet Kumar Dubey said there were brief protests by angry local residents after the incident.

The situation was normal, Dubey said.

An eyewitness, Saurashtra Singh, told reporters shortly after the incident that the police constable deployed at the house of Tiwari was sleeping while the gunman attached to him was not coming for the past a couple of days.

UP Govt hikes DA to 17%

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Friday increased the dearness allowance for state government employees to 17 per cent from 12 per cent.

In a statement, an official said apart from the state government employees, staff of aided educational institutions, technical educational institutions and urban local bodies would also get the enhanced DA.

The state government official said the increased rates would be applicable from July 1. The arrears of dearness allowance from July 1 to September 30 will be deposited in the PF account. The amount payable from October 1 will be paid along with this month’s salary, the official added.

Centre should follow economic policies of Narasimha Rao, Manmohan: Gehlot

PTI ■ JHUNJHUNU

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said the country’s economy was weakening and the Centre should follow the policies of former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao and then finance minister Manmohan Singh to upend the downward trend.

He said the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Manmohan Singh and even the husband of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have expressed concern over India’s economy.

In a newspaper article published on October 14, Sitharaman’s husband Prabhakar took a swipe at the BJP-led government over its economic vision and asked it to embrace the economic architecture offered by Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

“They (central government) should follow the policies of Narasimha Rao and



Manmohan Singh, and start working. Then only the country will be saved,” Gehlot said at a public rally here.

“Democracy is under threat... We are becoming weaker economically. The entire country and the world is saying this,” he said, adding, “You can imagine the state of affairs when the finance minister’s husband is writing an article that the government has no understanding of the economic situation.”

Because of the non-visionary policies of the government the country was heading towards a wrong direction. Growth rate is slowing, the chief minister said.

“People are chanting

(Prime Minister Narendra) Modi’s name despite the fact that there is no business, economy is falling and there are no jobs. Such is the situation, how long will this country tolerate?” he asked.

“We don’t have any enmity with Modi, (Amit) Shah, the BJP or RSS. This is a fight of ideology,” he said.

“They talk about nationalism during elections. Are we not nationalist? Will we have to seek certificate from BJP to become nationalists? Doing politics in the name of religion, provoking people of one religion against another, is this (the way of doing) the politics in a democracy?” Gehlot posed.

In the rally, he called upon the people to vote for Congress candidate Rita Chaudhary in Mandawa Assembly bypoll which will be held on October 21. State Congress president Sachin Pilot and other leaders were also present in the meeting.

Pilot questions own Govt's move on mayors' polls

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan’s Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Friday questioned his own Government’s decision on elections to the posts of heads of urban local bodies.

Taking a stand that appeared to go against the view of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Pilot made it clear he was not consulted on the decision that was notified on Wednesday.

Two other Ministers in the Congress-run State have separately opposed the move that allows people who are not elected councillors to contest for posts like mayors and chairpersons of corporations and municipalities.

The non-councillor candidates still have to be elected by councillors to the top posts.

“This is not a good decision and I do not agree with this. The decision is not practical and not politically right and there is a need to make changes to the decision,” Pilot told reporters in Jhunjhunu.

“We decided to hold indirect election for the posts of mayor and chairperson. This was fine. But suddenly a new decision appeared that I came to know from newspapers. This was not discussed in the cabinet or the legislative party meeting,” he said.

Pilot, who is the Rajasthan Congress president, claimed that the new system, which is being called a hybrid, will allow people to become urban body heads through the back door.

He said democracy is not strengthened if a candidate who could not win a councilors’ election is allowed to contest for the mayor’s post.

“Our party and the Government have always said that democracy should be strengthened,” he said.

“I do not think such a system has been implemented in any state of the country,” he said, adding that the decision needs to be changed.

A gazette notification to amend the rules on election of mayors and chairpersons was



issued on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Food and Civil Supply Minister Ramesh Meena and Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas separately expressed apprehension, saying it could lead to resentment among party workers.

Khachariyawas said the system was unjust to those who worked in the field and won councilors’ elections.

When asked about the comments by these two ministers, Chief Minister Gehlot said everyone is concerned about delivering good govern-

nance.

“The cabinet, all MLAs and the entire Government is engaged in that. Elections for the local bodies and the Panchayati Raj are coming. We will fight and will win the elections,” the chief minister told reporters in Jhunjhunu.

Pilot and Gehlot were together in Jhunjhunu where they addressed a rally in support of Rita Chaudhary, who is contesting the assembly bypolls for the Mandawa seat.

Later, they talked separately with the media.

Rifts in Rajasthan Congress surfaced after the Assembly elections last December that were followed by intense lobbying for the chief minister’s post.

While Gehlot was picked by the central leadership for the top post, Pilot had to settle for the deputy’s spot.

Recently, Pilot expressed concern over the law and order situation in the state and his remark were seen as a comment on Gehlot’s performance.

PM slams ex-FM PC for ruining economy

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Singling out the Congress-NCNP alliance leaders for a blistering attack on issues of corruption and alleged links with terrorists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi indirectly slammed former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for “destroying” the country’s economy and banking system and former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel for his alleged with late Iqbal Mirchi, an erstwhile close aide of Karachi-based underworld Dawood Ibrahim.

Addressing a large public rally at Bandra-Kurla Complex in north—central Mumbai, Modi took on Chidambaram and Patel without actually naming them but making an unmistakable reference to the former Finance Minister’s presence in Tihar Jail and the ongoing investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the an alleged property deal between the former Civil Aviation Minister and Hajira Iqbal, the wife of late Iqbal Mirchi.

Castigating Chidambaram



for “destroying” Indian economy and banking system for ten years, Modi said: “Take the case of those (Congress) who had imposed angel tax in the country. Compare them with us: we are making corporate tax in the country conducive to the world. They had imposed hefty corporate tax in the world. Here we are who transfer money directly into the accounts of common people.

“They (congress) were those who had transferred lakhs of crores of rupees of money through ‘phone banking’.

The people in Maharashtra and across the country know who did all this. Those who destroyed the country’s economy and banking system for 10 long years are languishing in Delhi’s Tihar Jail or Mumbai jail. This is just beginning of tyhe cleaning up operation. You will get us speed up the work in the coming day,” the Prime Minister said.

Charging that the Congress and allies failed in doing justice to the victim families of 1993 Mumbai serial blasts and tried to protect those behind the blasts, Modi targeted Patel for

his alleged links with late Mirchi’s family. “Whenever the issue of doing justice to the victim families comes up, the Congress and its allies try to protect the terrorists. Mumbai, Maharashtra and the country will never forget the wounds of 1993 blasts.

The Government of the time did not do justice to the victims. Those behind the blasts fled the country. The reason behind the same has now come into the open.

“Instead of catching hold of the people (Dawood Ibrahim and his aides), these people are

indulging in the trade of mirchi with them. Kabhi mirchi ka vyapar, Kabhi Mirchi se vyapar.. I request the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra to know these and get cautious about the parties they represent. They are not bothered about the prestige of Maharashtra and country,” the Prime Minister said.

He also went onto slam the Congress and its supporters for creating an impression thath it was only the one family (Gandhi Nehru) that brought freedom to the country. “These are the same who had insulted late B R Ambedkar. These are the same people who are doing the same thing with the memorial being built in the name of Chhatrati Shivaji. Right from day one, they are creating hurdles in the way of construction of the Shivaji memorial,” Modi said.

The Prime Minister announced that the work on the mid-sea Shivaji memorial would begin. “The moment we get a green signal from the court, we will start the construction of the memorial,” he said.

Bring back Art 370 when in power, Shah dares Pawar, Rahul

PTI ■ CHANDRAPUR

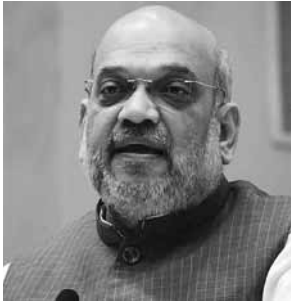
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar to bring back Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir if they ever return to power.

Addressing a poll rally in Rajura seat here, Shah said the Congress, NCP and other opposition parties did not abrogate provisions of Article 370 due to vote-bank politics.

Article 370 had become the “gateway for terrorists” in the last 70 years, leading to 40,000 killings in J&K, he claimed.

He said the Narendra Modi government was elected with a bigger mandate in 2019 because people had full faith in his leadership and development works carried out by the Centre.

“I am throwing a direct challenge to Rahul Gandhi and Sharad Pawar to restore Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir after



coming to power,” he said.

He said the Congress, despite ruling the country for “70 years” had done nothing for Adivasis and Other Backward Castes, while the BJP government at the Centre had launched a slew of schemes for their welfare.

Vote for the BJP as it stood for development, while parties like Congress and NCP were centred around families, he exhorted the gathering.

The State goes to poll on October 21 while results will be declared on October 24.

Modi misleading nation on Article 370 vote: Cong

PTI ■ MUMBAI

There was no vote in Parliament on the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was misleading the nation on the issue, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma claimed here on Friday.

Addressing a Press conference ahead of the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls, Sharma said the Congress did not need a certificate from the BJP on patriotism, as two of its Prime Ministers sacrificed their lives in the fight against terror.

Modi and the BJP have been targeting the Congress during the campaign for Assembly polls, claiming that the grand old party opposed the scrapping of Article 370.

Article 370 was a temporary provision which was to go in a span of time. Parliament only needs to be notified about it. On August 5-6, the Government informed Parliament and there was no vote.

BJP banks on Fadnavis’ ex-aide to halt Congress hat-trick in Ausa

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A comparatively low-profile Assembly segment, Ausa in central Maharashtra shot into limelight when Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis’s former PA Abhimanyu Pawar jumped into the fray as the BJP candidate and all eyes will be on how he fares in his maiden poll foray.

The Ausa Assembly seat in Latur district in the arid Marathwada region will see Pawar locking horns with two-time Congress MLA Basavraj Patil.

Traditionally a Shiv Sena seat, the BJP convinced its ally to part with the segment and gave nomination to Pawar, Fadnavis’s former personal assistant (PA).

Overnight, Ausa became one of the most talked about Assembly seats of this election and Fadnavis’s shadow looms large over the constituency given that he handpicked his close aide Pawar as the BJP candidate.

However, Pawar is unlikely to have a cakewalk as he is pitted against a strong candidate, sitting Congress MLA Patil.

We don’t fight with kids: Pawar on CM’s jibe about weak Opp

PTI ■ BEED/PANDHARPUR

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Friday hit back at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis over his jibe that ‘there is no wrestler to fight with’ in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, saying one doesn’t fight with “kids”.

The NCP patriarch was speaking at a campaign rally at Ambejogai in Beed district.

“The Chief Minister says their wrestler is in the poll battle but there is no wrestler from the opposition in sight.

“There is this organisation called Maharashtra State Wrestling Association, and its president’s name is Sharad Pawar,” the former Union minister said.

“I stand behind all the wrestlers, and he is telling us about wrestlers. We don’t fight with kids,” Pawar, 78, said.

If there was no contest, why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are holding rallies in the state, he asked.

He himself was not contesting, but leaders of the rul-

ing BJP and Shiv Sena cannot make a single speech without mentioning him, Pawar said.

The NCP chief also hit out at Shah for repeatedly asking what did Pawar do for Maharashtra, and listed his decisions such as giving 50 per cent reservation to women in local governing bodies and renaming Marathwada University after Dr B R Ambedkar.

The only answer the BJP has for every issue including unemployment and agrarian crisis is “abrogation of Article 370”, Pawar said.

The NCP was not opposed to the scrapping of the provisions of the article which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, but people’s concerns needed to be addressed, he said.

He also reiterated the charge that “not even an inch of work” has been carried out for constructing Shivaji Maharaj’s memorial off the Mumbai coast.

Similarly, the work on Ambedkar’s memorial in central Mumbai’s Dadar also has not made any headway, Pawar said.

Will replicate Delhi model of governance in Maha: Kejriwal

‘Delhi was developing on all fronts because AAP had given ‘corruption-free administration’

PTI ■ CHANDRAPUR

Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said his state’s development model would be implemented in Maharashtra if it is elected to power in the October 21 Assembly polls.

Speaking at a rally in Brahmapuri, some 90 kilometres away from here, Kejriwal said Delhi was developing on all fronts because AAP ‘had given “corruption-free administration”.

“We are providing free electricity upto 200 units per month, and 20,000 litres of water per person annually. We improved the education system and standard of Government schools, and they are now better than the ones operated by the private sector,” he said.

He said such initiatives would be replicated in Maharashtra to better the fortunes of its people.

Safe zones set up for fruit dealers in J&K’s Shopian district

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Authorities have set up safe zones for fruit dealers in Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district to procure and send the produce outside the State following recent attacks in which two traders were killed, officials said on Friday.

Officials in the district administration said eight to nine “safe zones” have been earmarked in Shopian along the main roads in south Kashmir, to facilitate the fruit dealers to procure the fruits from the farmers.

“Following the recent attacks on fruit dealers, the Government first identified five areas and designated them as safe zones to facilitate the fruit growers and dealers. Now, we have eight to nine of them,” an official said.

These zones are on the main roads of the district and closer to police, army and paramilitary CRPF establishments, the official said.

“The zones are secure, there are RoPs (road opening parties of security forces) who accompany them along with the forces’ deployment. The fruit dealers and trucks have been pushed into these safer

zones as a security measure. The Government has been working on this idea for the last couple of days. It is a stop-gap sort of measure we have taken to ensure that there are no continued attacks,” the official said.

Following the attacks, the official said, there were apprehensions that fruit trade would be severely affected, but “that did not happen” and the loading of fruits was going on.

“After these back-to-back attacks, we expected that people will be discouraged and the whole season will get derailed severely. That did not happen. The loading is still going on. The people have brought their produce in smaller vehicles to these secure zones which we have created and they are loading their fruit over there. There has not been a serious exodus of the trucks following the attacks,” the official said.

There were inputs about possible attacks on fruit dealers and as a security measure, the district administration has also asked about 600 trucks to stay put in Poshana area - near Pir Ki Gali on the Mughal Road, the official said.

Savarkar a murderer, says Siddaramaiah

PTI ■ MANGALURU

Calling Veer Savarkar a murderer, former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah slammed the BJP on Friday for its plan to bestow Bharat Ratna to him posthumously.

He said Savarkar was one of the accused in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, but the charges could not be proved due to lack of evidence and he was freed.

“The murderer of Mahatma Gandhi is getting Bharat Ratna! Those who conspired to eliminate Gandhiji are getting Bharat Ratna!

Should BJP be allowed to gain a foothold in Mangaluru, known as a land of intellectuals?” Siddaramaiah asked party workers at a meeting here.

The Maharashtra BJP unit had 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.

Claiming that the accused in 90 out of 100 cases are acquitted, Siddaramaiah alleged that Savarkar was part of the conspiracy to assassinate Gandhi.

“Now they have moved ahead to bestow Bharat Ratna to him! What will happen to the nation? That’s why somebody said you give it (Bharat Ratna) to(Nathuram) Godse too. Godse was the one who assassinated Gandhiji,” he said.

Alleging that RSS and Hindu Mahasabha never took part in the freedom struggle, the former Chief Minister said they all had ganged up with the British.

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Urban Development Department (UDD), Govt, of Tripura represented by its Executive Engineer- II (DDO Code - 08384), Engineering Wing, UDD, Agartala, Tripura (West) invites, on behalf of the "Governor of Tripura", e- tender in double bid system against Press Notice Inviting e -Tender: No...../EE-II/UDD/EW/2019-20 dated...../10/2019 for **"Engagement of Design, Supervision & Management Consultancy (DSMC) services for 2 (two) numbers Ground Water Treatment Plant at Ushabazar (8 MLD) & Panchamukh (8.5 MLD) under AMRUT scheme"**

With

- Estimated Cost: - ₹ 2,29,86,510 (Rupees two crore twenty nine lac eighty six thousand five hundred and ten) only
- Bid Security: - 2.5% of the contract value.
- Bid Processing Fee: - ₹ 5,000.00 (Rupees five thousand) only.
- Time of completion: - 24 months.
- Period of downloading of Bidding Documents at <http://tripuratenders.gov.in>: From 15/ 10/ 2019 to 18/ 11/2019 up to 15:00 Hours.
- Last date & time of uploading bidding documents:- 18/11/2019 up to 16:00 Hours.

For details kindly visit <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>.

ICA/C-1364/2019-20

Police in forefront of tackling Pak-sponsored terrorism in J&K: DGP

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Highlighting the multifarious duties being performed by Jammu & Kashmir Police, its chief Dilbagh Singh on Friday said the force has been inthe forefront of tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and law and order situation in the State.

In addition to the fight against terrorism along with other security agencies, the force has been very effective in dealing with unlawful activities, Singh told a group of about 50 IPS officers from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad here.

The probationary officers were given know-how about the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

“J&K Police is doing multifarious duties and is countering terrorism at different fronts and a large number of terrorists have been eliminated and huge quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized in last three decades,” the Director General of Police (DGP) said.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT.OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-II

E-BLOCK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092

PRESS NIT No. 36/ E-II (19-20)

| S. No. | Name of Work | Amount Put to Tender | Tender Processing Fee | Earnest Money | Tender ID No. & Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution | Last Date /Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution |
|--------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|---|
| 1. | Improvement of sewerage system by providing and laying 250 mm/300 mm dia sewer line and connecting/ replacing old sewer line from shafts of B-2 to B-18 DDA flats, B- block, Dilshad Garden ward 29 E, AC-62 in East-II. | 32,13,297.00 | 500.00 | 64,500.00 | 2019_DJB_182376_1 17-Oct-2019 05:00 PM | 31-Oct-19 02:00 PM |

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)

Advt. No.J.S.V. 458/19-20

Sd/-

EX. ENGINEER (EAST)-II

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 66 of 2019-20

For and on behalf of Governor of J&K State, Executive Engineer, PHE Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the regulated/registered firms for the below mentioned work:-

S. No. 1, Name of Work:- Providing and installation of 400 Amp MCCB for 125 KVA Automatic Voltage Regulator alongwith allied works at CPS Bakshi Nagar.

Name of Division :- PHE Mech. Division North Jammu

Cost of document /tender fee (in Rs.) :- 200/-

Earnest money :- 02% of quoted rates

Validity of Rates :- 180 days

Bid validity :- 180 days

Position of funds :- Demanded

Date of Publishing :- 17-10-2019 04.00 pm.

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17-10-2019 (04.00 pm).



2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17-10-2019 (04.00 pm) to 22-10-2019 (04.00 pm).

No. DIP/J-7909/19

Dated:- 18.10.2019

Sd/- Executive Engineer

PHE Mech. Division North Jammu

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

BASERA, AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING

The list of successful applicants for the draw of flats for The Basera, affordable group housing project situated at Sector 79 & 79B Dist. Gurugram, Urban Complex held at Block A, Nirvana Patio Club, Sector 50, South City-II, Gurugram on 3rd October 2019, Thursday at 11:00 am.

1 BHK Apartments

Applications No.: 259, 182, 352, 118, 115, 431, 600, 489

2 BHK Apartments

Applications No.: 269, 708, 493, 504, 252, 403, 505, 529, 256, 043, 711, 253, 545, 542, 518, 316, 267, 421, 036, 515, 506, 251, 546, 508, 305, 422, 705, 522, 528, 209, 543, 038, 263, 555, 300, 544, 131, 262, 526, 297, 255, 731, 092, 195, 035, 540, 418, 254, 523, 709, 306, 11502, 169, 047, 704, 490, 527, 520, 355, 128, 039, 129, 511, 510, 351, 513, 514, 719, 311, 166, 495, 525, 507, 258, 703, 512, 127, 266,492, 501, 270, 519, 724, 145, 524, 208, 730, 494, 502, 309, 213, 260, 516, 261, 548, 521, 048, 126, 147, 541, 125

Disclaimer:

The draw of flats for "The Basera" has been held as per Haryana affordable Housing policy under the Supervision of government officials.

For more information log on to www.supertechlimited.com where list of successful applicant with name and flat number is available

License No. - 163 & 164 of 2014 dated 12.09.2014

HARERA: 108 of 2017. Dated: 24.08.2017

M/s Revital Reality Pvt Ltd.

Corporate Office: Supertech House, B 28-29, Sector-58, Noida - 201307.

Site Address: Sector 79 & 79B, Gurugram, Manesar.

www.supertechlimited.com

*Conditions apply. All buildings, information, specification, etc. are tentative and subject to variation and modification by the company or the competent authorities sanctioning such plans. *1 sq.mtr. is equal to 10.764 sq.ft. & 1 sq.mtr. is equal to 1.969 sq.yd. Note: The details of approvals may be seen in our office.

www.pioneer.com

PAPER WITH PASSION

Unholy cow

Cow protectionism is turning counter-productive as nobody is owning responsibility for increased stray cattle



It is ironic that in the most heightened time of their protection and vigilantism, cows are becoming pariahs more than ever before. The increasing mechanisation at farms has meant that bulls are no longer needed for heavy-lifting except for reproductive purposes. A ban on cattle slaughter and sales at animal fairs, coupled with the fear of being booked by cow vigilantes on some pretext or the other, have meant that non-lactating cows are now a stressed asset in the farm economy. The cow has, therefore, dropped off the value chain and many farmers, who frankly cannot afford the costly fodder, are turfing out the old and unproductive herd and abandoning them in open areas or outside village limits. In rural areas, this is creating havoc as starving bovines, out of sheer desperation, raid fields for food, their large numbers enough to wipe out crops of small holdings in no time. Fearing crop destruction, farmers have now added a night vigil on *machans* in their fields to their routine. Some farmers have even been driven to debts and depression with the sudden decimation of the season's produce. In the urban areas, wandering cattle are posing traffic hazards as they raid central verges for food and generally move around disoriented, causing traffic jams and accidents on busy roads. In the end, out of favour and unloved by their keepers, cow protection seems like a selfish human pursuit, good as long as the animals serve a purpose and evicted from a cultural consciousness, one that accords them the status of a mother or *Mata*, the moment they become unprofitable and old. Worse, dying out of starvation and thirst, theirs is a manufactured death routine. As it is, strict curbs on cow movement and use have meant that they are being substituted by buffaloes. With their castaway status following curbs, the indigenous cattle population has declined by 29 per cent from the last cow census seven years ago though that of the milch variety, including cross-breeds, is up by six per cent. *Rakshaks* are many for dead meat but there are none to save the cow. Or build a natural shelter where the old can be kept and fed to last out their lifetime.

Many cities have evolved their own ways to control stray cattle but they are mostly of a rudimentary nature, using cattle catchers to move them from one place to another. Cow sheds and *goshalas* are many, with new ones being set up following the government's renewed protectionism but are mostly unauthorised, overcrowded and closer to human settlements when they should be located near the outskirts to avoid man-animal conflicts. Besides, there must be a uniform code for dairies and sheds in both cities and villages, including the number of cattle and staff required to maintain them. For example, the longevity of their licences and permits must be correlated to the physical health of their cattle and ensuring they do not leave the precincts. Penalties for illegal dairies should be stricter, snapping their water and power lines. Besides, some corporations have also sought to impose fines on errant dairies who cannot rein in their herd and even barcoding cows to trace their keepers. State governments individually have resorted to their own methods. For example, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has decided to make sex-sorted bovine semen available in large quantities so that most offspring is female. Both Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have made abandonment a punishable offence. Yet it is the UP Government, the most driven on cow protection and which had appointed a committee, where policies have been counter-productive. Its committee had suggested practical solutions like a fodder bank, State subsidies for stray shelters, grants for animal upkeep, controlled prices for products prepared from excreta and even asking MPs and MLAs to commit a part of their funds for a higher cause. But even this framework fell prey to bureaucratic corruption. Just recently, the government had to suspend a District Magistrate and four officials for irregularities; they deliberately over-reported the number of cattle in a shelter to misuse public funds. If we are indeed serious about cow protection, then we better look at nurturing cow health and welfare as we would any human resource. For the BJP may promote itself as protector but banning cow slaughter has been encoded in Article 48 of the Constitution. To convert the sacredness of a fundamental duty into political tokenism is the greatest disservice to Kamadhenu, the mother of all cows.

Bangla firing

On the face of it, the BSF-BGB shootout seems to be over smuggling but we cannot let it escalate for strategic reasons



Cross-border firing is something we associate with Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC). So when such a flare-up happens on our eastern borders, considering that the 4,000 km-long India-Bangladesh boundary has largely been peaceful for two decades, then it is a matter of concern. As it turns out, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) opened fire at the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, who had gone for a flag meeting to discuss the arrest of an Indian fisherman. A BSF head constable died while another trooper got wounded. Though the authorities on both sides were quick to intervene and neutralise the situation, describing it as a one-off aberration, it did remind us of the 2001 armed conflict between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that led to the deaths of 15 of our jawans and three of theirs. Coming as it does in the wake of the just-concluded meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, during which the two countries struck crucial deals to further strengthen bilateral relations, and which has been largely cordial, questions arise if this was motivated. Speculations are rife if this was done to undercut the success of the recent trip where both sides smoothed some creases that had crept into the relationship in recent times. Truth be told, Dhaka has been a valuable ally in helping India build bridges with the Islamic world. Sheikh Hasina has largely been responsible for reining in militant groups operating along fluid border stretches. She has also negotiated the tricky binary between India and China by calling our ties organic and the latter economic. It is in acknowledgement that India has not only embarked on a new phase of economic cooperation with Hasina but has also promised that no immigrant, who doesn't make the cut in the National Register for Citizens (NRC), will be repatriated to Bangladesh. Perhaps, this incident was intended to tarnish her "win-win" sheen. The Opposition BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) has been demonising her latest visit to India and the deals as "anti-state" and a "sellout."

This incident has also shed light on the larger issue of border management, which remains a challenge due to smuggling of fish, narcotics, cross-border human trafficking, cattle thefts and gun-running by cartels on both sides. Though cooperation on this has taken off with both sides conducting meetings biennially, they need to adopt a more humanitarian and interactive approach. The current shootout should not be allowed to aggravate and propel hostilities in a relationship which will get complex in a multi-polar world.

Why Cong owes an answer

The Congress minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka is thinkable but Indian politics without it is unthinkable. The grand old party may be critically weakened but not wrecked as yet



DEBASISH BHATTACHARYYA

Political parties are central to the functioning of a representative democracy because a multi-party system generates different policy options for the public. The options thus considered are aimed at fulfilling the interests and aspirations of the electorate. The Opposition, especially inter-party coalitions, is a key concept in a liberal democracy. However, interestingly, political parties have one function in common: All of them seek political power to form a Government or to take the role of the Opposition.

The 2019 Lok Sabha elections are over. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) roaring success in both 2014 and 2019 parliamentary elections has made it the largest party, the Congress has been facing debacle after debacle in successive elections. In this year's general election, the BJP won 303 seats and along with its allies, the NDA took its tally to 352 seats. The United Progressive Alliance-led Congress was reduced to 91 seats with it barely crossing the half-century mark with 52 seats. With the BJP's winning percentage reaching 70 per cent (it contested in 437 seats and won 303 of them), the main Opposition party, the Congress, stared at a major existential crisis. The BJP's spectacular win has left the Opposition, the Congress in particular, weak, clueless and irrelevant.

But why is the Opposition so significant? Its importance lies not just in providing a means to express negative reaction to the Government's decisions but to also tirelessly hold the ruling party to account, offer constructive criticism and project a progressive alternative to the Government. On this front, the Congress lacks comprehensive strategy and stamina to take on the might of the BJP's power duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

It's true that people are often accused of seeing the world the way they want it to be rather than how it is. But do we really need binoculars to see the fall of a once great political party? Leaders from the top-level to the low-rung as well as legislators have been quitting the Congress. The prominent among them are airing their views against the party line. Indications are also there of deep intra-party disputes and conflicts. On a close look, however, one will find the real reason why the leaders took the decision to leave the party/air views. And it wouldn't be surprising for those who have a grasp of the reality.

Last April, I had mentioned in an article titled, *Congress Needs to Make a Comeback for Democracy to Sustain Itself*: "In the world's largest democracy, the shrinking political space of a 133-year-old national party is as disconcerting for the party as it is for democracy itself. And, therefore, the Congress' revival is crucial for the nation and challenging for its party leadership. The task is made tougher as sub-optimal leadership faces the task of rebuilding the party and restructuring its shattered image and appeal."



One and a half years later, the Congress' state of affairs is even worse than what people had feared. I had earlier explained the to-do list for the grand old party, which remains prerequisite till date.

■ The stark reality is that the Congress has, for far too long, functioned as an autocrat, denying many deserving party functionaries their rightful place in the organisation. Loyalty towards individuals doesn't necessarily imply loyalty towards the party. It should take serious note of it.

■ An internally-democratic political party is always good for a democracy. And, therefore, establishing intra-party democratic norms is no longer an option but a necessity. It's likely to prevent disintegration of the party, make politicians accountable and encourage meaningful deliberation.

■ It should get rid of self-seeking and corrupt old guards. There are capable young leaders, who can flush out the party's old, withered arteries.

■ Short-term political advantages have always assured long-term political disadvantages. Compromising politics had the Congress falling from 364 out of 489 Lok Sabha seats in the first-ever general election in 1952 to 44 out of 545 in 2014. While people's expectations from the party are really low, the need for it to rise has never been greater.

Change is as constant a fea-

“FOR THE CONGRESS, THERE ARE ENOUGH POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES. IT'S JUST ABOUT HOW TO MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY FIT, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. IT'S ABOUT SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RIGHT EARNEST AND AT THE RIGHT TIME”

ture in politics as it is in life, it is said. Those who resist such a change will find themselves pushing against a sea of opinion and positioned on the wrong side of history.

Most relevant for present-day Congress is an observation by Mohammed Ayoob, Professor, Michigan State University, who writes that even after two major electoral debacles, the dynasty refuses to give up control and deliberately fails to realise that it is destroying the chances of the Congress bouncing back. The equation of the party with the family has destroyed any possibility of its renaissance.

Buoyed by its stupendous victory in this year's parliamentary elections when the BJP is gearing up for the 2024 general election, targeting 333 MPs, the Congress is seen as a small, snivelling, struggling party. As a matter of fact, the Congress' decline began years ago but accelerated in 2014 with the election of Narendra Modi.

It's not that the BJP-led NDA Government is running flawlessly. Apart from the economic mess, the political culture born out of the personality cult, ultra-nationalism and hate politics concerns the common man the most. Besides, the Government has failed to address other critical issues: From agrarian distress to unemployment to dissatisfaction among the urban middle classes and the poor. India's rank in

the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has slipped further — from 95 in 2010 to 117 this year.

So, for the Congress, there are enough political opportunities. It's just about how to make an opportunity fit, not the other way around. It's about seizing opportunities in right earnest and at the right time.

By giving the reins of the party again to a family member, the Congress might have arrested disintegration within but it will commit a grave mistake if it thinks that it can emerge stronger anytime soon. The party leadership must recognise that something far bigger and deeper is at work in the intra-party realm of politics. In the prevailing political culture, for the Congress, if it wishes to be an alternative to the BJP, even disintegration would be a better option if a wider acceptability of the younger generation eludes the party rank and file.

INC, minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka, is thinkable but Indian politics minus the Congress is unthinkable and if indeed it happens, it would be sad and may be the most unfortunate turn, which may forever change who we are. The Congress may be critically weakened but it is not wrecked as yet.

(The writer is former Deputy General Manager, India International Centre, New Delhi, and General Manager, International Centre, Goa)

SOUNDBITE

Prime Minister Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should steal ideas from the Congress' Lok Sabha poll manifesto to tackle the economic mess.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



In the age of digital streaming and social media that is slowly but surely isolating us, MAMI binds us without boundaries, inhibitions and fear.

Actor
—Deepika Padukone



He (Erdogan) is a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He did the right thing.

US President
—Donald Trump



India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the wider region. The Army will continue to partner with friends to confront any kind of emerging threat.

Army Chief
—Gen Bipin Rawat



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wait for the verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Ayodhya closure" (October 18). A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has reserved its verdict on one of the most sensitive case of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute in Ayodhya. What will follow next is a race against time as the verdict will be delivered in a month's time before Gogoi demits office.

In a democracy, any judicial verdict is premised on facts, which entail reliable evidence, satisfactory proof and eyewitnesses. If indeed a settlement is reached, it will be a victory for parties concerned and the mediators, too. Whatever decision the court takes must be accepted gracefully.

Finally, the country must move out from its past and focus on more important issues pertaining to the economy. The young generation is faced with a serious unemployment crisis. We need a strong economy and not court cases.

Azhar A Khan
Rampur

India's hunger crisis calls for a policy overhaul

This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). Identical findings by the 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and UNICEF's report titled, "The State of the World's Children 2019" prove beyond doubt that the incidence of malnutrition is alarmingly high in India. They also underline the enormous task before the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), which was launched last year, to fulfill its goal of a "malnutrition-free India" by 2022. That India is among the worst-performing countries on the acute under-nutrition parameter is particularly worrying. Further, over 90 per cent of the children aged between six months and two years are not fed a "minimally acceptable diet." UNICEF data put the stunting rate among India's under-fives at 37.9 per cent, an abysmal index that would be unacceptable for any country.

It is a proven fact that the diet — during the first 1,000 days after conception — lays the foundation for a child's physical growth and mental development. A proper diet in the early stages of life is half the battle won. Quality food and in adequate quantity is vital for a child's immunity and cognitive development. Malnutrition is most often a product of poverty, poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to clean water and igno-



rance. It follows that the economic malaise afflicting the country has to be fought to make the fight against "serious levels of hunger" a success. It is a paradox of our times that while granaries overflow, people go hungry. Hunger at a time when more than the required food is available is a failure of the system to deliver. This calls for a strict implementation of the existing policies to ensure that the country's children are given nutritious food.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Strict vigilance needed

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Lessons from PMC" (October 17). The purpose of setting up cooperative banks was to further economic development and social

life of the people. While these banks have been able to fulfill their role partially, a major impediment has been the elected members of borrowers, who are more concerned about furthering their own interests.

Cooperative banks offer

attractive deposit rates than commercial banks and this is why they strive on an ecosystem of small business, traders and petty service providers. In a country like ours, where financial literacy is not so high, it is essential that all banks come

under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Central bank must maintain a strict vigil and audit all ailing banks so that scams like PMC never happen again and the faith of the depositor remains intact.

Harvinder Singh Chugh
Via email

Hunger challenge

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). It is unfortunate that despite being the second-largest food producer, India ranks poorly on the hunger levels. To tackle the problem, there is a need for the Government to increase the budget for children's health.

The problem is all the more complex because the food basket differs from region to region. It is, therefore, essential that we have an efficient integrated system for food production, processing, preservation and distribution which can cater to the changing tastes of the nation.

Srishti Mathur
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

More to this than meets the eye

The Turkish-Syrian border drama could have been masterminded by Russia to get USA out and restore the Assad Govt's control over eastern Syria



GWYNNE DYER

Russia and its Syrian ally Bashar al-Assad win, the Kurds lose, and the United States (US) leaves in disgrace. It has been a hectic few days on the Turkish-Syrian border. After a phone call with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on October 7, Donald Trump abruptly abandoned America's Kurdish allies in Syria. As US troops pulled out of their positions along Syria's northern border, where they had been protecting the Kurds from a Turkish attack, Erdogan moved fast. The Turkish President declared that he would take over a big chunk of northern Syria to drive out the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-dominated militia that has been America's key ally in the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS). Erdogan described the SDF as "terrorists" and a threat to Turkey but they are nothing of the sort.

Syrian Kurds are the majority population in the border region with Turkey. They created the SDF to resist the ISIS' attempts to conquer the region five years ago, after the Syrian regular army pulled out of the region to fight rebels elsewhere in the country. The SDF became America's key local ally in the fight against the ISIS. Over 10,000 Kurds died in that war, while the US gave them air support. By the end of last year they had destroyed ISIS and the whole region was at peace. The local Kurds and their Arab neighbours were running it themselves. The Kurds did want autonomy within Syria but they never demanded independence and they have made no attacks on Turkey, terrorist or otherwise. So why did Erdogan want to attack them?

Erdogan is paranoid about the Kurds, because one-fifth of Turkey's own population are ethnic Kurds, and some of them have waged a guerilla and terrorist struggle for decades, seeking an independent state. Other Kurdish minorities in the region, including those in Syria, are not at war with the Turks but Erdogan didn't like having the Kurdish-run SDF on his border.

Turkey invaded last Saturday and after about 36 hours the despairing Syrian Kurds did the obvious thing: they asked the Syrian army to come back and save them. They don't love Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad, but it's better than being invaded by Turkey and losing their homes permanently.

But there was something puzzling about all this. Why would Assad's Russian allies approve a Syrian army move that might bring it into direct conflict with the Turkish army? After all, Vladimir Putin has been courting Erdogan as a potential ally (even though Turkey is currently a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member).

The Syrian army is now driving back into the northeastern part of the country unopposed by the SDF. They will re-occupy the whole region (which is Syrian sovereign territory). The Syrian Kurds may still be able to negotiate an autonomy deal with Damascus, on the grounds that they are Syria's only non-Arab minority. In any case, they have no other alternative.

Erdogan can either back down and be humiliated, or he can press on and risk a war not only with the Syrian army but also the Russian air force. That's the way it looks on the surface and maybe that's all that's going on here. But we must also consider the possibility that the whole thing has been a charade, masterminded by the Russians, to get the Americans out of Syria and restore the Assad Government's control over all of eastern Syria.

First, Erdogan puts the frighteners on Trump in the famous phone-call, and Trump abandons the Kurds and starts pulling the US troops out. Then Erdogan launches the threatened invasion, and the Syrian Kurds understandably panic and make a deal with Damascus.

The Syrian army returns to the northern border for the first time in five years without having to fire a shot, carefully avoiding the points along the border where the Turks have already entered the country. Erdogan declares a ceasefire and eventually withdraws his troops, stating that he is satisfied that the Kurdish "threat" has been ended because the Syrian army, not the SDF, now controls the border. Even Iran is satisfied, because this eliminates the possibility that the US forces could be an obstacle to its planned secure corridor across Syria to Lebanon.

There's no proof of this but it makes sense. The Russians are smart enough and Trump is inept or compromised enough. It would explain why the Russians looked like they were backing the Syrians at the risk of alienating their new Turkish friend. Maybe there was no risk. Maybe Erdogan was in on the deal.

And don't worry about a revival of the ISIS. For the thousands of ISIS fighters now held prisoner by the Kurds, there can be no worse fate than falling into the hands of the Syrian army.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work')

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE CONGRESS PARTY, WHEN THE BILL CAME IN PARLIAMENT ON ARTICLE 370, WHEN DISCUSSIONS CAME UP, VOTED FOR IT, NOT AGAINST IT. —FORMER PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH

IN THE PAST SINGH SUPPRESSED FACTS AND PROVIDED COVER FOR THE CONGRESS. IT DOES NOT BEHOVE A FORMER PM TO MISREPRESENT FACTS. —BJP SOCIAL MEDIA CELL CHIEF AMIT MALVIYA



Fuelling new partnerships

India must broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production, to cover arrangements with other nations for assured supplies of crude and gas



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite loud talk by successive Governments about increasing domestic production of oil and gas to make India self-sufficient in energy, we are producing less than 20 per cent of our requirement. The balance, over 80 per cent, continues to be imported. This heightens our vulnerability to a point whereby the slightest disruption in any of the major sources of imports (be it imposition of sanctions by the US against Iran or an attack on oil installations in Saudi Arabia) creates major ripples that have the potential to destabilise the country's economy.

The problem is not lack of resources. India has 26 Sedimentary Basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.14 million square kilometres (sq km). But, the lack of a conducive policy environment and cumbersome regulatory processes have deterred global firms (who have the technology, expertise and capital) from investing in their exploration, development and commercialisation. At present, only six SBs covering 0.518 million sq km or barely 16 per cent of the total area are under commercial exploitation. Even these six SBs are sub-optimally utilised.

An overwhelming share of throughput comes from fields discovered over four decades ago in the 1970s, namely Bombay High and the South Bassein fields and so on, with no major discoveries in recent times. The only exception were finds in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin in the early 2000s, touted as ones that would contribute nearly 50 per cent of the country's total gas production. Even that turned out to be a damp squib with the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) ending up with meagre reserves of about two trillion cubic feet (Tcf) against an initial estimate of 10 Tcf.

The Narendra Modi Government has tried to entice global energy giants by assuring a higher price for difficult deep/ultra-deep water fields on the one hand and giving flexibility to operators in choosing new areas with freedom of pricing and marketing under the 2017 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) on the other. It has also tried to simplify processes for approval and reduce bureaucratic red tape. But controls on supply, distribution and use remain, even as multiple pricing regimes, depending on the supply source and hydrocarbon type, give confusing signals.

In the absence of any major breakthrough in securing a jump in production from fields already given under the 1999 New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) and given the lukewarm response to the first three rounds of bidding held under HELP, it is unlikely that India would be able to reduce dependence on imports even by 10 per cent as committed by the Modi Government. The Centre will, therefore, need to explore other options for meeting the country's oil and gas requirements.

The first option involves sourcing a major share of requirements under long-term arrangements with exporters, leaving a small gap, say 10-15 per cent, for buying spot to take advantage of price fluctuations, depending on global-demand supply at any given time.

India being the third-largest importer of oil and gas, we may leverage this to negotiate better prices. Joining hands with another major

“THE MODI GOVERNMENT SHOULD ORCHESTRATE ITS STRATEGY COMBINING THE BEST OF ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS LIKE BOOSTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLIES, LETTING GLOBAL OIL MAJORS OWN EQUITY IN THE COUNTRY'S REFINERS AND RETAILERS AND INDIAN COMPANIES ACQUIRING OIL ASSETS ABROAD FOR ENSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF CRUDE AND GAS TO MEET OUR GROWING REQUIREMENTS ON A SUSTAINED BASIS”



buyer, say China, could further improve the country's bargaining power (but this is easier said than done). However, the threat of disruption always remains; due to the *force majeure* clause in such tie-ups.

A second alternative is for Indian companies to pick up equity stakes in foreign oil and gas assets with arrangements for buy-back. For instance, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), holds participating interest in over 40 assets in 20 countries. RIL, too, acquired assets in several jurisdictions. But this route is subject to a huge downside risk of erosion in the value of investment — as already experienced by both RIL and OVL.

A third alternative is one in which global behemoths such as Aramco — the Saudi Arabian Government-owned biggest petro giant and the world's largest oil exporter — pick up stake in Indian companies which are focussed on refining and marketing of oil products. This route is free from the vulnerabilities inherent under the above two options.

Already, in sync with Saudi Arabia's intent to invest \$ 100 billion in India's downstream sector, including refining, petrochemicals, retailing and so on, Aramco has proposed to acquire 25 per cent equity in the \$ 60 billion West Coast refinery (another 25 per cent will come from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company-Adnoc) and petrochemical project in Maharashtra in which the other 50 per cent will be owned by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

It is also contemplating picking up 20 per cent equity in oil and gas assets of RIL. The most crucial feature of this partnership/joint venture is assured supply of crude oil by Aramco to meet 50 per cent of the requirement of the West Coast refinery. The arrangement is mutually beneficial. While, on one hand, India gets what it needs the most, that is crude in desired quantities on a long-term basis without any disruption, on the other, Saudi Arabia also gets what it needs the most, which is an opportunity to diversify its sources of income, thereby reducing its over-dependence on crude alone. There could not be a more apt example of the two countries exploiting synergies to the advantage of both.

Indian companies can pursue similar arrangements with other major suppliers of crude oil like Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who will also be very keen to reduce their over-dependence on crude alone and make their economies immune to vulnerabilities resulting from price fluctuations.

From our perspective, even if there is loss of output in their crude production facilities, being a co-owner in Indian firms, they won't cut supplies to the country. To take it a step further, the Government may even consider divesting its entire stake in oil refining and marketing PSUs to strategic investors who have ownership and control over crude assets.

As part of its ambitious programme of disinvestment to garner ₹105,000 crore during the current year, it has

decided to divest all of its 53.3 per cent shareholding in BPCL. If, it is sold to say Aramco or Adnoc, this will not only yield a whopping ₹57,000 crore (at current market capitalisation of ₹107,000 crore) but also ensure assured supplies of crude.

The Modi Government may also consider sale of HPCL — at present owned by ONGC which in turn is majority-owned by itself — to global energy majors. The sale of BPCL and HPCL won't face any legal hurdles as the relevant legislations, which led to the creation of these PSUs, have already been repealed in 2016.

While, pursuing these initiatives, India's political class needs to broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production to cover arrangements for assured supplies of crude from all sources. It also needs to unshackle itself from the "socialist era" mindset that crucial assets such as oil must necessarily be owned by PSUs. In a world where supply chains are globally integrated, the focus should be on how best our economic interests are served rather than worrying about ownership.

The Modi Government should orchestrate its strategy combining the best of all available options like boosting domestic production, long-term contracts for supplies, letting global oil majors own equity in the country's refiners and retailers and Indian companies acquiring oil assets abroad for ensuring adequate supplies of crude and gas to meet our growing requirements on a sustained basis.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Vital tools in India's healthcare delivery

While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a largescale impact



NIKHILESH TIWARI

Successful healthcare delivery depends both on the availability of personnel and technologies. Medical devices are an important cog in the delivery system as they equip health service providers with the necessary tools to perform their job effectively. Though the country's healthcare industry has grown significantly over the last decade, our health ecosystem is plagued by the lack of availability and affordability of quality services. In fact, India lags behind Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa and a number of other developing countries in this regard. While technological advancements have expanded to encompass almost every stage of the healthcare contin-

uum, accessibility and democratic availability remains a hurdle. India faces a dual challenge as the rising burden of lifestyle diseases is added to the burden of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Non-communicable diseases are currently responsible for 61 per cent of the deaths in the country, a number that is only set to go up in the coming years. While both the Government and private participants have undertaken several measures to address the lack of quality services, these efforts have been executed in discrete silos.

In this scenario, medical appliances play a key role in offering better screening, diagnosis and treatment along with restoration and monitoring of health indicators to boost prevention. While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a large scale impact.

Technology has improved the complexity and accuracy of screening

of diseases. Portable/point-of-care accessories have made it possible to improve diagnostic mechanisms at the primary healthcare level, provide care at home and resulted in improved health outcomes and patient satisfaction. It has also improved the access to quality care in underserved and remote regions, while also making it possible for patients to avail treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities.

Technological advancements in surgical equipment have enabled doctors to treat highly complex and critical cases and reduce the length of extended hospital stays. It has increasingly made it possible for elective and complex operations such as knee replacement and bariatric surgery to be moved to short stay/outpatient surgery centres. For example, laproscopic surgery procedures remarkably improve outcomes; reduce length of hospital stays as well as cost of treatment.

Rehabilitative centres and hospitals are making it easier for patients to recuperate and return to a relatively

normal life with the help of advanced restorative and assistive devices. Advancements in curative technology have also allowed people with disabilities to lead productive lives.

Advancements in screening devices have enabled patients to monitor their condition at home, keeping a close track on all major health indicators. Furthermore, smart appliances are being increasingly used to remotely monitor patients and diagnose life-threatening conditions early, reducing the need for hospital visits and bringing down the pressure on overburdened healthcare centres. However, there is a need for a more congenial ecosystem for indigenous manufacturers as medical technology is a significant contributor to the cost of healthcare delivery. According to conservative estimates, medical equipment contributes to at least 30 per cent of the capital of setting up a secondary or tertiary care center. Moreover, diagnostics and medical devices contribute to at least 20 per cent of the cost of medical services. Unfortunately, the

ecosystem is not very conducive for the sector to drive affordability and accessibility. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on devices currently stands at 12 per cent. On the other hand, customs duty is low. This tax policy negatively impacts indigenous production and supports imports, which is counter-intuitive to the 'Make in India' initiative. As the inverted duty structure favors bringing in finished goods over raw material, imports constitute 75 per cent of the industry's sales. As a result, local manufacturers make products at the lower end of the value chain.

The Government must consider revising its tax policy to help local manufacturers gain a larger share of the market. This will also help them make products at more affordable costs.

With a changing regulatory and economic environment, the medical device sector is set to grow in the future and there are a range of factors fuelling it. According to estimates, non-communicable diseases will cause

75 per cent of the deaths in the country by 2025, with an increasing number of people suffering from diabetes, heart disease and progressive lung diseases. The geriatric population is also set to increase and would require a higher need for quality healthcare and medical devices, both at homes and health facilities.

Apart from devising a more congenial tax structure, the country needs to strengthen its regulatory mechanisms and testing procedures to ensure highest standards of quality are met. According to news reports, the NITI Aayog has prepared a roadmap to ensure better regulation of medical equipment under which all devices — imported or locally manufactured — will have to be certified by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). While improving regulation is welcome, the authorities must ensure that the process remains smooth, hassle-free and fast.

(The writer is director of a medical device marketing and distribution company)



BACK THE GREEN NEW DEAL

For many years, the World Bank and the IMF were the international manifestation of the New Deal. They backed expansionary economic policies and were mindful of the rights of individual countries to govern. There are now proposals, backed by the UN, for a global Green New Deal. It would be a good thing for global economy, the planet and for their own long-term prospects, if the IMF and World Bank chose to back the idea.

(The Guardian editorial)

RIL becomes first company to hit ₹9L cr m-cap mark

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Friday added another feather to its cap by becoming the first Indian firm to hit the ₹9 lakh crore market valuation mark in intra-day trade.

The company's market valuation zoomed to ₹9,05,214 crore on the BSE during the day. However, at close of trade, the company's market capitalisation (m-cap) settled at ₹8,97,179.47 crore.

Shares of the country's most valued company rose by 1.37 per cent to close at ₹1,415.30 ahead of its earnings announcement. During the day, it spurted 2.28 per cent to a record ₹1,428.

In August 2018, RIL became the first domestic firm to cross the ₹8 lakh crore mark in terms of market valuation.

TCS is the second most



Shares of the country's most valued company rose by 1.37 per cent to close at ₹1,415.30 ahead of its earnings announcement. During the day, it spurted 2.28 per cent to a record ₹1,428

valuable company after RIL with a m-cap of ₹7,71,996.87 crore, followed by HDFC Bank

(₹6,72,466.30 crore), HUL (₹4,55,952.72 crore), HDFC (₹3,61,801.97 crore), Infosys (₹3,29,751.88 crore), Kotak Mahindra Bank (₹3,08,708.32 crore), ITC (₹3,02,861.98 crore), ICICI Bank (₹2,82,783.39 crore) and Bajaj Finance (₹2,39,947.60 crore) in the top-10 list.

The m-cap figures of companies change daily with stock price movement.

Reliance reports record quarterly net profit of ₹11,262 crore in Q2

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

India's most valuable company Reliance Industries on Friday posted a record quarterly net profit of ₹11,262 crore as a steady rise in the share of its consumer businesses of retail and telecom countered lower earnings from traditional petrochemical and refining segment.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate, led by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani, reported a net profit of ₹11,262 crore, or ₹18.6 per share, in July-September, up from ₹9,516 crore, or ₹16.1 a share, in the same period of the previous financial year, the company said in a statement.

This is the highest quarterly net profit earned by any private company, surpassing its own previous best of ₹10,362 crore in the January-March period.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) holds the distinction of posting highest ever quarterly profit by any Indian firm when it had reported a net profit of ₹14,512.81 crore in January-March 2013.

Reliance's standalone net profit of ₹9,702 crore was also a record high.

It clocked a 4.8 per cent rise in consolidated revenue at ₹163,854 crore in Q2.

The company opened 337 more retail stores and added 24 million subscribers to its Jio mobile phone service that helped increase the profitability of the venture, even as its traditional oil refining and petrochemical businesses continued to see weak earnings.

Reliance reported record pre-tax profit from its retail and telecom businesses. The two now account for a third of its EBITDA, up from close to 25 per cent last financial year.

With its retail store strength rising to 10,901 from 10,644 at the end of Q1, the retail business posted a 67 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to ₹2,322 crore and a 27 per cent rise in revenue at ₹41,202 crore.

Reliance Jio, the group's telecom arm, posted a standalone net profit of ₹990 crore, which was 45.4 per cent more than the previous year, as subscriber base swelled to 355.2 million from 331.2 million at the end of the June quarter and 252 million in Q2 of the previous fiscal. Net subscriber addition was a shade lower than 24.6 million added in the previous quarter.

Earning per subscriber declined to ₹120 a month from ₹122 in the previous quarter. Earning per subscriber has been on a decline since the first quarter of 2018-19 when it clocked ₹134.3.

BUSINESS CORNER

COLLECTIVE EFFORT IS NEED OF HOUR: KAILASH



New Delhi: "Collective effort of all stock holders is need of hour to cope up environmental challenges facing the society these days. The entire world is reeling under various spectra of environmental challenges and it can be mitigated only by joint initiatives of government and civil societies. There is no one point solution to these challenges," said Kailash Gahlot, Minister for Environment, Forest & Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi. He was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural function of a workshop on "Environmental Challenges and Policy Making: The role of Education" organised jointly by the University School of Education, IP University, Dwarka and Earth Root Foundation here on Friday.

AK GAUTAM TAKES OVER AS DIRECTOR, NTPC

New Delhi: Anil Kumar Gautam has taken over as Director (Finance), NTPC w.e.f from 18th October, 2019. AK Gautam (aged 57 years) is CMA & LL.B. He has over 34 years of experience in the power sector in the area of project construction accounting, corporate accounts, resource mobilisation from domestic and international markets, long-term financial planning, investment appraisals, formulation of capital budgets and regulatory affairs.



ASSAM RIFLES COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE AT LAITKOR

New Delhi: The two day Annual Assam Rifles Commanders' Conference begins at HQ, DGAR at Laitkor (Shillong) on Friday. Held every year, the conference is attended by the Inspector Generals of the Force HQs, Sector Commanders and Commandants alongwith other officials from the elite Assam Rifles Force. Chaired by Lt Gen Sukheep Sangwan, Sena Medal and Bar, DG Assam Rifles, the conference is expected to seek solutions to the challenges faced by the Force while maintaining the internal peace & security of the North Eastern States, as also issues related to Indo Myanmar Border Management. It shall also deliberate upon issues like Force Modernization, Smart Solution and Leveraging Technology for Operational, Administrative & various Man Management aspects.

'GOVT TO GO ALL THE WAY TO ACHIEVE 1 BN PRODUCTION'



New Delhi: Dedicates "Continuous Miner" at CCL's Churi UG Project to Nation Hon'ble Minister of Coal, Parliamentary Affairs and Mines Pralhad Joshi on his maiden two-day visit to Central Coal fields Limited (CCL), Ranchi dedicated "Continuous Miner" at Churi Underground (UG) Mines, NK Area to the Nation. The miner will add a new chapter in the long history of Churi UG mines with commencement of mass production technology having capacity to produce upto 4,000 tonne per day. Earlier, the production at Churi UG was 4,000 tonne/annum, after installation of mass production technology through continuous miner production is expected to rise upto 5 lakh tonnes per annum. The coal reserve at Churi underground mine has low ash content with high heating capacity. The Churi UG under NK Area of CCL has extractable coal reserve of 7.5 mt. Minister also visited Ashoka Project Mines under Piparwar Area of CCL. Shri Joshi took stock of the day to day operation and challenges faced by the Mines and other hurdles. Addressing to local people, Joshi said that Government will go all the way to achieve 1 billion coal production at earliest and end dependence on imported coal.

Another PMC Bank depositor dies; 'had no funds for surgery'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An 83-year-old depositor of the troubled PMC Bank died on Friday, with his family claiming that it could not raise money for his heart surgery after restrictions were imposed on fund withdrawals.

This is a fourth incident of the death of a depositor of the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank after the RBI appointed administrator on the city-headquartered lender.

Two of the depositors had died of cardiac arrest, while another, a woman doctor, allegedly committed suicide.

Murlidhar Dharra (83) died at his home in suburban Mulund on Friday, his son Prem Dharra told PTI.

The family had a total of ₹80 lakh in deposits with the bank (which was placed under restrictions since September 24), he said.

Doctors had recommended heart surgery for his father, but they could not arrange the money as the deposits are stuck at the bank, Prem said.

It can be noted that under the RBI directions, exceptions can be made for medical emergencies. It was not known immediately whether the PMC Bank refused a request from the family under this provision.

After an alleged ₹4,355 crore scam came to light at the bank, the RBI initially capped withdrawals at ₹1,000 in view of liquidity crisis, and later hiked it to ₹40,000 in three

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moves. The depositors have been protesting over the last three weeks, seeking their money back.

On Tuesday, 51-year-old Sanjay Gulati, who had recently lost his job with Jet Airways when the airline was grounded, died of a heart attack hours after attending a depositors' protest.

It was followed by alleged suicide of Dr Nivedita Bijlani, and death of Mulund-resident Fatto Punjabi due to cardiac arrest.

The crisis at the bank is being attributed to loans given to realty player HDIL, which were allegedly hidden from regulators' scrutiny, turning non-performing assets.

Five persons including HDIL promoters have been arrested in the case.

CAIT, CCI discuss 'unethical competition' by e-commerce firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT on Friday said it has held discussion with the CCI on "unethical competition" perpetrated by e-commerce firms, a day after Union minister Piyush Goyal said the government was looking into alleged predatory pricing by Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon.

According to a statement issued by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), CCI Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta said it is committed to establishing a uniform and competitive business environment in

the country and if anyone adopts unhealthy trading practices, influencing prices in any manner, the Commission will surely take action as per law.

CAIT Secretary General, Praveen Khandelwal claimed that due to unethical commercial practices of Amazon and Flipkart, around 40,000 mobile shops are on the verge of closure by Diwali.

A delegation of CAIT met with the CCI Chairman and apprised him about how e-commerce companies are trapping the country's business in vicious cycle of unethical competition, CAIT said.

Despite IMF projections, India still among fastest growing economies: FM

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India remains among the fastest growing economies of the world and efforts are being made to make it grow faster, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a reduced growth rate for India, but the country's economy is "still growing as the fastest", she told a group of Indian reporters on Thursday.

The minister is here to attend the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank.

Sitharaman said she is "cer-

tainly not risking a comparison" with China, even though the two countries growth rates have been projected at 6.1 per cent in a latest IMF report.

"The IMF (in its latest projections) reduces the growth (rate) for all the global economies. It reduces the growth for India too. But even otherwise, even with that India is still growing as [the fastest growing economy," she said.

As against India's real growth rate of 6.8 per cent in 2018, the IMF in its latest World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday.

China's GDP growth slows to 6% in Q3, slowest since 1992

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's growth slumped to 6 per cent in the third quarter of 2019, its lowest level in nearly three decades, as the world's second largest economy struggled to overcome the impact of a bruising trade war with the US and sluggish domestic demand, according to official data released on Friday.

The GDP figures emerged just one week after the US and China reached a tentative trade truce to avoid more damages to the world's two largest economies. China's gross domestic product grew at 6 per cent in the quarter ended September, the weakest quarterly growth rate since 1992.

US imposes tariffs on EU goods, targeting Airbus, wine, whisky

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States imposed tariffs on a record \$7.5-billion worth of European Union goods on Friday, despite threats of retaliation, with Airbus, French wine and Scottish whiskies among the high-profile targets.

The tariffs, which took effect just after midnight in Washington (0401 GMT), came after talks between European officials and US trade representatives failed to win a last-minute reprieve.

The WTO-endorsed onslaught from US President

Donald Trump also comes as Washington is mired in a trade war with China and could risk destabilising the global economy further.

In the line of fire are civilian aircraft from Britain, France, Germany and Spain -- the countries that formed Airbus -- which will now cost 10 percent more when imported to the US.

But the tariffs also target consumer products such as French wine, which Trump had vowed to attack in recent months. Wine from France, Spain and Germany will now face 25 percent tariffs.

Global markets brush off disconcerting data out of China

Bangkok: Global markets largely brushed off more disconcerting economic signals from China, which on Friday reported that its economy grew at its slowest pace in 26 years last quarter.

The 6% growth pace China reported for July-September was worse than most economists were expecting, highlighting a global economy that is slowing.

Domestically, Beijing is under significant pressure to head off job losses as a trade war with the US drags on.

Some of the latest data for September, such as investment and lending, showed improvement, but "pressure on economic activity should intensify in the coming months," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary. AP

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40-41 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Badami Colour T-Shirt and Green Colour Payjama was found dead at Footpath, Near Oriental Bank, Asaf Ali Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi on 16.10.2019.

In this regard a DD No.03A, dated 16.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi
DP/6665/CD/19 **Ph.: 011-23279331, 8750870421**

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY



General public is here by informed that one lady **Namely:** Zoya Goan, **R/o** Village Wad No. 3, Nigam Puri, Tehsil Mera Pani, Assam **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Yellow Suit-Green Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet has been missing / kidnapped since 05.10.2019 from A-1/217, Paschim Vihar, Delhi the area of PS. Paschim Vihar East.

In this regard a DD No. 37-A dated 05.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this 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.

SHO
P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-25263471, 25267286**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/2785/OD/19**

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a Female dead body **Name:** Unknown, **D/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 25-30 years, **Height:** 4'6", **Gender :** Female, **Wearing:** Brown colour kamij present on body, black thread with clavate locket present around the neck & black thread with amulet tied around the right leg. was found dead at Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi on 15.10.2019.

In this regard, **FIR/DD No. 47-A dated 15.10.2019** has been lodged at PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. **Note:** The Dead body has been kept in BSA Hospital Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27571162, 8750870327

DP/3389/RD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ravi S/o Rajender Singh** R/o H. No. 335, Near Badi Chaupal, Village-Dariyapur Kalan, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 187/19 Dt. 26.04.2019 u/s 323/308/506/34 IPC P.S. Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravi** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ravi of FIR No. 187/19 Dt. 26.04.2019 u/s 323/308/506/34 IPC P.S. Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.11.2019**.

By Order
Ms. Manu Goel Kharb
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North),
Room No.114, 1st Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/685/ON/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 30-35 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at Twin Pool (Closed) near Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi on 17.10.2019. In this regard a vide has been registered with **DD No: 4-A dated 17.10.19 at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.** The dead body has been kept in BSA Hospital, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** About 30-35 years, **Height:** About 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Blue & yellow coloured strips T-shirt, Dark grey colour cargo capri, black belt, holy thread around neck and kadda on the right wrist.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

SHO
P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
DP/3388/RD/19 **Ph.: 011-27571171, 27571162, 27570233**



SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male (depicted in the photo) namely : **Om Parkash @Pappu S/o: Siya Ram, R/o B-254, J.J. Colony, Choukhandi, Tilak Nagar, Delhi,** Age : **53 Years,** has been reported missing / kidnapped since 09.10.2019 from his house, vide DD No. 19-A dated 12.10.2019 lodged at Police Station Tilak Nagar, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-

Complexion : Shallow, **Face :** Round, **Height :** 5'5", **Physique/Build :** Thin, **Clothing :** Pink Colour Shirt, Grey Colour Pajama and Brown Colour Chappal in Feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing / kidnapped male, may inform SHO, Tilak Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in, website : <http://cbi.nic.in>, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi
DP/8471/WD/19. **Ph.: 011-25409290, 25407800, 8750871130**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY



General public is hereby informed that this boy namely **Shiv Shankar S/o Hari Nath Yadav R/o C-402, Block-C, Jhuggi Suraj Park, Delhi** Age : **13 years, Height : 4'8", Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Sallow, **Build :** Normal, wearing red colour T-shirt, blue colour jeans and hawai chapple in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 28.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 697/19 dated 28.09.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

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

SHO : P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27854799, 27854757

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO : P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **Ph. : 011-27854799, 27854757**
Fax: 24368639, **Tel.: 24368638/24368641**

DP/693/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Dev Kamti, S/o Shri Mahender Kumar, R/o M-289, Sector-1, Bawana, Delhi,** Age 45 years, Height 5'8" Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Clothes and shoes in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Bawana, Delhi since 12.09.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 34-A dated 24.09.19 has been lodged at PS Bawana, Delhi.

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

E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 **PS : Bawana, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph.: 27751949, 27756090**

DP/694/ON/19

Sensex, Nifty log longest rising streak since mid-March

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equities rose for the sixth straight session on Friday, the longest gaining streak since mid-March, boosted by unabated foreign fund inflows and positive Brexit developments.

The BSE benchmark Sensex closed 246.32 points or 0.63 per cent higher at 39,298.38. It hit an intra-day high of 39,361.06 and a low of 38,963.60.

The NSE gauge Nifty too rose 75.50 points or 0.65 per cent to settle at 11,661.85.

Both benchmark indices also posted their second consecutive weekly rise.

During the week, the Sensex advanced 1,171.30 points or 3.07 per cent, and the Nifty gained 356.80 points or 3.15 per cent.

Yes Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying up to 8.44 per cent, followed by Maruti, PowerGrid, NTPC, L&T and SBI.

On the other hand, Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Infosys fell up to 1.05 per cent.

PSU stocks were in huge demand on Friday, led by BHEL, in-tandem with a bullish broader market trend.

On the BSE, shares of BHEL, Hindustan Copper,

GOLD FALLS ON WEAK GLOBAL TRENDS

New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices on Friday declined ₹145 to ₹38,925 per 10 gram in the national capital on weak global trends and a strong rupee, as per HDFC Securities. On Thursday, the precious metal had closed at ₹39,070 per 10 gram. Silver also lost ground and fell by ₹315 to ₹46,325 per kg from the previous close of ₹46,640 per kg. In the international market, gold was ruling lower at USD 1,488 an ounce and silver at USD 17.46 per ounce.

MMTC, Shipping Corporation of India and National Aluminium Company climbed.

Also, SAIL along with NBCC, NMDC, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, SJVN and Oil India also advanced.

“BHEL closed up by 22.2 per cent today as news emerged that government is looking to reduce its stake from 63.2 per cent to 26 per cent in the company. Based on the strategic stake sale news of BHEL, other PSUs such as Hindustan Copper, SAIL etc also rallied today in anticipation of government reducing its stake in them as well,” said Jaipal Shetty, fundamental analyst at Bonanza Portfolio.

Shares of Reliance Industries ended 1.37 per cent higher ahead of its quarterly earnings, scheduled to be announced later in the day.

RIL's market valuation zoomed to ₹9,05,214 crore on

the BSE during the day. However, at the close of trade, the company's market capitalisation (m-cap) settled at ₹8,97,179.47 crore.

Sectorally, among the top gainers were BSE power, capital goods, realty, utilities, metal and energy indices — rising as much as 2.63 per cent.

All 19 sectoral indices ended in the green. In broader market, BSE midcap, small-cap and largecap indices outperformed the Sensex.

“Indian equities outperformed major global markets for the week. Equity markets witnessed a sharp rally on foreign investor buying, progress in US-China trade talks as well as a deal being reached between UK and EU on Brexit,” said Sanjeev Zarbade, vice-president, PCG Research, Kotak Securities.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought equities worth USD 1.2 billion over the past

five trading sessions, while domestic institutional investors poured in USD 263 million into stock market.

FII's purchased 1,158.63 crore shares on Thursday, stock exchange data showed.

Market experts also said that investor sentiment was upbeat after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hinted at further stimulus in FY20.

Meanwhile, the rupee closed almost flat at 71.14 per US dollar on Friday amid hardening crude oil prices and lacklustre global cues.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.12 per cent to USD 59.98 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended on a negative note after data showed that Chinese economy expanded at its slowest pace in nearly three decades in the third quarter. Exchanges in Tokyo, however, settled in the green.

Equities in Europe were trading on a mixed note in their respective early deals.

Britain and the European Union 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.

Sebi lays down stricter norms for statutory auditors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Regulator Sebi on Friday put in place stricter norms for auditors, including prompt disclosures about reasons for their resignation and requirement to approach chairman of audit committee directly in case of any concerns with management of the firm concerned.

The norms have been issued against the backdrop of rising instances of auditors quitting companies as well as those of auditors coming under the scanner in connection with alleged financial irregularities at firms.

The circular on 'Resignation of statutory auditors from listed entities and their material subsidiaries' will come into force with immediate effect.

According to Sebi, resignation of an auditor of a listed entity before completion of the audit of financial results for the year due to reasons such as pre-occupation may seriously hamper investor confidence and deny them access to reliable information for taking timely investment decisions.

Coming out with the circular, Sebi has asked all listed entities and material subsidiaries to ensure that an auditor issues the audit report.

Levi's expands presence in small towns, strengthens base in metros

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premium denim company Levi Strauss & Co is expanding retail presence in small towns, which it considers as one of the pillars of growth in India, said a top company official.

Besides, the company is strengthening its base in metro and tier I cities by building larger stores.

“Our tier II, III & IV strategy is to continue to expand our reach to the consumer in the market. It's one of the critical pillars for expansion in the market and growth for India,” Levi Strauss Managing Director (South Asia, Middle East &

North Africa) Sanjeev Mohanty told PTI. According to him, small towns are “one of the key drivers” for the Indian market, which has large number of millenials.

Levi's premium assortments and collaborations as Hello Kitty, Super Mario Bros and special assortments as Levi's made and crafted would cater to metro markets. The company is registering a good growth in women's segment and expects this trend to continue.

Levi's brand, which is present in the country since 25 years, has a network of over 450 retail stores and most of them are operated by its franchise partners. The company has a

mixed omni channel retail presence here and is witnessing two to three times higher growth rate from online sales channels as the base is low and is attracting new set of customers.

When asked about the growth in the Indian market, he said Asian market grew around 12 per cent last year and India is keeping pace with that growth. “India is definitely among the top 10 markets globally and from volume point of view, we are among the top five markets,” he said.

According to Mohanty, earlier when the company started to expand, the focus was on tier I and top 20 cities only but now things are changing.

Sebi to auction Sai Prasad Group's 200 properties

New Delhi (PTI): Markets regulator Sebi on Friday said it will auction nearly 200 properties of Sai Prasad Group firms and three of its directors next month in order to recover funds worth thousands of crores raised by the entity through illicit collective investment schemes.

The regulator has been auctioning properties of the group's companies and their directors for the past two years. Besides, it has put up on sale, jewellery, ornaments and other valuables of Sai Prasad Group.

In separate notices, Sebi said it will auction 90 properties in Madhya Pradesh, 62 in Odisha and 46 in Maharashtra at a total reserve price of over ₹74 crore. The auction will be conducted

on November 22. The companies whose properties will be auctioned are Sai Prasad Corporation, Sai Prasad Properties and Sai Prasad Foods, while the directors are Balasaheb Bhapkar, Shashank Bhapkar and Vandana Bhapkar. The properties to go under the hammer include agricultural land, land parcels, office space and commercial premises across the three states.

The regulator has asked the intending bidders to make their own independent enquiries regarding the measurement, nature, type, classifications, encumbrances, litigations, attachments and liabilities of the properties put on auction.

| NIFTY 50 | | | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|--|
| SCRIP | OPEN | High | LOW | LTP | CHANGE | |
| NIFTY 50 | 11580.30 | 11684.70 | 11553.15 | 11661.85 | 75.50 | |
| YESBANK | 46.60 | 52.70 | 46.00 | 51.30 | 3.90 | |
| COALINDIA | 198.80 | 206.50 | 197.75 | 206.00 | 6.60 | |
| ADANIPORTS | 410.00 | 423.80 | 408.00 | 422.20 | 13.05 | |
| MARUTI | 7081.30 | 7450.00 | 7061.65 | 7350.00 | 226.10 | |
| GRASIM | 725.50 | 749.00 | 718.30 | 746.00 | 21.45 | |
| NESTLEIND | 14519.10 | 14943.35 | 14403.30 | 14900.00 | 383.15 | |
| POWERGRID | 197.70 | 203.25 | 197.00 | 202.50 | 4.80 | |
| LT | 1428.00 | 1457.00 | 1425.40 | 1452.00 | 27.65 | |
| BPCL | 510.00 | 534.90 | 506.75 | 523.00 | 9.70 | |
| TITAN | 1278.00 | 1305.00 | 1274.05 | 1301.25 | 24.20 | |
| NTPC | 118.80 | 121.50 | 118.40 | 120.90 | 2.20 | |
| INFRAEL | 256.80 | 263.00 | 254.00 | 261.55 | 4.60 | |
| SBIN | 264.00 | 271.35 | 263.20 | 269.20 | 3.75 | |
| RELIANCE | 1404.00 | 1427.90 | 1398.70 | 1416.00 | 19.50 | |
| TCS | 2037.50 | 2063.90 | 2025.00 | 2059.00 | 28.05 | |
| ONGC | 724.45 | 737.75 | 722.70 | 734.35 | 10.00 | |
| TECHM | 140.10 | 144.50 | 139.90 | 142.90 | 1.50 | |
| UPL | 591.00 | 603.50 | 588.50 | 598.00 | 6.05 | |
| VEDL | 148.40 | 152.20 | 147.80 | 149.75 | 1.45 | |
| BAJFINANCE | 410.00 | 419.00 | 408.00 | 413.90 | 32.20 | |
| HDFCBANK | 1225.45 | 1233.35 | 1220.35 | 1229.00 | 9.00 | |
| KOTAKBANK | 1603.80 | 1619.60 | 1591.00 | 1616.00 | 11.45 | |
| HEROMOTOCO | 2629.00 | 2662.05 | 2605.85 | 2645.00 | 15.80 | |
| GAIL | 128.30 | 130.40 | 127.80 | 129.50 | 0.75 | |
| TATASTEEL | 355.95 | 362.80 | 351.75 | 357.70 | 1.60 | |
| WIPRO | 247.85 | 250.70 | 247.85 | 248.80 | 0.95 | |
| HDFC | 2089.00 | 2102.00 | 2065.10 | 2096.00 | 6.25 | |
| BRITANNIA | 327.85 | 329.20 | 325.25 | 325.70 | 9.35 | |
| ULTRACEMCO | 4268.70 | 4363.00 | 4255.65 | 4272.20 | 11.75 | |
| ASIANPAINT | 1815.00 | 1824.45 | 1786.70 | 1816.80 | 4.50 | |
| ITC | 246.00 | 247.80 | 245.10 | 246.35 | 0.50 | |
| HINDUNILVR | 2100.00 | 2116.60 | 2090.70 | 2108.00 | 4.15 | |
| HCLTECH | 1094.05 | 1105.45 | 1088.40 | 1099.95 | 1.90 | |
| M&M | 508.80 | 595.50 | 583.60 | 594.20 | 0.90 | |
| AXISBANK | 709.85 | 715.70 | 705.25 | 710.35 | 0.50 | |
| INDUSINDBK | 1332.00 | 1361.70 | 1317.10 | 1338.50 | -1.60 | |
| SUNPHARMA | 401.00 | 406.50 | 397.50 | 400.95 | -0.55 | |
| DREDDY | 2720.00 | 2744.95 | 2710.05 | 2722.00 | -5.40 | |
| INFY | 763.80 | 773.80 | 760.00 | 767.50 | -2.00 | |
| JSWSTEEL | 222.10 | 225.20 | 220.30 | 222.15 | -0.80 | |
| BAJAJFINSV | 8316.00 | 8437.60 | 8230.00 | 8285.00 | -31.65 | |
| IOC | 146.10 | 148.20 | 144.75 | 145.55 | -0.85 | |
| BHARTIARTL | 384.95 | 386.40 | 380.50 | 383.30 | -2.55 | |
| BAJAJ-AUTO | 3119.00 | 3119.95 | 3075.00 | 3090.00 | -21.50 | |
| ICICIBANK | 437.70 | 443.70 | 435.25 | 437.10 | -3.50 | |
| HINDALCO | 187.95 | 191.35 | 186.65 | 186.85 | -1.95 | |
| EICHEMOTR | 20600.00 | 20680.00 | 20065.10 | 20226.15 | -265.70 | |
| CIPLA | 448.50 | 451.15 | 440.10 | 440.20 | -6.10 | |
| TATAMOTORS | 139.00 | 141.80 | 135.60 | 136.60 | -2.90 | |
| ZEEL | 248.30 | 262.75 | 239.55 | 249.70 | -14.75 | |

| NIFTY NEXT 50 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--|
| SCRIP | OPEN | High | LOW | LTP | CHANGE | |
| NIFTY NEXT 50 | 27665.20 | 28065.10 | 27605.50 | 28014.15 | 386.55 | |
| IBULHSGFIN | 108.00 | 259.95 | 196.50 | 235.20 | 37.25 | |
| NMDC | 196.95 | 110.50 | 102.70 | 109.80 | 7.60 | |
| HDFCAML | 2727.95 | 2927.85 | 2671.00 | 2886.00 | 168.75 | |
| PEL | 1460.00 | 1577.40 | 1443.00 | 1544.85 | 76.00 | |
| GICRE | 262.00 | 289.95 | 254.70 | 277.45 | 13.25 | |
| ASHOKLEY | 73.80 | 78.25 | 73.05 | 77.05 | 3.55 | |
| NIEL | 139.00 | 155.00 | 130.00 | 142.70 | 6.10 | |
| BERGEPAINT | 488.00 | 506.00 | 487.30 | 505.15 | 18.65 | |
| NHPC | 23.50 | 24.10 | 23.25 | 24.10 | 0.80 | |
| PPC | 95.20 | 98.50 | 94.90 | 98.10 | 2.95 | |
| DLF | 163.60 | 169.60 | 162.80 | 168.45 | 4.60 | |
| SBLIFE | 905.90 | 930.00 | 899.00 | 927.10 | 24.20 | |
| AUROPHARMA | 470.00 | 485.45 | 468.35 | 477.60 | 11.15 | |
| SRTANSR | 1062.10 | 1106.40 | 1058.10 | 1095.70 | 54.95 | |
| SHREECEM | 18304.00 | 18795.90 | 18220.10 | 18600.00 | 209.65 | |
| PNB | 58.90 | 60.70 | 58.50 | 60.35 | 1.30 | |
| HINDZINC | 213.10 | 218.00 | 212.00 | 216.10 | 4.55 | |
| LUPIN | 726.50 | 746.15 | 722.85 | 739.80 | 13.30 | |
| SIEMENS | 1625.35 | 1656.00 | 1620.20 | 1650.00 | 27.45 | |
| CONCOR | 599.00 | 620.40 | 595.20 | 609.25 | 9.85 | |
| BAJAJHLING | 3688.95 | 3745.00 | 3670.05 | 3744.70 | 58.55 | |
| IDEA | 6.35 | 6.60 | 6.25 | 6.40 | 0.10 | |
| PETRONET | 262.95 | 267.95 | 262.60 | 266.95 | 4.00 | |
| CADILAH | 236.80 | 242.90 | 236.70 | 241.30 | 4.50 | |
| PGHL | 11700.00 | 11998.00 | 11560.65 | 11850.00 | 156.20 | |
| MARICO | 387.75 | 392.90 | 385.50 | 392.50 | 4.95 | |
| BOSCHLTD | 14081.90 | 14389.00 | 14062.10 | 14170.05 | 175.60 | |
| ACC | 1535.80 | 1558.90 | 1528.00 | 1552.00 | 16.90 | |
| DIVISLAB | 1720.00 | 1742.60 | 1717.05 | 1741.00 | 18.05 | |
| ICICIPRULI | 472.50 | 478.00 | 467.20 | 477.15 | 4.65 | |
| COLPAL | 1535.00 | 1547.40 | 1528.95 | 1543.00 | 12.60 | |
| DABUR | 462.50 | 467.70 | 461.00 | 465.50 | 3.10 | |
| BANKBARODA | 88.90 | 90.85 | 88.15 | 89.55 | 0.55 | |
| BIOCON | 258.00 | 262.85 | 255.90 | 259.25 | 1.20 | |
| GODREJCP | 715.00 | 730.00 | 711.30 | 718.00 | 3.30 | |
| HAVELLS | 686.00 | 694.70 | 679.70 | 687.15 | 1.35 | |
| AMBUJACEM | 132.00 | 209.80 | 206.20 | 207.10 | 0.20 | |
| UBL | 208.25 | 135.00 | 130.40 | 132.30 | 4.80 | |
| ICICI | 120.50 | 126.40 | 123.10 | 124.95 | -1.00 | |
| DMART | 1918.00 | 1964.90 | 1936.00 | 1924.05 | -1.55 | |
| MCDOWELL-N | 632.40 | 644.80 | 631.80 | 634.00 | -1.45 | |
| HINDPETRO | 313.00 | 322.35 | 310.65 | 313.00 | -0.95 | |
| PAGEIND | 21480.00 | 21652.00 | 21210.00 | 21480.10 | -75.30 | |
| L&TFH | 86.00 | 86.50 | 83.75 | 85.15 | -0.45 | |
| PIDILITIND | 1360.00 | 1378.00 | 1344.00 | 1348.05 | -9.15 | |
| INDIGO | 178.00 | 174.80 | 170.65 | 172.40 | -12.25 | |
| OFSS | 3082.00 | 3129.80 | 3055.00 | 3064.00 | -26.20 | |
| HDFCLIFE | 615.70 | 616.50 | 607.00 | 607.75 | -0.40 | |
| MOTHERSUNI | 111.00 | 111.30 | 106.60 | 107.20 | -2.15 | |
| BANDHANBNK | 568.00 | 568.00 | 548.00 | 552.95 | -15.55 | |

Bse 500

| | Open | High | Low | LTP |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| HDFCAML | 2726.10 | 2926.95 | 2669.65 | 2882.20 |
| YESBANK | 46.80 | 52.30 | 46.00 | 51.40 |
| IBULHSGFIN | 197.35 | 245.45 | 196.65 | 231.50 |
| RELIANCE | 1403.10 | 1428.00 | 1399.70 | 1415.30 |
| ZEEL | 247.95 | 262.80 | 239.85 | 250.00 |
| BHEL | 49.00 | 57.60 | 49.00 | 54.45 |
| RBLBANK | 287.00 | 298.90 | 280.05 | 295.30 |
| TATAMOTORS | 140.00 | 141.80 | 135.55 | 136.70 |
| BAJFINANCE | 4120.00 | 4200.00 | 4082.80 | 4138.05 |
| MARUTI | 7105.00 | 7400.00 | 7062.95 | 7318.15 |
| SBIN | 264.50 | 271.20 | 263.50 | 269.65 |
| RATNAMANI | 945.50 | 945.50 | 901.25 | 920.00 |
| GESHIP | 283.00 | 298.00 | 283.00 | 290.00 |
| BAJAJFINSV | 8362.00 | 8440.00 | 8322.75 | 8263.95 |
| TATASTEEL | 355.65 | 362.60 | 351.80 | 359.90 |
| BPLCL | 510.10 | 534.90 | 506.60 | 520.25 |
| EICHEERMOT | 20550.15 | 20668.60 | 20036.85 | 20271.75 |
| FORTIS | 136.95 | 139.90 | 136.90 | 138.15 |
| ASHOKLEY | 74.30 | 78.20 | 73.20 | 72.90 |
| HDFCBANK | 1222.30 | 1233.85 | 1220.75 | 1229.20 |
| ADANIANT | 172.50 | 175.80 | 165.20 | 175.05 |
| INDUSINDBK | 1338.00 | 1361.00 | 1317.50 | 1341.65 |
| HINDUNILVR | 2100.00 | 2115.85 | 2091.00 | 2106.20 |
| ICICIBANK | 438.40 | 443.55 | 435.35 | 437.25 |
| JINDALSTEEL | 104.95 | 108.35 | 103.70 | 107.65 |
| INFY | 766.65 | 773.60 | 760.10 | 767.75 |
| PEL | 1467.95 | 1577.30 | 1443.25 | 1556.35 |
| MCX | 1000.00 | 1087.25 | 1000.00 | 1069.55 |
| KOTAKBANK | 1603.95 | 1618.95 | 1591.05 | 1615.45 |
| LT | 1428.00 | 1456.50 | 1425.80 | 1448.05 |
| TC | 2038.00 | 2064.00 | 2025.10 | 2057.35 |
| TVSMOTOR | 434.00 | 459.80 | 428.75 | 456.20 |
| AXISBANK | 710.90 | 715.20 | 705.70 | 709.60 |
| LFTSH | 86.70 | 86.70 | 83.80 | 85.35 |
| DLF | 163.50 | 169.50 | 162.85 | 168.80 |
| SAIL | 33.60 | 36.55 | 33.20 | 36.20 |
| NMDC | 107.95 | 110.00 | 102.75 | 108.90 |
| ULTRACEMCO | 4260.00 | 4363.80 | 4256.90 | 4295.50 |
| HINDUSTAN | 408.60 | 488.00 | 402.00 | 478.30 |
| UPL | 591.70 | 603.60 | 589.00 | 599.25 |
| UNIONBANK | 52.25 | 53.80 | 51.80 | 52.10 |
| BEL | 113.50 | 120.10 | 112.55 | 116.50 |
| VEDL | 148.30 | 152.15 | 148.00 | 150.10 |
| BANKBARODA | 89.45 | 90.80 | 88.10 | 89.75 |
| HDFC | 2095.00 | 2100.70 | 2065.00 | 2091.35 |
| NCC | 51.00 | 54.40 | 50.40 | 53.35 |
| SUNPHARMA | 401.60 | 406.40 | 397.80 | 401.40 |
| ITC | 246.50 | 247.75 | 245.00 | 246.50 |
| MANAPPURAM | 144.50 | 155.00 | 144.00 | 154.55 |
| BEML | 910.00 | 963.90 | 908.00 | 955.50 |
| SBIIFE | 905.05 | 930.00 | 898.95 | 925.90 |
| ADANIPOWER | 63.00 | 65.65 | 62.40 | 64.10 |
| JSWSTEEL | 223.90 | 225.05 | 220.65 | 223.15 |
| IDEA | 6.32 | 6.57 | 6.25 | 6.39 |
| 3MINDIA | 22110.05 | 23489.90 | 20750.00 | 21782.45 |
| COALINDIA | 199.00 | 206.50 | 197.50 | 205.95 |
| HINDPETRO | 313.50 | 322.45 | 310.80 | 313.90 |
| HDFCLIFE | 616.95 | 619.95 | 607.00 | 608.15 |
| APOLLOHOSP | 1484.05 | 1530.65 | 1484.05 | 1508.15 |
| MOTHERSUMI | 111.80 | 111.80 | 106.80 | 107.50 |
| DMART | 918.50 | 964.50 | 905.05 | 924.05 |
| BALKRISIND | 805.00 | 850.75 | 793.60 | 819.95 |
| FEDERALBNK | 84.70 | 84.80 | 83.50 | 84.60 |
| NIACL | 141.80 | 154.50 | 130.95 | 143.65 |
| BANKINDIA | 63.40 | 65.30 | 62.55 | 64.15 |
| ESCORTS | 647.30 | 655.50 | 644.30 | 650.25 |
| NBCC | 34.20 | 38.30 | 34.00 | 36.90 |
| COLPAL | 1534.95 | 1547.00 | 1528.85 | 1541.20 |
| BATAINDIA | 1751.00 | 1779.50 | 1738.10 | 1768.10 |
| GRANITE | 283.90 | 297.75 | 277.40 | 291.95 |
| IOC | 147.65 | 148.10 | 144.80 | 145.60 |
| TATAELXSI | 712.00 | 721.90 | 702.70 | 708.40 |
| PNB | 59.00 | 60.70 | 58.60 | 60.20 |
| HEG | 938.00 | 994.00 | 927.50 | 971.75 |
| AUROPHARMA | 472.75 | 485.10 | 468.95 | 476.60 |
| TATAMTRDV | 62.60 | 63.10 | 60.50 | 61.40 |
| NATIONALUM | 40.80 | 44.40 | 40.80 | 43.80 |
| NIITTECH | 1408.35 | 1449.00 | 1398.50 | 1434.70 |
| ASIANPAINT | 1812.95 | 1823.85 | 1788.70 | 1816.60 |
| HEROMOTOCO | 2629.00 | 2661.65 | 2609.00 | 2645.80 |
| SANOFI | 6120.00 | 6275.00 | 5925.00 | 6100.40 |
| TATAPOWER | 60.00 | 60.50 | 59.25 | 60.05 |
| JUSTDIAL | 607.00 | 635.90 | 605.80 | 634.25 |
| TATAGLOBAL | 280.50 | 285.25 | 275.70 | 281.90 |
| RNAM | 272.55 | 293.00 | 272.20 | 288.60 |
| LTI | 1523.00 | 1634.00 | 1523.00 | 1612.00 |
| M&M | 589.95 | 595.25 | 584.00 | 592.80 |
| ADANIPORTS | 410.00 | 423.75 | 408.45 | 421.70 |
| CIPAL | 448.15 | 450.80 | 440.10 | 443.80 |
| REDILIT | 124.80 | 131.00 | 124.50 | 130.40 |
| PCLITIND | 1362.00 | 1377.30 | 1343.50 | 1353.25 |
| ICICIGI | 1246.05 | 1264.85 | 1231.00 | 1243.85 |
| CANBK | 186.55 | 189.95 | 185.25 | 188.85 |
| INDIGO | 1731.00 | 1747.35 | 1706.60 | 1729.00 |
| MGL | 972.00 | 983.50 | 961.00 | 969.90 |
| GRMINFRA | 17.50 | 19.15 | 17.45 | 19.05 |
| GICRE | 263.95 | 290.10 | 255.00 | 278.90 |
| BAJAJ-AUTO | 3120.00 | 3123.45 | 3076.05 | 3087.75 |
| ABCI | 76.70 | 82.45 | 76.50 | 79.50 |
| TITAN | 1287.70 | 1305.00 | 1274.40 | 1300.60 |
| TORNTPOWER | 285.35 | 291.90 | 283.05 | 284.20 |
| LICHSGFIN | 384.00 | 392.00 | 377.00 | 384.80 |
| ONGC | 141.00 | 144.50 | 140.00 | 143.50 |
| LUPIN | 728.00 | 746.00 | 723.05 | 738.80 |
| DABUR | 414.50 | 428.65 | 411.40 | 466.90 |
| M&FMIN | 365.95 | 368.00 | 315.95 | 319.40 |
| NESTLEIND | 14510.00 | 14921.60 | 14392.35 | 14838.30 |
| ADANIGREEN | 88.75 | 93.50 | 88.05 | 89.70 |

Respect deal or will escalate op, warns Erdogan

Istanbul: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday warned that Ankara would restart its operation against Kurdish forces in Syria on Tuesday evening if they do not withdraw from a "safe zone".

After US Vice-President Mike Pence came to Ankara for talks with Erdogan on Thursday, the NATO allies agreed Turkey would suspend its offensive for five days in northern Syria while Kurdish fighters withdraw from the area.

"If the promises are kept until Tuesday evening, the safe zone issue will be resolved. If it fails, the operation... Will start the minute 120 hours are over," Erdogan told reporters during a foreign media briefing in Istanbul.

He said Turkish armed forces would remain in the region "because the security there requires this", adding that there had been no issues so far. But the Syrian Observatory

for Human Rights said Friday there were Turkish air strikes on the village of Bab al-Kheir, east of Ras al-Ain on the border. The war monitor said 14 civilians were killed.

Turkey launched the cross-border incursion on October 9 after repeatedly threatening to clear the border area from the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia.

The Turkish forces are supporting Syrian rebel fighters under the "Syrian National Army" banner but the proxies have been accused by Amnesty International of committing "war crimes" including summary executions.

Erdogan also condemned the abuses that some Syrian proxies are accused of committing during the offensive.

"Whoever commits such an act is no different from (the Islamic State group). We cannot accept such a thing," he said, adding that the army was investigating the claims. **AFP**

Sanctions on Turkey no longer necessary: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump has said that America's proposed economic sanctions on Ankara are no longer necessary after the US and Turkey struck a deal for a five-day cease fire in Syria.

As per the deal announced by Vice-President Mike Pence in Ankara on Thursday, Turkey will suspend its operations for 120 hours to allow Kurdish fighters to withdraw from a designated safe zone along the Turkish and Syrian border.

Protesting Turkey's military offensive in northeast Syria, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to slap sanctions against Turkish officials, raising of steel tariffs and ending negotiations on a \$100 bil-

lion trade deal.

"Sanctions won't be necessary because Turkey is doing what they're doing," Trump told reporters on Thursday as he congratulated his Turkish counterpart President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for reaching a deal with the United States.

"He's a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He's a strong man. He did the right thing. And I really appreciate it. And I will appreciate it in the future," Trump said, describing the cease fire as a great news.

Terming it as an incredible outcome, Trump said that Turkey had a legitimate problem on the 22 mile (34 kms) strip for many years. **PTI**

Deadly Turkey airstrikes shatter NE Syria truce

Tal Tamr: Deadly Turkish air strikes Friday shattered an hours-old US-brokered deal to stop Ankara's military offensive against Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria.

The ceasefire announced late Thursday was meant to provide a pause for the evacuation of Kurdish fighters from the battleground border town of Ras al-Ain and other areas Turkey wants to control along its border with Syria.

The five-day suspension looked designed to help Turkey achieve its main territorial goals without fighting but its Syrian proxies continued to clash with Kurdish fighters Friday and an airstrike killed 14 civilians.

"14 civilians were killed in

Turkish airstrikes on the village of Bab al-Kheir, east of Ras al-Ain," Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said. **AFP**

ERDOGAN SAYS KURDISH FIGHTERS WITHDRAWING

Ankara (Turkey): Turkey's president say Syrian Kurdish fighters are withdrawing from parts of northeast Syria. That follows a cease-fire agreement reached between Turkey and the United States a day earlier. Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul Friday that his country's defense minister confirmed that the Kurdish fighters had begun withdrawing. **AP**

Johnson returns to London to drum up support for Brexit deal

London: After winning the backing of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in London on Friday looking to secure enough support to get the deal through the fractious British Parliament.

Johnson returned from an EU summit in Brussels overnight for a busy day attempting to persuade lawmakers to ratify the divorce deal at a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament.

He was due to brief his Cabinet on Friday afternoon,

ahead of what's expected to be a knife-edge vote.

Johnson's Conservative Party holds only 288 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons, so he will have to rely on support from other parties and independent lawmakers to get over the line.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab started drumming up support early. "We've got a real opportunity now to get Brexit delivered faithful to the referendum, move on as a government, and I think as a country, and lift the clouds of Brexit," he

told the BBC. Raab said the Government has not given up hope of winning the support of its Northern Ireland ally, the Democratic Unionist Party, which has rejected the new deal. But the chances of that appeared slim.

The DUP's Brexit spokesman, Sammy Wilson, said Johnson's Brexit package — which carves out special status for Northern Ireland to keep an open border with EU member Ireland — is bad for his region and its bonds with the rest of the U.K. **AP**

Macron says does not want further Brexit delay

Brussels: President Emmanuel Macron declared on Friday that France does not want to see Britain's departure from the European Union delayed beyond October 31 now that a new divorce agreement has been reached. "I think the October 31 date should be respected. I don't think that new deadlines should be given. We need to end these negotiations and get on negotiating the future relationship," he said at an EU summit. On Thursday, EU leaders approved a Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiated between the EU and Johnson's Government to oversee Britain's departure. **AFP**

Blast at Afghan mosque kills 62 during prayers

Kabul: An explosion rocked a mosque in eastern Afghanistan as dozens of people gathered to offer Friday prayers, causing the roof to collapse and killing 62 worshippers, provincial officials said.

Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar, said the militant attack wounded 36 others.

He said it was not immediately clear if the mosque was attacked by a suicide bomber or some other type of bombing. "Both men and children are among those killed and wounded in the attack," he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but

both the Taliban and the ISIS group are active in eastern Afghan, especially Nangarhar province. Zahir Adil, spokesman for the public health department in Nangarhar Province, said 23 of the wounded were transferred to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and the rest were being treated in the Haskamena district clinic. The violence comes a day after a UN report said that Afghan civilians are dying in record numbers in the country's increasingly brutal war, noting that more civilians died in July than in any previous one-month period since the UN began keeping statistics. **AFP**

LEBANON PARALYSED BY NATIONWIDE PROTESTS OVER PROPOSED TAXES



An anti-Government protester makes victory sign, as he holds a Lebanese national flag and walks fire of tires that sits to block a road during a protest against Government's plans to impose new taxes in Beirut on Friday

Beirut: Nationwide protests paralysed Lebanon on Friday as thousands of demonstrators blocked major roads in a second day of rallies against the government's handling of a severe economic crisis and the country's political class they perceive as being corrupt. The protests are the largest Lebanon has seen since 2015 and could further destabilise a country whose economy is already on the verge of collapse and has one of the highest debt loads in the world.

'Most overrated general' Mattis takes swipe at Trump

New york: Former US defense secretary James Mattis said he was honoured to be the "world's most overrated general" in a swipe at his former boss Donald Trump who insulted him earlier this week.

At a gala charity dinner in New York on Thursday evening, Mattis told diners he had now "achieved greatness."

"I'm not just an overrated general. I am the greatest, the world's most overrated," he said.

"I'm honored to be considered that by Donald Trump because he also called Meryl

Streep an overrated actress," he said. "So I guess I'm the Meryl Streep of generals, and frankly that sounds pretty good to me," he said to laughter and applause at the annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation dinner.

The retired Marine general said he wasn't bothered by Trump's comments.

"Of course not, I earned my spurs on the battlefield... And Donald Trump earned his spurs in a letter from a doctor," Mattis said, in a jab at the medical condition which allowed Trump to avoid the Vietnam draft. **AFP**

Top White House official indicates Donald Trump withheld Ukraine aid

Washington: A top White House official found himself in the middle of a political storm after he indicated, only to walk back later, that President Donald Trump asked his administration to withhold nearly \$400 million in military aid to Ukrainian to further his political interests.

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney's during a White House briefing on Thursday suggested that the Trump Administration held up the military aid to Ukraine in part because the president wanted it to investigate an unproven conspiracy theory about Ukraine's involvement in the hack of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) server in 2016.

Mulvaney, however, later in evening recanted his remarks and accused the media of "misconstruing" his comments to advance a "biased and political witch-hunt" against President Trump.

Responding to a question

during the press conference, Mulvaney said, "Did (Trump) also mention to me in the past that the corruption related to the DNC server? Absolutely, no question about that. But that was it. That's why we held up the money."

"The look back to what happened in 2016 certainly was part of the things that he was worried about in corruption with that nation. And that is absolutely appropriate," Mulvaney said, suggesting that Trump wanted assistance with an ongoing investigation by the Justice Department. **PTI**

GOVT. OF BIHAR
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER,
BIHAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI
NO.1012 / Dated: 18.10.2019
Inviting Quotation

The reputed firms/registered contractor are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi for the year 2019-20
Quotation will be submitted upto **30.10.2019** till 3.00 pm and opened on **31.10.2019** at 3.30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi undersigned office has right to cancel quotation without any further information. Registration, Tin No., Pan No. and authorization fo firm/Registration paper here enclosed. Details information paper can be obtained from the office of the Resident Engineer Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi. Man power and cab registration certificate issue from Excise department must be enclosed.

| S. No | Particulars |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Annual repair and painting work of exterior surface of new wing building at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2019-20 |

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-cum-
Resident Engineer
Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi

COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT (PERFORMA)
Company Name: MANOCHA POLYMERS LIMITED
Regd. Office: K-93, UDYOG NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110041
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that share certificates of Manocha Polymers Limited having CINNo. U74899DL1985PLC020248 and its Registered Office at -93, UDYOG NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110041held in the name of following person as per detail given herein below have been lost or misplaced or stolen and a request for duplicate certificate in lieu thereof has been lodged with the said company by the respective member.

DETAIL OF LOST SHARE CERTIFICATES:

| S. No. | Folio No. | Name | Share certificate No. | Distinctive No. |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | D0104 | Dharm Chand Manocha | 5, 96-101 and 3442 | 41-51, 83851- 84150 and 57891 – 590060 |
| 2 | L0102 | LADHA RAM | 829 - 832 and 3486 | 120501 - 120700 and 983431 - 984830 |
| 3 | S02 | SATISH MANOCHA | 2, 9, 2118 to 2317, 2781- 2840, 3552 | 11-20, 3381 – 6890, 184951 – 194950, 218101 – 221100 and 1239591 – 1353830 |
| 4 | S03 | SURESH KUMAR | 7, 17 and 3553 | 61-70, 60001-70000 and 1353831 – 1423900 |
| 5 | D0105 | DAYAWANTI MANOCHA | 167 - 176, 3437 - 1426 and 3443 | 87401 - 87900, 146401 - 150400 and 590061 – 621560 |
| 6 | K0103 | Kaushalya Manocha | 197 to 206, 1027 to 1106 | 86901 to 89400, 130401 to 134400 |
| 7 | M0103 | MOHAN LAL | 3489 | 993231 - 894630 |
| 8 | S0131 | SONIA MANOCHA | 1518 to 1717 | 154951 to 164950 |
| 9 | 2/2 | SURESH RANI | 1267 to 1346 and 3550 | 142401 - 146400 and 1188351 - 1216350 |
| 10 | B01 | BRJU MANOCHA | 3, 10 and 1878 to 2117 | 21-30, 6691 – 10000 and 172951 to 184950 |
| 11 | R0101 | RAKESH KUMAR | 4, 108-111 and 2318 to 2517 | 31-40, 84451 – 84650 and 194951 to 204950 |
| 12 | S0133 | SHASHI SONI | 11 to 11A | 10001 to 30000 |

Members of the public are informed that said company will consider issuing duplicate share certificate (S) if no objection is received at its above registered office within 15 days of this notice after which no claim will be entertained by them.

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.
CIN: L15136UP1988PLC010084
Email id: rkumar@rampurfert.com
Regd. Off: Judges Bareilly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P.

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, the 14th November, 2019, at 4.00 P.M. at its Head Office: 319-A, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, inter alia, to consider, approve and adopt unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on September 30, 2019 pursuant to Regulation 33 of LODR.

The said information is also available on the Company's website at www.rampurfert.com and the same has been also sent to CSE and MSE to upload on their websites i.e. www.cse-india.com and www.mse.in respectively.

By order of Board
Sd/-
Place: New Delhi
Date: 18.10.2019
Anshuman Khatan
(Managing Director)

NOTICE REGARDING THE PROPOSED MORTGAGE

We hereby give public notice that we propose to accept the property comprised Entire Ground Floor (without roof / terrace rights) along with 30% undivided share including undivided proportionate ownership rights in the land underneath along with the rights to passage, easement and benefits built on property bearing no. 146, having land area measuring 200 Sq. Yards (i.e. 167.22 Sqm) excluding roof rights, situated in the approved free-hold colony known as Kirti Nagar, New Delhi area of Village Basai Darapur, Delhi, State Delhi belonging to Mr. Deepak Batra, residing at E-70, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi as security by way of mortgage by deposit of title deeds for the purpose of securing a loan. It is represented to us by him that the original prior deeds of his title deed(s), viz: Gift Deed registered as Document No. 3130, SR II, Janakpuri, New Delhi Sub Registrar's office have been lost irrecoverably. Therefore, we propose to accept the certified copy of the said document in respect of the above property for deposit. If anyone has any prior claim whatsoever over the said property he/she may prefer the same before us within Fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be taken that there is no subsisting encumbrance on the said property.

Dated this 17th day of October 2019
Sd/-
Federal Bank Ltd.
Branch: New Delhi / Paschim Vinar Branch Head

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED
Regd. Off.: OSE Commercial Block, Asset 5B, Aerocity, Hospitality, District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037
Tel: 91-11-46044604, **Email:** spv.ose.secretarial@gmail.com
CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649

(AUDITED HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)
(Amount in Rs in Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Half Year Ended 30.09.2019 (Audited) | Half Year Ended 30.09.2018 (Audited) | Year Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited) |
|---------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Total income from operations (net) | 34,691.11 | 30,980.67 | 60,403.10 |
| 2 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items) | 18,241.24 | 18,088.48 | 25,739.90 |
| 3 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items) | 18,241.24 | 18,088.48 | 25,739.90 |
| 4 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items) | 13,232.90 | 12,892.19 | 17,880.01 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 13,232.90 | 12,892.19 | 17,880.01 |
| 6 | Paid up Equity Share Capital | 1,813.45 | 1,813.45 | 1,813.45 |
| 7 | Reserves (excluding Debenture Redemption Reserve) | 53,684.57 | 41,903.65 | 44,658.45 |
| 8 | Net Worth | 116,185.02 | 99,178.88 | 109,590.15 |
| 9 | Paid up Debt Capital | - | 8,796.02 | 9,262.55 |
| 10 | Debt Equity Ratio | 2.46:1 | 2.86:1 | 2.43:1 |
| 11 | Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each) | | | |
| | 1. Basic: | 72.97 | 71.09 | 98.60 |
| | 2. Diluted: | 72.97 | 71.09 | 98.60 |
| 12 | Debenture Redemption Reserve | 60,687.00 | 55,461.78 | 63,118.25 |
| 13 | Debt Service Coverage Ratio | 1.52:1 | 1.24:1 | 1.41:1 |
| 14 | Interest Service Coverage Ratio | 1.46:1 | 1.08:1 | 1.10:1 |

Note:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly unaudited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the half yearly unaudited financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity. (URL of the filings).
b) The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on October 17, 2019.
c) Ratios have been computed as follows:
(i) Debt Equity Ratio =Paid up Debt Capital/Equity, where,
* Equity represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital and other equity
* Paid up Debt Capital represents long term and short-term borrowings excluding deferred payment liabilities and finance lease obligations.
(ii) Interest Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation / finance costs.
(iii) Debt Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation / [finance costs + net principal repayment of paid debt capital during the period/year].
(iv) Net worth represents Equity.
(v) Paid up equity capital represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital.
d) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (v) (e) of the Regulations 52(4) of the SEBI (Listings and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the NSE Stock Exchange (s) and can be accessed on the URL (specify URL).

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of
Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited
Sd/-
Sanjit Bakshi
Director
DIN - 00020852

Place: New Delhi
Date: 19.10.2019

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri New Delhi - 110058
Phone : 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044
e-mail: leagal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com Website : www.kangrabank.com

APPENDIX IV
[See rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under the Security sation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated: 13-07-2018, calling upon the borrower and mortgagor Sh. Jagbir Singh S/o. Sh. Jeet Singh, R/o. H.No. 11/1125, Top Floor, Right Side, Govind Puri, New Delhi-110019 and also at M/s Samrat Car Rental, Shop No.38, Mini Market, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being ₹10,30,120/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Thirty Thousand One Hundred Twenty only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.
The above mentioned borrower/mortgagor/surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the Bank has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules, on this 15TH Day of October 2019.
The borrower/mortgagor/surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of ₹10,30,120/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The property under consideration is built up two Right Side Terrace of 3rd. Floor, area measuring 75 sq. yds.

All the part and parcel of the built up property right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor). Consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dinning, One kitchen, two toilet/ bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, Gali No.11, out of khasra no.93, Measuring 75 sq. yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.), out of total Measuring 150sq. yds., situated at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019.

All the part and parcel of the built up property right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor). Consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dinning, one kitchen, two toilet/bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, Gali No.11, out of khasra no.93, Measuring 75 sq. yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.), out of total Measuring 150 sq.ydtrs., situated at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. Falling under the Registration of Sub-Registrar-V, New Delhi.

(MEENAKSHI VATS)
AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.

DELHI.
DATED: 15-10-2019.



RANVEER SINGH

Simone has a unique creative expression as a designer. She's also been one of my closest friends since childhood. I wanted to support and celebrate her breakthrough moment in the world of fashion. We share fond memories of growing up together, and it makes me immensely proud to be a small part of her achievements.



TAAPSEE PANNU

I would like to urge people to give an equal chance to films led by females, because only that will initiate change. Until now, we (female actors) get five to 10 per cent payment as compared to the male actors, because audience prefers watching films led by them. I request the audience to help us achieve equality.



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

It is not just in Hindi cinema, but also with the people living in an urban setup who have been caste-blind. Discrimination is so rampant in rural India, that it is disheartening to even witness it. With the response *Article 15* received, I think the Indian audience is now more open to such films.



SOPHIE CHOUDRY

Fitness is a huge part of my life. I think the most important message I want to get across through *Work It Up* is that fitness is not just about being skinny or having six pack abs. It is about your lifestyle, physical and mental health. Just because of my health and wanting to feel good and fit, I do a lot of stage shows as a singer.



PRIYANKA CHOPRA

Elsa is a fictional character who's known to be strongly-opinionated and level-headed, traits that I deeply connect with. This not only made me want to be part of the film *Frozen 2*, but also gives me a wonderful opportunity to present one of the most-successful animated films to our local audiences.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

Full circle

For anyone growing up in the 80s, actor, director, painter, photographer and writer DEEPTI NAVAL was an intrinsic part of the cinematic collage, says SAIMI SATTAR

The warmth of the laughter when you mention Deepti Naval's past co-stars is hard to miss even over the slightly erratic phone line which connects the two metros — the capital and the millennial city. But then, Ms Chamko, as she came to be popularly known after *Chashme Baddoor* (1981) was the quintessential girl next door with her sunshine smile and cheerful demeanour. However, the celebrated actor, painter and photographer, who was last seen in the web series, *Made in Heaven*, avers, "I was not the girl next door in real life. I was a New Yorker where I had gone to college and graduated in Arts as my major subject. I was running around theatre at Broadway and Museum of Modern Art and living in the neighbourhood of Andy Warhol. The sweet image was something that cinema created as this was the kind of girls people wrote about at that time. There was nothing dynamic where the female characters were strong, bold, dynamic and confident. I never got to play anything that came close to my own persona."

However, Naval who recently got the Excellence in Cinema Award at the 21st Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, does agree that actors who were a part of the parallel cinema at that time weren't victimised as much by the division between good and bad characters, something that plagued commercial cinema. "We still got to experiment with the characters that came our way. My very first film, *Ek Baar Phir* was in the grey zone." She played Kalpana, a girl married to a film star, who falls in love with a struggling painter. "The fact that my character has second thoughts about what she was doing and whether it was morally right staying in a marriage of convenience rather than



being with the man she loved, certainly fell in the realm of a grey area. For that matter, the three of us — Shabana (Azmi), Smita (Patil) and I had no qualms about playing those roles. It was a really good time and you reminded me of it," she laughs, her voice taking on a tenor which can be described as richer as she looks back nostalgically. "We discussed each other's roles. Smita was a dear friend. And then there were the directors like Basuda (Bhattacharya), Hrishda (Hrishikesh Mukherjee) and so many more," she says.

Talking of the old times with Naval naturally brings up the name of Farooq Shaikh, with whom she was seen frequently in the early part of the eighties in films like *Katha* (1982), *Saath Saath* (1982) besides *Chashme Buddoor*. Naval remembers, "He was one of the most delightful and adorable co-actors to work with and had a great sense of humour even though he always made people laugh at my expense. He was a sensitive actor and somebody who continued to encourage me and tell me my strong and weak points. He often said, 'Dips, for that is what he called me, you have it in you. Please take your work more seriously.'" But the mention of Shaikh seemed to have

opened another floodgate of memories. "There was Sanjeev Kumar in *Angoor* and Naseeruddin (Shah) in *Katha*. I love the way I am positioned in the film and the way I was working with the two best actors of the time. It was lovely," she adds.

A remake of *Chashme Buddoor* was released in 2013 but she feels that most old films which are recreated are a let down. "Though I encouraged it because David Dhavan is a dear friend but I didn't watch the whole film as it couldn't hold me. I didn't want to wash off the impact of our very original, adorable one," she says.

Since content, which was hitherto considered parallel, has now become mainstream, does Naval feel that this is a better time to be a part of cinema? "Definitely. Today there is a much wider audience for these subjects. We wanted to do so much more but we were always faced with the question whether it will work at the box office or not. But having said that, the films and the subjects were a record of that time and documented it. Today when I see these subjects and the way these films works, we too would have loved to be watched by millions rather than thousands. And I want to be a part of this scheme of things where you can



work on experimental subjects in a much interesting way and for a much larger audience," she says. Naval, who directed Manisha Koirala in *Do Paise Ki Dhoop*, *Chaar Aane Ki Baarish*, has three subjects

that she is looking at helming. "I will float around the ideas and see which one we can raise the money for," she says.

As an actor, Naval sprung a surprise in *NH10* (2015) where she played a Sarpanch, who gets her daughter killed for marrying outside caste, a strange combination of an empowered woman who is intensely regressive. "I didn't see it coming either," she says and laughs.

Even though most people talk about Naval in terms of her association with cinema, she is also a celebrated writer, painter and a photographer. She believes that it was ingrained in her from her childhood as her mother was a painter and her father, a writer. "In my childhood my dad would insist that I read books and my mother would make me sit down on the dining table and teach me to sketch. I inherited it and it depends on how you take it forward," she says.

All of them play an important part in her being. "These are my observations of life. It can only happen when you have a feel for these things. It is not something that you can acquire. It resides within you. I always felt a creative urge to express myself in one way or another. Writing and painting has been with me since my school days. Photography came in college

when I studied the subject."

Naval says that all of these ran parallel in her life. "There were a lot of times, when someone asked me if I had given up acting, during an exhibition at the Jehangir Art Gallery. But there was no concept in my head of having giving up one thing for the other," says Naval.

For her, all of the arts that she practises are deeply connected. "I remember shooting for a film called *Main Zinda Hoon* with Sudhir Mishra and I was so impacted by it that I was reliving a phase of my personal experience on camera. In the film's climax, I land up in a mental asylum and hallucinate that I am talking to my father. But it was real for the character. I went back home and painted that phase of mine where I am sitting, wrapped up in my own world communicating with my father who was long dead and gone," she says and goes on to talk about another work, *Black wind*, which was a painting first and later became a poem. "It came from a very intense personal experience. I had furiously scribbled down my thoughts and then made the painting. But I felt that it didn't convey enough and went back to the notes and wrote the poem," she explains.

Similarly, she visited a mental institution to do homework for a script that she was working on about an actress who has to play a mentally disturbed character. "I came back and wrote 24 poems on women in mental asylums. If you know my work, you would connect the loose ends. It might not happen immediately but several years down the line," she says.

It as on account of her writing and interest in arts that Naval shared a deep and abiding connect with the firebrand writer Amrita Pritam whom she also portrayed on stage in *Ek Mulaqat* where she was cast with Shekhar Suman who played the role of poet Sahir Ludhianvi. She recalls, "I held her in high esteem. Amritaji's work was always very fascinating as she was ahead of her time. She was the sole woman's voice in Punjabi poetry which was dominated by male Sufi poets. She wrote unabashedly about female experience. It was nothing sensational but the fact that she wrote blatantly and boldly at that time made it so. She was a deep thinker. I knew her personally and I was very fond of her. On every single trip that I made to Delhi I visited her where she would be sitting or reclining on her bed and chatting while she smoked her cigarette and talked about life. In the play, I tried to remain as close to her as possible. When people who saw me said that '*aapne Amritaji ko zinda kar diya*,' that was the best compliment."

Naval believes that Pritam had a great love story between her and Imroz that she hugely admires. Naval says, "For the play they chose the relationship with Sahir, which was also very intriguing and interesting between two talented writers. They had a shared sentiment in language, so the mutual fascination was there for a long time."

Just the way we share a fascination for a certain doe-eyed Ms Naval.

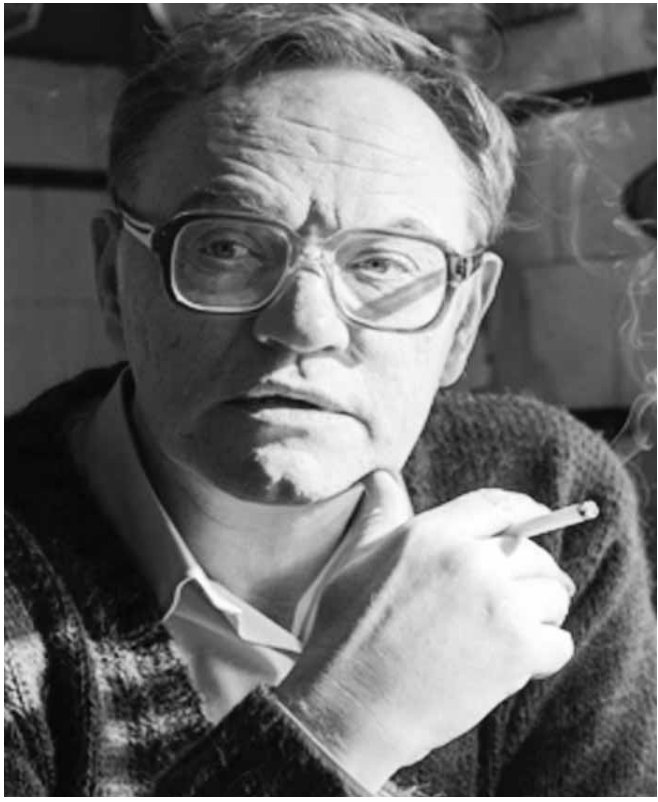
CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES

❑ How did you manage to follow even the smallest details in the script, keeping intact its authenticity? How did you get into the character?

The desire for authenticity was there right from the beginning. It was there in the script as well as in the research that Craig (Mazin) did. It was also there in the desire to not to sensationalise the story. For instance, one of the first interactions I had with the team was when I went for the costume fitting. It was pretty obvious that vanity fair was not going to do a photoshoot on *Chernobyl*. There was no re-tailoring of anything of it. We had the costume assistant who was a Russian and had worked in the industry in the Soviet Union. The material was really thick so it sort of hung off you like a canvas tent. They had someone who made sure that the glasses were functional. In terms of the details, dressing, production design and everything, in the episode five, which is centered around a trial where they are trying to blame the whole thing on human error, nothing wrong with the organisation or the design of the reactors. So there's a big show trial. And the photographs of that which you can see online and there's even some footage from it — it was eerie. So yes, the feeling of authenticity was really important and I am sure that is the reason why they went for an European director. They went for Johan Renck who has an amazing eye.

Deleted pages of history

Actor JARED HARRIS says that it was the first time that he portrayed a real character in *Chernobyl*, for which the research didn't turn out to be as helpful. By TEAM VIVA



You see a real visual flair without it being sensationalised. It took five months to shoots all the five episodes.

❑ In that time, how hard was it to go home at night? Do you let it go? Do you kind of wallow in that for five months?

There's no time for wallowing because you've got something enormous the next day. I mean, as soon as something's finished, there's a sort of relief. You get that off your plate. And then you're looking ahead. During the days you're shooting something, if you've got some time off, you're already trying to make sure that you're going to be ready for what's coming down the line.

❑ There were no light scenes that can give you a break. How did that go for you?

Yes, I asked for some comedy. I did. I made a pitch to Craig. I said, you know, Russians have a very good sense of humour. And he said 'no, no jokes for you.' He can even write funny but he didn't want to. I really wanted some comic element. All he gave me was one joke.

❑ How difficult was it for you to prepare for a role like that?

Well, I was playing a real person and when you play a real character, there's so much information out there — books and videos. But my character, the Soviets had, quite successfully, cut out of the story. They threatened to erase him from the history. And so, in a lot of the books that I read, he wasn't even mentioned. This was probably the first time that I have played a historical character where the research wasn't really that helpful. Craig had a different thing in mind because the character I play is in contrast to Stellan's (Skarsgard) character. I needed to occupy a different space. In real life, what I observed about Legasov was that he had kind of Slavic Soviet swagger about him. He was an alpha male and projected confidence and that was exactly what Stallan's character was. So I had to find something different to serve the narrative. You do all your research but in the end you're not going to play your research, you're going to play what the script demands. And the writer has made decisions on the story. You play the version of the character that the writer has written for you. And that makes for some tense shooting days.

(Chernobyl will premiere on Star World with a special play of back to back episodes on October 20 at 12 pm.)

‘Entertainment happened by chance’

Fiction and reality TV shows, music videos, films and web series, actor Hina Khan has done it all. But showbiz wasn't a planned move. She says entertainment happened by chance and the journey has been wonderful so far. She was part of one of the longest running TV shows, *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*. She again won the audience's hearts when she got in the reality shows space with *Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi* and *Bigg Boss*. Her film *Lines* took her to the prestigious Cannes Film Festival this year.

"Entertainment happened by chance to me and the journey so far has been wonderful. My dream is to continue growing as an actor, to transcend boundaries and work on projects which are across the world," Hina said.

Her dreams are clearly coming true as she has taken the next step in the international market by signing an Indo-American film, which is based on HG Wells' novel, *The Country of the Blind*.

"I had never thought of becoming an actor and when my first show happened, it wasn't a plan. I went with the flow and the rest of course followed," said Hina, who has bagged a film by filmmaker Vikram Bhatt.

Bollywood or not, she says she is here to entertain. "Give me a good challenge as an actor and I shall lap it up," said the actor, whose negative avatar in the show *Kasautii Zindagii*



Kay was loved by many.

She also has an interest in doing something in the fitness space. "Fitness is a part of my life and hence doing anything related to it, comes naturally to me. I would love to do something in the fitness space soon but as of now, nothing is there in the pipeline," said she.

—IANS

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

PRACTICAL LIVING



For GAURI KHAN, usage of recycled materials and handmade products to make high-end and luxurious designs will continue to be the ultimate decor trend. Sustainable practices and use of renewable resources are here to stay, she tells TEAM VIVA

❖Designers have a constant role of making changes in their designs as trends vary with every season. How do you keep yourself updated with the latest decor trends and handle the pressure? What keeps you going?

The execution of good design is an art by itself. So, in that regard, I think learning the art of design and honing your skills consistently in that area is extremely valuable. Also, with experience, you tend to understand people's minds better. As you travel more, experiences in life equip you to design multiple spaces for people from different backgrounds.

I think most women are masters at juggling roles, be it at work or on the personal front. For me personally, the key is to maintain a certain degree of discipline and also having a supportive partner like Shah Rukh, who makes it easier to handle the pressure.

❖How do Indian aesthetics inspire you?

The sheer variety of culture, art and handicraft changes every few kilometres in a country like India, so what could be more inspirational! India could easily have multiple luxury brands coming out of here, especially since we have excellent craftsmanship. However, I feel the ecosystem around promoting these arts and craftsmen is not adequate enough.

In fact we at Gauri Khan Designs did a project with local Indian artisans called Tattvam, which I am very proud of. It was our collection for Jaipur rugs, designed in collaboration with women weavers of Rajasthan. In January 2018, it was displayed at Maison & Objet, Paris. The weaving traditions have been kept alive by these women. It's so wonderful and exciting to be part of a project that champions both women empowerment and our Indian heritage.

❖Indians are increasingly becoming comfortable with global trends and styling. Has it impacted your work ethics?

India is among the most difficult markets for design because there are vastly different tastes to cater to. However, due to extensive travel and experiences around the globe, Indians are exposed to many more



design elements and are open to more experimentation. So, it's an exciting time to be in the design space as you are constantly learning an evolving with your clients, it's a dynamic process and we have worked with local and Indian designers to cater to our clients tastes.

❖How would you define your credo?

We don't just focus on interiors but on design as a broader concept. At the AD Design Show 2019, our aim is to showcase that our design philosophy can be applied to all areas of life. This includes extending my design philosophy to interiors and commercial spaces like retail outlets, restaurants, spas and turnkey projects. Apart from this we also do product designs, branding, endorsements, working with international designers and collaborations with local craftsmen. We have managed to execute multiple projects all over the country and I want to continue to showcase this kind of variety through our work. This year will be showcasing our premium range of furniture which is new line being launched at the show, different from the range we showcase at the store and will be available online at gaurikhan.in.

❖Where are the trends heading in 2020?

As we enter a new decade, one of the biggest trends seen in the design industry is the usage of recycled materials and handmade products to make even the most high-end and luxurious designs. Sustainable practices and renewable resources have been the focus of the design

industry of late and it's a very positive trend.

❖How do you strike a balance between following your aesthetics and factoring in the clients' brief as well, while transforming spaces?

Being a designer is tougher than it appears, people entrust you with their properties just on the basis of your vision, without any tangible evidence of what you are going to do. To be able to deliver something excellent, not just satisfactory, to a client is my goal and that's what keeps me going.

Design comes to me naturally and instinctively but I did spend a lot of time honing my skills, whether it was designing our own homes and properties to collaborating with friends and then venturing out by myself. Since most of my learning happened on the job while dealing with people from all backgrounds I have a certain sense of comfort and confidence while designing for my clients which brings in that balance.

❖If you want to transform the entire set-up with just one thing, what would it be?

Honestly depends on the set-up, as one needs to know what is missing. But I think a signature piece of furniture, the right kind of lighting or the right pop of wall colour can make all the difference.

❖What's the 2019's trend of the year?

I think practical pieces that adorn your space with an element of design is a great trend. Things with utility don't necessarily have to look boring.

WALKTHROUGH 15 MINUTES



Through Salinger's eyes

A library exhibit offers a glimpse into the author's life and work

As he worked on early drafts of *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel which proved both scandalous and life-changing, JD Salinger considered adding his generation's idea of a trigger alert.

"I think there's going to be a lot of swearing and sexy stuff in this book," warns narrator Holden Caulfield, in a paragraph on page 18 of Salinger's manuscript, part of an upcoming exhibition at the New York Public Library. "I can't help it. You'll probably think I'm a very dirty guy and that I come from a terrible family and all"

"The trouble is," Holden adds, "everybody swears all the time. And everybody's pretty sexy." Salinger apparently changed his mind. He drew a large X through the passage and wrote "delete" in the margins. Starting in 1951, when the book was published, millions of readers would discover the truth for themselves.

The library exhibit, titled *JD Salinger*, opens Friday and runs through January 19 at the historic Fifth Avenue branch in Manhattan. It continues a surprisingly eventful centennial for Salinger, who died in 2010 and avoided publicity for much of his writing life. His literary estate approved new print editions for the first time in decades of the four books he allowed to come out in his lifetime — *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Franny and Zooey*, *Nine Stories* and *Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction*. And for the first time ever, the literary estate authorised e-book editions.

In announcing the exhibit, his son, Matt Salinger, cited the public's lasting curiosity. "When my father's long-time publisher, Little, Brown and Company, first approached me with plans for his centennial year my immediate reaction was that he would not like the attention," Matt Salinger wrote. "He was a famously private man who shared his work with millions, but his life and non-published thoughts with less than a handful of people, including me. But I've learned that while he may have only fathered two children there are a great, great many readers out there who have their own rather profound relationships with him, through his work, and who have long wanted an opportunity to get to know him better."

Drawing upon archives made available by Matt Salinger, the exhibit is not the tell-all that some fans might have wanted. There are no unreleased novels or stories, and no images of Salinger's widow, Colleen Salinger, or of the mother of Salinger's two children, Claire

Douglas. His affair in the early 1970s with author Joyce Maynard, a college student when he befriended her, is not mentioned. But the library does offer an eclectic, revelatory and sometimes quirky range of materials, from a Royal manual typewriter to a bowl Salinger made as a boy to videocassettes of Marx Brothers comedies and other films he liked to watch. A bookcase from his bedroom includes *The Oxford Book of Detective Stories*, a collection of Robert Browning poems and three volumes on *Zen and the Zen Classics*, reflecting his immersion in Eastern religion and philosophy. Letters to his literary representatives document his immersion in the publishing process.

Declan Kiely, the library's director of special collections and exhibitions, said that the materials on display demonstrated Salinger's "meticulousness, possibly bordering on the obsessive," although "obsessive in a good way."

Salinger's career as an author is captured through clippings of his early stories, manuscripts, copies of his books and letters to his publishers. A working draft of *Franny and Zooey* was titled *Ivanoff the Terrible*, subtitled, *An Ontological Comic Drama With a Little Morning Music*, and included an opening section which apparently refers to his years as a counter-intelligence officer in Europe during World War II. (Salinger fans had long wondered whether *Ivanoff* was a separate, unreleased book).

The one-room library exhibit tracks Salinger's life. There are childhood photos and images from his military service, many highlighting his dark eyes, extended jaw and the hint of a Holden-like smirk. Pictures from the 1960s and 1970s with his children, Matt and Margaret, capture Salinger in middle age, in rural Cornish, New Hampshire. A handful of shots show him in old age. After Salinger's death, an old friend from the military, John L. Keenan, wrote to Matt, telling him about his father's horrifying experiences, which led to his being hospitalised after the war.

"He was among the first American troops to enter Paris, as well as with the first American to cross the German border at the Siegfried Line. He endured the hardship and perils of the battles of the Bulge and the Ardennes forest," Keenan's letter reads. "Though like the rest of us, not happy to be there, he accepted his 'lot' and did more than what was expected of him. He was brave under fire and a loyal and dependable partner. On many occasions in the course of an assignment, although pinned down by artillery, machine gun or small arms fire, he did what had to be done."

"I admired him then and I grieve for him now." —AP



FOOD 'O' CLOCK 20 MINUTES

No matter how much one relishes world cuisine and its impeccable delicacies, when it comes to the most comforting food, it's always Indian. Model-turned-chef Sarah Todd believes so too. She was much loved by the Indian audience when she cooked the country's favourite household dish *Aloo Gobi* during one of her tasks in season 6 of *MasterChef Australia*.

However, she says that the cuisine still hasn't become a global favourite. "I honestly feel like the world hasn't seen enough of Indian food. I think it should take the centrestage. It has such a rich culture and diversity that the world needs to see it. The many healthy and nutritious facets in Indian cooking haven't really been presented. Traditional Indian cooking is definitely on the rise, globally. It's already becoming well-known for some of its signature favourites but the rest of Indian palate needs to reach the world."

Sarah, who recently launched three restaurants in India — Antares in Goa, The Wine Company in Gurugram, NCR, and The Wine Rack in Mumbai — tells us how she curated the menus for all the three restaurants. "Location is the first aspect I take into consideration. In Goa, we are very focussed on seafood, very tropical and fresh. In Mumbai, again seafood is prevalent to some extent but since it's a metro city, the dishes need to reflect that as well. So we went a little bit more premium with the fact that it's The Wine Rack. Delhi obviously needs a bit of the typical North Indian influence. We have kept that in mind too. I feel like when we are curating the menus, it's

Celebrity chef SARAH TODD says that the world hasn't yet seen enough of Indian cuisine, which is so rich and diverse. While signatures and favourites might have become well-known, regional cooking needs more exposure. By TEAM VIVA

really important to be inspired by the local influences and your surroundings," says the chef, who recently embarked on CRED's four-city tour in the country in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Bengaluru.

So what are the essential elements that she keeps in mind while working? For Sarah, it's important to always find a "way to connect with the audience" whether it's through nostalgia, a new technique, an ingredient or the cooking style. She adds, "I need to find just a few Indian elements for the plate and it can come by blending various modern techniques as well, for instance the classic style of French cooking."

Well, one of her most important influences for her cooking has been travelling across the world and trying various cuisines — both known and unknown. "I just feel that experiencing food from all over the world and trying home food is something that I am really passionate about. I feel that has been the most major influence on my cooking and even my son. He made me think about food from a nutritious point of view. It made me realise that if I want my son to eat healthy food, it has to be tasty as well. So I learnt



how to make healthy as well as tasty food all in one," she says.

Some learnings she also credits to *MasterChef*, the biggest being how to balance a dish, which is due to the constant pressure contestants face at the competitive kitchen. She explains, "So you have to think on your feet. I figured out a way to balance a dish. There are three main aspects that I think usually about. First, balancing flavours and making sure that all the flavours — sweet, tangy, sour and salty — are perfectly layered. Second, textures. In the kitchen,

they always want something crunchy, which they can bite into, and yet it should be smooth so that it melts in your mouth. Third, it should visually appeal. Your dish should look beautiful because you first eat with your eyes. It's the first sense that hits the dish."

There have been many countries and cultures around the world which have recreated *MasterChef* in their own languages and versions. However, the Australia one has been the most successful of all. Sarah believes that it's because of its

multi-cultural aspect. "Australia is a multi-cultural country. When it comes to the variety of dishes, they come from all over the world. This is what appeals to people. Many different styles of cooking and various cuisines has definitely played a huge part in the show's success," she says.

Sarah's journey has been quite a dynamic one. For instance, she has transitioned from being a model to a mother to a *MasterChef* contestant to an author (*The Healthy Model Cookbook*) and then to a chain-

restaurant owner in India. Her stint as a model too has influenced her cooking in many ways. "As a model, people think that they don't eat but it's absolutely untrue. I have been a model for 10 years and I have constantly looked for ways to prepare dishes that are healthy, nutritious and tasty. I used to experiment a lot. I certainly cooked a lot when I was modelling. And travelling and living at so many places, experiencing different cultures also benefited," adds she.

However, the connection with understanding food wasn't new for Sarah. It had a link with her childhood. She says, "We didn't have a lot of money while we were growing up so with our Christmas presents, we used to make huge cookie jars to give to all our families and friends. We used to put a lot of time and effort into it. One year, we decided to buy only presents and not add the cookie jars. I got really upset. It was our favorite gift. It made me realise that food is a strong influence and could be a very emotional gift for someone."

Apart from cooking, modelling and writing, Sarah's favourite pass-time activities are to spend time with her family, eating and travelling.

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes Manchester United will turn their floundering fortunes around, but wants to make sure they have to wait at least another week to do so.

Klopp's men travel to Old Trafford tomorrow already 15 points ahead of their rivals just eight games into the campaign.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has called on his side to rise to the challenge of facing the European champions, citing it as the "perfect game" to motivate his struggling side.

Klopp has sympathy for Solskjaer's view, but he is confident of winning for the first time at Old Trafford as Liverpool boss.

"I don't think there are a lot of teams who would love to play against us at the moment. It looks like Man Utd is the only team that wants to play us, and we have to make sure that is a misunderstanding," said Klopp on Friday.

"I would do the same if the situation was the other way around. This is the game we can change the world, that is the way I would prepare it.

"They are in a situation that they don't like and they want to change it. We just have to make sure that if they want to change it, they start a week later and that's all."

United will be without the injured Paul Pogba and David de Gea, while Anthony Martial and Aaron Wan-Bissaka remain doubts.

And Klopp expects the Red Devils to improve once they get a number of key players back.

"They had a lot of injuries," he added. "A number of really decisive players for them. No one can play the same football when five or six first-team players are out. That will change."

By contrast, Liverpool could head to Old Trafford with a clean bill of health, with goalkeeper Alisson Becker set to return for the first time since the opening weekend of the season, while Joel Matip and Mohamed Salah have recovered from knocks.

"There are two more sessions to come from this afternoon and we have to see," said Klopp on whether all three will start. "Then we'll make decisions, that's how it is. Nothing is fixed."

'MATCH CAN SPARK REVIVAL'
Meanwhile, Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes

Suffer a little longer

Klopp keen to make Red Devils wait for turnaround



Manchester United defenders Luke Shaw and Victor Lindelof celebrates as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah reacts after end of Premier League match AP/File Picture

Nothing to lose in title race: Virgil

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have nothing to lose in the Premier League title race despite amassing an eight-point lead after just eight games, according to defender Virgil Van Dijk.

The European champions are in pole position to end a 30-year wait to win a league title, but Van Dijk believes the pressure is still on Manchester City to win the league for a third straight year.

"I don't think we have anything to lose," Van Dijk told *Sky Sports* ahead of tomorrow trip to Manchester United.

"Man City are the champions, they're defending their title and we want to get it. In my point of view, we just have to go for it.

"We definitely need to enjoy it and be full of confidence, especially with the way we've got these points, having not had the best games but still getting the wins."

City's shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves have allowed Liverpool to surge ahead thanks to their perfect start to the season.

However, Van Dijk remains wary of Pep Guardiola's men, who overturned a seven-point deficit to pip

Liverpool to the title by a point last season.

"There are so many games left, you can't really think about it (winning the title) — it's not realistic," added the Dutch captain.

"I don't watch Man City's games but I have family and friends who text me or say something, especially after the Wolves game.

"That's just part of life but we've learnt from last year that we don't have to look to the others until the end of the campaign. So far, we have been doing well but Man City are definitely not going away."

the visit of rivals Liverpool could help galvanize his struggling side to pull themselves out of their alarming slump.

The difference in current fortunes between English football's two most successful clubs could not be greater, with Liverpool top of the table after eight wins out of eight and also on a run of 17 consecutive league victories, while United have made their worst start to a season for 30 years.

If results go against them today, United could even be teetering just above the relegation zone by the time they kick off tomorrow, but Solskjaer is bullish.

"They're doing well in the league that's for sure but we're looking forward to this game," said the Norwegian on Friday.

"This is a perfect game for the players and the fans. We've had a tough time and a difficult time lately but I am sure we will give them a good game,"

United have just nine points from their first eight league matches of this season and are currently 12th in the table.

Stretching back to Solskjaer's permanent appointment in March, they have won only five games out of 21 in all competitions.

It is far below expectations, which the manager knows, but he believes that the work going on behind the scenes will pay dividends eventually.



Delhi face Bengal for PKL title



Dabang Delhi's Naveen Kumar & Bengal Warriors' Maninder Singh pose with the Pro Kabaddi League season 7 trophy on the eve of the final

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An exhilarating, three-month long season 7 of VIVO Pro Kabaddi has reached its culmination with Dabang Delhi KC set to battle Bengal Warriors for the coveted title at the EKA Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad today.

Judging by the season's performances, both table toppers and maiden finalists have deserved the right to play in the final, after having finished the league stages.

While the likes of Delhi's Naveen Kumar and Bengal's Maninder Singh have walked away with the plaudits, the teams' success on the mat have come largely due to their cohesion. Delhi's semi-final match against Bengaluru Bulls was an example of how backup raiders Chandran Ranjit and Vijay are vital cogs in the Dabang unit, contributing in both tackles and raids. Similarly in defence, while Ravinder Pahal and Joginder Narwal grabbed the limelight, Vishal Mane has gone about doing his work quietly as a cover defender. The seasoned defender now has the opportunity to become the first player PKL history to win the title with three different teams (having

Pro Kabaddi League Final
Live from 8:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 2

already won with U Mumba and Patna Pirates).

Bengal Warriors also have a fair share of unsung heroes. Sukesh Hegde, who will be playing his 100th match, has thrown down the gauntlet to his doubters who called him a 'spent force' with vital raid points whenever his team needed them. K Prapranjan has also had a breakout season for the Warriors as a raider. Both players will be keen to avoid a defeat having suffered a heartbreak while playing for Gujarat FortuneGiants in earlier seasons.

STOPPING UNSTOPPABLE

Both Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors have a wealth of talent as far as raiders go which would mean that the match will come down to which set of defenders play better. In Rinku Narwal and Baldev Singh, the Warriors have a strong corner duo, who have impressed with tackle points this season. Both are relatively inexperienced compared to Delhi's defensive stalwarts Joginder Narwal, Ravinder Pahal and Vishal Mane. However, the inexperience

"We have a balanced team with Joginder and Ravinder in defense along with Naveen's express raiding skills supported by Chandran Ranjith as well. We are fully prepared to face the toughest match of the season and our eyes are on the trophy."

—VISHAL MANE
(Dabang Delhi defender)

"For any team reaching the Finals of vivo Pro Kabaddi itself is a big deal! Having said that, we are not taking the pressure of the finals and that's what we believe will bring the best game for us on the mat. The team has been practicing and focusing on their fitness and we are confident of lifting the trophy this time."

—MANINDER SINGH
(Bengal Warrior raider)

"This will be a very exciting finals as both the teams will be competing in the finals for the first time. The experience of lifting the trophy is something undefinable and we are confident it will be a match to watch."

—BC RAMESH
(Coach, Bengal Warriors)

"Both teams are very disciplined, and the finals will be a great game to witness."

—KRISHAN KUMAR HOODA
(Coach, Dabang Delhi)

rienced duo will be looking to show that they are no easy pushovers by trying to make a statement against an inform Naveen Kumar who will be targeting his 21st consecutive Super 10. Both the teams are also at the top two in terms of most all-outs inflicted and least all-outs conceded this season (net All-Out of +16 for both teams).

Maninder Singh's availability still remains undecided but Bengal Warriors showed that against a talented U Mumba side in the semi-finals that they can produce the goods even without their star raider. In fact, when the teams first met this season, it was Prapranjan who scored a Super 10 after Maninder was substituted for a poor first-half showing.

Murray in Antwerp last 8

AFP ■ ANTWERP

Former world number one Andy Murray cruised into the quarter-finals at Antwerp on Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion, currently ranked 243rd in the world, held serve throughout against eighth seed Cuevas before sealing victory in 84 minutes.

He will take on Romania's Marius Copil — who hit 13 aces past third seed Diego Schwartzman in a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7) win — for a place in the last four.

"I felt a bit better today. I thought I served quite well for most of the match and when I was able to get into the baseline rallies, I felt I was hitting the ball quite clean, which is good," Murray said.

"He served very well, which made it difficult for me to get the breaks, but I thought for me it was a good match."

Italian teenager Jannik Sinner dumped out top seed and 2018 runner-up Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2 to reach his first ATP quarter-final.

Next up for the 18-year-old Sinner is American Frances Tiafoe, a straight-sets winner over seventh-seeded German Jan-Lennard Struff.

"I played a very solid game. He didn't play his best tennis for sure. It's not easy if you make the final the year before and then to come here to play a young player and wild card," world number 119 Sinner told *atptour.com*.

"I think I played solid today. I served good on the important points and I think that was the key today."

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending men's and women's champions Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu on Friday made their intentions clear that they will go for the course records in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon here tomorrow.

The 15th edition of the ADHM will see one of the best fields of international elite athletes with seven sub-60 minute runners among men and nine sub-70 minute runners among women.

An athlete finishing a men's half marathon in less than 60 minutes is considered world class. In the women's half marathon, a runner who can complete it in 70 minutes is considered top class.

Ethiopian Belihu had won the prestigious IAAF Gold Label Race, last year with a time of 59

minute 18 seconds and he said a course record on Sunday cannot be ruled out.

"It is possible to run better than the course record on Sunday. I am in good shape and India has been a happy place for me," said the 20-year-old, who had finished second in his debut season, in 2017.

"It was a little frustrating just missing out on the course record last year but after running here in the last two years, I have experience and think I know what it takes to run faster. The most important thing is to win but if the pace is good, I can beat the course record."

The course record of 59 minute 06 seconds still stands in the name of Ethiopia's Guye Adola, set in the 2014 edition.

The temperature on Sunday is also likely to be an ideal one, hovering around 23 degree Celsius.

Manpreet, Rani to lead at Olympic Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Friday named an unchanged women squad, to be led by Rani Rampal, along with the men's team for the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

The 18-member men's squad will be captained by Manpreet Singh and seasoned forward S V Sunil will be his deputy.

Goalkeeper Savita will be the vice-captain of the women's squad.

The two teams are scheduled to take part in the two-legged FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Odisha where the World No 5 men's team will be up against World No 22 Russia, while the World No 9 women's side will face World No 13 USA.

The men's team has two goalkeepers in P R Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

Captain Manpreet leads the forward line which also includes Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Ramandeep Singh.

"After a good preparation tour in Belgium, it was always going to be a very difficult decision to pick the best 18 players for this tour-



Indian men's & women's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh & Rani Rampal HI

name. We have chosen a well-balanced side with a number of good flexible options," said men's chief coach Graham Reid. "We now need to focus on strategies against Russia, and ensure we are at our best when we step onto the field on 1st and 2nd November."

The women's team remained unchanged from its tour of England.

"We have a good balance

and mixture of players in the squad. It is important to stay in the rhythm with the same players who performed well in the preparatory tour. We now focus on making sure that we leave no stone unturned when we take on USA in the two matches," said women's team coach Sjoerd Marjine.

The winners of the Qualifiers will ensure place in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



Lionel Messi & Sergio Ramos in action during El Clasico AP

El Clasico postponed over Catalonia protests

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona and Real Madrid have agreed a new date of December 18 for the Clasico after Spain's biggest football match was postponed on Friday due to protests in Catalonia.

The fixture was set to be Barcelona's first home game since nine pro-Catalan independence leaders were sentenced to imprisonment on Monday for their role in the illegal referendum in 2017.

Barca and Madrid swiftly came to an agreement, hours after the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced they had until 10:00am (0800 GMT) on Monday to find a revised date for the game.

All that remains is for the RFEF to confirm the change with La Liga, although the league would prefer the match take place on December 7.

December 7 is a Saturday and has more potential for broadcasters but it would require moving both Barcelona against Real Mallorca and Madrid against Espanyol.

December 18 is a Wednesday and would clash with the Copa del Rey but neither Barca nor Madrid will be involved at that stage of Spain's domestic cup competition.

In a statement on Friday, Barcelona stressed their belief that the original fixture, scheduled for October 26 at Camp Nou, should have gone ahead.

"The clubs desire was to play the Clasico at Camp Nou on the 26th, the date and time previously agreed and the Committee was informed of this in writing," read the Barcelona statement.

"The club has the utmost confidence in the peaceful behaviour of its members and fans who always express themselves in exemplary fashion at Camp Nou."

"Nevertheless, having received the decision of the RFEF Competition Committee to postpone the game citing 'exceptional circumstances' and given that it falls to the clubs to agree a new date for the game before Monday, the club will propose December 18."

Real Madrid later added: "Real Madrid wishes to communicate that the date proposed by both clubs is the 18th of December."

Defending champions eye course records in ADHM

finish 10th in 10,000m in Doha, despite having gone to the showpiece as the fastest man in the world over the distance.

"I am excited to make my debut at the half marathon. Andamlak has told me about this race and so I know that it is a very fast course," said Gebrihiwet, who will be running his longest ever competitive race on Sunday.

In the women's elite section, Gemechu made a huge impact on her debut last season, setting a women's course record of 66:50.

This year she has produced a string of sparkling performances both on the road and on track, including winning a high-quality Valencia 10km race at the start of the season. She finished fourth in the 5,000m in the Doha World Championships.

"Last year, I did not know much about running in this level of race, but I have had a lot more experience since then. I have had

a good year, run a lot on the track.

"I just missed out on a medal in Doha but I am only 21 so I will have more opportunities. It was a fast race in Doha and I showed I was in good shape ahead of this Delhi race, so I think another course record here is a possibility," she added.

Among Gemechu's leading rivals will be the Kenyan-born Caroline Kipkirui, the fastest woman in the race with a best of 65:07, who now flies the flag for Kazakhstan.

"This will be a very tough race. The Ethiopian women are very strong but don't discount me and the Kenyans like (Edith) Chelimo and (Irene) Cheptai," said Kipkirui, who is sixth on the all-time list for the distance.

Both the men's and women's races have first prize cheques of \$ 27,000 with a total prize money purse (combined men and women) of \$ 275,000.



Indian captain Virat Kohli, right, and teammate Rohit Sharma, center, listen to coach Ravi Shastri during a training session ahead of 3rd Test

Complete Whitewash

In last outing before Diwali, Virat & boys go for Proteas hunt with aim to consolidate lead at top in Test Championship

PTI ■ RANCHI

It would have been a dead rubber but with valuable World Test Championship points on offer, India would be eyeing victory while South Africa would be desperate for some consolation in a wretched tour when the third and final Test starts here today.

There are 40 points on offer and a 3-0 series whitewash, both of which India would be targeting against the hapless visitors.

India, who have 200 points from four games, have a massive 140-point lead over nearest rivals New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the WTC standings. Skipper Virat Kohli has also made it clear that there is plenty to play for in the final Test and the team cannot afford a drop in intensity. Going into the game, India have very few holes to plug, be it their batting or bowling.

The home team could not have asked for more from their top-order with Rohit Sharma showing why he is such an impact player as he feasted on the South African bowlers with twin hundreds in the first Test while opening for the first time.

The *Mumbaikar's* opening partner Maynak Agarwal on the other hand went on to convert his maiden hundred into a double in Visakhapatnam and followed it up with another century in Pune.

Then it was the turn of 'King Kohli' who came to the party in the Pune with a career-best double hundred — a majestic 254 not out — and made it look like a routine job.

Rohit will be eyeing a big score after not firing in the first innings

India vs South Africa
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

of the Pune Test while Cheteshwar Pujara, who has scored two fifties in the series, would be looking to cross the three-figure mark.

That India have lost only 16 wickets while routing South Africa in both the Tests sums up their dominance.

Toss has also been kind to India so far and things are likely to get more exciting if the stroke of luck favours Faf du Plessis in the final Test.

The last time South Africa toured the India, rank-turners had welcomed the side but this time both the pacers and spinners have been able to extract something out of the pitch.

Umesh Yadav made a fine comeback in the Pune Test to return with fine figures of 3/22 with some brief hostile spells as wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha who took some breathtaking catches to aid to the pacer's tally.

Kohli played an extra pacer in Umesh at Pune by benching Hanuma Vihari but only time will tell what combination he chooses for the final Test.

South African captain Faf du Plessis has already predicted the Ranchi pitch to be a turner, bringing a third spinner into picture.

Since Kuldeep Yadav has been ruled out of the match due to a shoulder injury, left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem has been drafted into the squad and he might sneak

into the playing XI as well.

South Africa batsmen showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but they let themselves down in Pune.

It was only the tailenders who showed some character and frustrated the Indian bowling. Du Plessis has urged experiences players like Dean Elgar, Quinton De Kock and Temba Bavuma to bat with responsibility.

Their batting woes are further compounded by the absence of opener Aiden Markram who has been ruled out of the third Test with an injury.

The pace attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander and Anrich Nortje has also not been as effective as expected while the Indian pacers have managed to provide the breakthroughs.

With their senior-most spinner Keshav Maharaj also ruled out, South Africa will find it tougher to stop the Indian juggernaut.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (c), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shahbaz Nadeem, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill.

South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Temba Bavuma (vc), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, George Linde, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi Second.



Wriddhiman Saha & Rishabh Pant

I share good understanding with Pant: Saha

PTI ■ RANCHI

The cut-throat competition for a place in India's playing XI has not affected Wriddhiman Saha's relationship with his understudy Rishabh Pant as the duo try to help each other with notes on glove work.

Saha was out of the Indian team for 20 months due to a shoulder surgery but his now back to his best as a keeper with some stunning catches in the second Test in Pune.

Six days short of his 35th birthday, the sprightly Saha is often seen helping Pant with keeping drills after his own training, something that has been directed by the team manager.

Ask him if he is mentoring Pant and the ever-reticent Saha replied in negative.

"There's nothing (mentoring) like that. We just discuss normally the way the wicketkeepers discuss. With Sridhar and Pant, we three jointly decide on how to go about our wicketkeeping on a particular type of wicket," he said.

The co-ordination and rapport between them helps it easier for them to work together.

"We always observe each other's wicket-keeping. We work hard in our practice sessions and have a good understanding and co-ordination among ourselves. We always try to point out each other's mistakes. It's been going well so far," he said.

While his keeping has been rated as the best in world cricket, even BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly has spoken about the need to improve on his batting averages.

"Whoever plays in the team wants to contribute. As a wicket-keeper, I look to get sometime in the middle and if I get time I try to build a partnership and score a fifty or so. Everyone tries like that. Sometime it works, sometime it does not," Saha said.

Leading 2-0, Saha said, it's time to complete a whitewash against South Africa.

"I have good memory of the last match. I made 117 in the last match. I remember how I approached the innings. I also remember the Steve Smith incident. If you see we drew it last time. We are 2-0 up in the series so this time we will try to make it 3-0 this time," he concluded.

Faf wants to 'bat big' like India



PTI ■ RANCHI

South African captain Faf du Plessis has urged his embattled batsmen to take a leaf out of India's book and "bat big" like the hosts in order to salvage pride in the third and final Test.

"For me it's important that the guys don't feel like there is one week left in India and almost when you get on that plane to South Africa, the Test

series we play now is for Test championship, there is points still up for grabs every Test match. So for me the challenge is more mental," the South African skipper told reporters.

The Proteas' batting showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but disappointed in the second Test. Urging his batsmen to convert their starts, Du Plessis said: "For all of us it is just about converting and I am not different to

any one of those players when I get to 50, I want to get a hundred.

"The fact that I have done it twice already this series, there is no reason for me not to go and get a big one. That's a challenge for myself because I understand that sixties is not going to win Test matches for us. I need to bat big like the Indian team has done and score big runs."

Du Plessis also asked

his bowlers to buck up as India lost only 16 wickets in two Tests, clearly reflecting their dominance.

"From the bowling point of view how can we get 20 wickets, we haven't done that this series. If we do those things then we will compete with India. It is tough when we are losing. We are very competitive people so for us it does take a dent out of your confidence," he said.

'Someone else' at the toss

RANCHI: Having lost nine successive tosses in Asia, an exasperated South Africa captain Faf du Plessis won't mind sending "someone else" in his place for the toss of the coin in the third and final Test. South Africa have struggled in Indian conditions and not winning the toss in the first two Tests has only made things tougher for them. Opting to bat in Visakhapatnam and Pune, India put up 500-plus totals to virtually bat the visitors out

of the game. "We really want to make sure that we compete with this team in their own conditions. We have done it in stages in the first Test. So, hoping that we can start with the toss tomorrow. "Probably we will change... Send someone else to the toss tomorrow. I can give you that... Because my records so far has not been great," said du Plessis, in a lighter vein, on the eve of the game. Du Plessis said "anything is

possible" if his side get to bat first. "If you put big runs in the first innings, that's where it need to stop. Then anything from there is possible. Hopefully that will unfold in the next couple of days and hopefully we can put some runs on. "The pitch looks a little bit drier and cruetier so first innings runs will be vital and then anything from there is possible in the second innings," Faf added. **PTI**

SINGLES

MODRIC, BALE TO MISS MALLORCA TRIP

MADRID: Real Madrid will be without both Gareth Bale and Luka Modric for this weekend's Liga match against Real Mallorca. Zinedine Zidane confirmed on Friday. Modric and Bale both picked up injuries during the Euro 2020 qualifier between Croatia and Wales. Bale is suffering from cramp in his calf while Modric is recovering from heavy bruising in his right thigh. "Modric is not fit for tomorrow," said Zidane in a press conference. "Gareth Bale is not going to be with us, neither Toni Kroos nor Lucas Vazquez. We have to accept it. There are other players." Kroos injured his foot playing for Madrid against Granada while Vazquez has a calf problem.

JUNIOR BOXERS NOTCH UP 21 MEDALS

NEW DELHI: Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the Asian Junior Championships, clinching a bumper tally of 21 medals, including six Gold and nine Silver, to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. The Indian men's squad fetched two Gold, three Silver and an equal number of Bronze, while the women claimed four Gold, six Silver and three Bronze medals to round off a stupendous performance on Thursday evening. The team ended top in terms of medals won but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) which had a better Gold count of eight.

ENG ROPE JEETAN AS CONSULTANT

LONDON: Former New Zealand spinner Jeetan Patel has been appointed as spin-bowling consultant of England for the upcoming five-match T20I series against the Black Caps. Patel, the native-born New Zealander, who is contracted to Cricket Wellington, has been given dispensation to miss the first three matches of the Plunket Shield season. He will join up with the England squad when they arrive in Christchurch next week. "

BULGARIA COACH QUILTS AFTER RACISM ROW

SOFIA: Bulgaria's coach quit Friday over the 6-0 loss to England in a Euro 2020 qualifier which was overshadowed by racist abuse that sparked a storm of protest. Monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes during Monday's match caused indignation in the football world and led to the resignation of Bulgaria's football federation chief. Bulgaria coach Krasimir Balakov, who took over the team in May, said he handed in his resignation during a meeting of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) executive committee. "I said that if I am the problem of Bulgarian football, I am handing in my resignation. There is no way back," the former midfielder told reporters after the meeting. "I will keep my fingers crossed for the next manager as the situation is not rosy at all." **AGENCIES**

Sarfraz sacked as Test & T20 captain Babar to lead in T20s while Azhar Ali appointed as red-ball skipper

PTI ■ KARACHI

Sarfraz Ahmed was on Friday sacked as Pakistan's Test and T20 captain with Azhar Ali and Babar Azam elevated to leadership roles for the upcoming tour of Australia.

In an official announcement on Friday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that experienced batsman Ali would lead the Test side in the two Tests in Australia while Babar Azam would be the captain in the three T20 matches Down Under.

Sarfraz has been captain in all three formats of the game since the last two years and led Pakistan to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title.

In Tests and ODIs, Pakistan's ranking has slipped under his captaincy while they were whitewashed in the recent T20 home series against Sri Lanka.

Sarfraz, who was the toast of the nation after Pakistan beat India in the Champions Trophy final, has had a torrid time in the Test and ODI formats in the last two years.

He came under fire recently when a depleted Sri Lankan team swamped Pakistan 3-0 in the T20 series in Lahore.

With his own form suffering with the bat, speculations were rife that the new head coach cum chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq would move to make changes in the captaincy in the three formats but no one was expecting Sarfraz to be sacked so quickly.

The PCB said the squad for the Australian tour would be announced on October 21.

The PCB also released a short statement from Sarfraz.

"I wish the best for both Azhar and Babar in their new endeavours and I must



Newly appointed Pak Test captain Azhar Ali

thank my coaches, fellow players and the selectors for having supported me a lot in my tenure as captain," Sarfraz said.

This is the first experience for Babar, 25, to lead the national team in any format.

He has been Pakistan's leading scorer in the last two years in the white ball formats and is also slowly establishing himself in Test cricket.

Azhar, 34, who has played in 73 Tests and 53 ODIs led Pakistan in One-day Internationals between April 2015 and February 2017, winning 12 and losing 18 matches.

He stepped down as ODI captain and was replaced by Sarfraz in February 2017 after a 1-4 loss in Australia.

PTI ■ RANCHI

He has quit longest format for five years back but local boy Mahendra Singh Dhoni is expected to watch the third and final Test against South Africa beginning here today, his manager Mihir Diwakar confirmed. "Mahi will definitely come and you will see him during the first day's proceedings tomorrow (today). I was there with him in Mumbai and he will fly down tomorrow (Saturday) morning," Dhoni's manager and one-time Jharkhand team-mate Diwakar said.

The Jharkhand State Cricket Association president, Nafis Khan, has personally sent an invitation to Dhoni's family.

"We have sent an invitation to his family. *Yeh to unka hi stadium hai* (It's his stadium



only). He is most welcome anytime," Khan said. However his friend, Diwakar, who is the founder of Aarka Sports that runs MS Dhoni Cricket Academy, said Dhoni is likely to come alone as the Indian

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday steered clear of the controversy triggered by boxer Nikhat Zareen's demand for a trial bout against the celebrated M C Mary Kom, saying he "should not" get involved beyond advising the federation to make the best choice.

Zareen had written a letter to Rijiju on Thursday, demanding that she be given a trial bout against Mary Kom before the Indian squad for next year's Olympic qualifiers in China is decided.

This was after the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) stated that it intends to pick six-time world champion Mary Kom (51kg) for the event in China on the back of her recent Bronze medal at the world championships in Russia. "I'll surely convey to Boxing Federation to take the best decision keeping in mind the best interest of the NATION, SPORTS & ATHLETES. Although, Minister should not be involved in the selection of the players by the Sports Federations which are autonomous as per OLYMPIC CHARTER," Rijiju tweeted in response to Zareen's letter.

Responding to Rijiju's post, Zareen said she hopes for a fair chance.

"Thank you so much sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels for our country," she tweeted.

The BFI introduced a point-based selection system last year under which boxers are now being picked on the back of their performances in various graded tournaments and the national camps.

Trial bouts, a norm earlier, are being conducted only in those weight categories in which the coaches and selectors find the competition to be exceptionally close.

Nikhat Zareen @nikhat_zareen · 1d

All I want is a fair chance. If I'm not given the opportunity to compete what am I training for. Sports is about FairPlay & I dont want to loose faith in my country. Jai Hind @KirenRijiju @RijijuOffice

Kiren Rijiju @KirenRijiju

I'll surely convey to Boxing Federation to take the best decision keeping in mind the best interest of the NATION, SPORTS & ATHLETES. Although, Minister should not be involved in the selection of the players by the Sports Federations which are autonomous as per OLYMPIC CHARTER

Nikhat Zareen @nikhat_zareen · 5h

Replying to @KirenRijiju

Thank you so much sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels for our country.