

**OPINION 8**  
A RIDE INTO  
MILITARY SCHOOL

**WORLD 12**  
TRUDEAU WINS CANADA VOTE,  
WILL FORM MINORITY GOVT

**AVENUES 13**  
OPT FOR A  
VOCATIONAL COURSE

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## 75% rise in fake notes post DeMo

₹28.1 crore FICN seized in 2017, it was ₹15.9 crore in 2016

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fake currency continued to remain in circulation in a big way in the country even after demonetisation.

The value of fake Indian currency notes seized in 2017 was estimated to be at ₹28.1 crore, clocking a significant 76.5 per cent increase from 2016, when ₹15.9 crore worth of counterfeit currency was seized by law enforcement agencies, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2017.

As per the data, almost ₹14.98 crore, more than half of the total value of money seized, was in the form of ₹2,000 notes, which were introduced in November 2016 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes.

A total of 3,55,994 notes worth ₹28,10,19,294 were seized under Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) during 2017. As per the NCRB data, in 2017, cancelled ₹1,000 notes were printed as FICN, reflecting in seizure of ₹6.57 crore such notes.

Similarly ₹5.14 crore worth of cancelled ₹500 notes were seized from fake currency printers. In 2017, new ₹500 fake currency were printed for value of ₹44.39 lakh. The new 200 and 100 notes were also printed by fake currency operators. As per the registered



cases across the country in 2017, ₹17.7 lakh fake notes in the denomination of ₹200 notes and ₹83,000 fake notes in the denomination of ₹100 notes were seized.

Most of the old ₹1,000 and ₹500 fake notes were found by the banks when people tried to exchange it through banks soon after demonetisation. The latest NCRB data shows that the fake currency operators are engaged in ₹2,000 note printing.

Majority of the fake note cases were registered in Gujarat

in terms of the value. More than ₹9 crore valued fake notes were seized from Gujarat, followed by Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

The NCRB data of 2017, released on Tuesday evening shows that biggest populated State Uttar Pradesh topped in the registration of FIRs. UP is followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Delhi. Overall, 30,62,579 cases were registered across the country in 2017, up from 29,75,711 in 2016 and

29,49,400 in 2015, according to the annual data which was released last night after a delay of more than one year.

### NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU

Overall, 30,62,579 cases were registered across the country in 2017, up from 29,75,711 in 2016, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau for 2017

- UP, also the most populous state, registered 3,10,084 cases during the year and had the highest share of 10.1 per cent in the country
- Maharashtra, which accounted for 9.4 per cent of crime in the country, registered 2,88,879 FIRs in 2017
- Certain States like UP and Delhi have provided citizen-friendly service of online registration of FIR under certain category of offences like "vehicle theft" and "other thefts". "This may have increased the crime reporting under such heads in these states," NCRB said

Uttar Pradesh also the most populous State, registered 3,10,084 cases during the year and had the highest share of 10.1 per cent in the country, it stated. The data showed an upward trend for straight third year in UP, which had recorded 2,82,171 cases in 2016 and 2,41,920 in 2015.

Maharashtra, which accounted for 9.4 per cent of crime in the country, registered 2,88,879 FIRs in 2017 while it was 2,61,714 in 2016 and 2,75,414 in 2015, according to the NCRB. Madhya Pradesh registered 2,69,512 FIRs in 2017 and accounted for 8.8 per cent overall cases. It had lodged 2,68,614 cases in 2015 and 2,64,418 in 2016.

The NCRB said certain States like UP and Delhi have provided citizen-friendly ser-

vice of online registration of FIR under certain category of offences like "vehicle theft" and "other thefts". "As this may have increased the crime reporting under such heads in these States, they become statistically non-comparable with other States not having such online registration facility," it added.

Fourth on the list was Kerala which registered 2,35,846 cases, while Delhi followed it closely with 2,32,066 cases, it stated. Bihar, which had 1,80,573 cases in 2017 and 5.9 per cent share in crimes, stood sixth on the list, while West Bengal was seventh with 1,63,999 cases and 5.4 per cent share, the data stated.

The NCRB, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws in the country.

## HC lawyers to meet PM on judges' appointment

**CUTTACK:** A delegation of the Orissa High Court Bar Association is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister and the Union Law Minister in New Delhi soon and discuss with them regarding filling up of vacant positions of judges in the High Court. A decision to this effect was taken by the HC Bar Association on Tuesday in a meeting with the peripheral bar associations in the presence of members of an Advisory Committee and an Action-Taken Committee.

Both the committees were formed recently to advise and cooperate with the High Court Bar Association, which is now spearheading a State-wide lawyers' strike demanding immediate appointment of judges in the High Court.

Against a sanctioned strength of 22 judges, the court now has only 14, including the Chief Justice. The Law Commission has suggested for having at least 27 judges to clear the pending cases.

HC Bar Association secretary Sanjay Kumar Das said the visiting delegation to New Delhi would address members of national media and seek the support of other High Court Bar Associations in the country to start a national debate on the judges' appointment system.

"We want the current Collegiums system to give way to the NJAC system of appointment of judges," Das said.

## 8 yellow anacondas, 3 Nile crocs at N'kanan



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

It was good news for wildlife lovers as the Nandankanan Zoological Park authorities on Tuesday brought three Nile crocodiles and eight yellow anacondas from the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in Chennai.

The new guests in the zoo



include four female yellow anacondas and three female Nile crocodiles. The reptiles were brought by special vehicles.

According to an official of the zoo, the animals would be first kept at the Reptile Park in the zoo premises for some days and later they would be kept for public display.

With addition of these new reptiles, the total number of species at zoo has gone up to 158.

The Nandankanan zoo, which has been in the news for unfortunate reasons like death of a tiger and four elephants in the recent past is now expected to attract more visitors with the arrival of the new guests.

## 'Check quality of lunch served at schools, orphanages'



CM asks visiting Ministers

**BHUBANESWAR:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday advised his Ministers to pay surprise visits to State-run orphanages, schools, Aahar Kendras, homes for persons with disabilities and childcare units and have their lunch to check the quality of the cooked food provided there during their tours of different districts.

"By doing so, the Ministers can know about the quality of the cooked and various problems of the institutions. Their visits will help bring development in the management of these institutions," said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister also asked the Ministers to keep the information of visits confidential and ensure that no more than 3-4 persons should accompany them during the surprise visits.

The Ministers were also directed to submit detailed information on their surprise visits and suggestions in their monthly reports to the CM.

## Will win Bijepur by higher margin this time: Minister

**BJP, Cong also claim victory**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even though the results of the by-election to the Bijepur Assembly seat would be announced on October 21, the three major political parties, the BJD, the BJP and the Congress have expressed confidence that they would win the seat.

Labour Minister Susant Singh said this time there was a wave in Bijepur in support of the BJD. The party would win the seat by a higher margin than the last by-election and the general elections. The party candidate is expected to get 1,25,000 to 1,40,000 votes. He is confident that party candidate Rita Sahu is all set to win the seat by a thumping margin.

BJP State president Basant Panda said the people of the constituency have expressed faith on their party candidate Sanat Gadia and he is confident that his party would win

**LABOUR MINISTER SUSANT SINGH SAID THIS TIME THERE WAS A WAVE IN BIJEPUR IN SUPPORT OF THE BJD**

by a comfortable margin.

The Congress which had earlier said that it would not fare well in the polls, has changed its tune. Party leader and MLA Tara Prasad Bahinpati said, "Though we had limited resources in comparison to the BJD and the BJD, the party has done very well. The party candidate Dilip Kumar Panda would win by a margin of at least 2,000 to 3,000 votes."

Notably, a voter turnout of 78.96 per cent was recorded in the by-poll for Bijepur on Monday. The turnout has gone down marginally from the Assembly elections held in April when it was 79.28 per cent.

## Students taking drugs smuggled in banana bunch

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

In an instance of drug peddlers opting for non-conventional methods for their business, a video has gone viral featuring some college students consuming ganja and brown sugar, which were smuggled, being kept in bunches of banana in the Rajanagar area of Kendrapada district.

The drugs were reportedly transported from Cuttack to the Rajanagar weekly market through banana bunches. The contrabands were reportedly



peddled in the nearby areas with youths, particularly college students, being their buyers.

In the video, a group of college students are seen consuming the drugs near the Rajanagar College.

## 'Inter-caste marriages can check atrocities on Dalits'

**Athawale claims 4L Odisha students given stipend**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Tuesday stressed on promoting inter-caste marriages to stop atrocities on Dalits and the distressed in the country.

Addressing a Press conference here, he expressed unhappiness over the rising atrocities on Dalits cases in Odisha.

While 1,653 cases were



registered in Odisha in 2014, the number rose to 1,818 in 2015. As many as 1,796 cases were registered in 2016, 1,893 in 2017 and 1,775 cases in 2,018.

"Incidents of atrocities on Dalits will be curbed if inter-caste marriages are promoted. Regarding contribution of the Union Government, the Minister said a total of 1,90,314

pre-Matric students and 2,03,963 post-Matric students have got stipends in the State for which Rs 60 crore and Rs 322 crore have been spent, respectively.

Athawale said a total of 1.10 crore people have been provided loans under the Mudra Yojana and LPG cylinders provided to 47.48 lakh households. Recently, the Union Government has created a 10-per cent reservation for economically weaker section people.

A total of 8,54,176 houses have been completed under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana and 15,57,558 beneficiaries identified in the country.

## EOW nabs chit fund firm MD in Delhi

**Company duped Odisha investors of ₹5 crore**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the State Crime Branch has arrested the Managing Director (MD) of a chit fund company Inter Ocean Videsh Limited, from New Delhi for allegedly dup-

ing investors of over ₹5 crore on the assurance of providing lucrative returns.

Police said the accused Manoranjan Ray was arrested on Sunday and was produced before the designated court in Cuttack on Tuesday.

"He was produced before a court in Delhi and was subsequently brought here

on transit remand." Police said that the Inter Ocean Videsh Limited and its sister concerns Alpine Fin Corp Ltd, Inter Ocean Impex Pvt Ltd and Inter Ocean Retail India Ltd had collected investments to the tune of ₹5 crore from investors between 2010 and 2013 promising them a higher rate of interest.

The company later closed the offices in the State without repaying the investors in 2013.

Earlier, the EOW had also arrested a director of the company Sunita Samal for the fraud.

ALL-SECY MEET

# State revenue grows by 8.10%

DEPTS ASKED TO REASSESS REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENT FY

CS ASKS TO EXPEDITE UTILISATION, MAKE DISTRICT VISITS MORE EFFECTIVE

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The States' revenue collection showed an upward trend by end of September, marking a growth rate of around 8.10 per cent over the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

This was known from all Secretaries' meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy on Tuesday, wherein Finance Secretary Ashok Kumar Meena outlined the financial updates of the State for discussions.

Reviewing fiscal perfor-

mances of various departments up to September, the Chief Secretary directed the departments to expedite budget utilisation and make up the backlog which was caused because of the model code of conduct for general elections.

The departments were also asked to make a realistic reassessment of the financial requirement for the current year keeping in view the Supplementary Budget 2019-20.

The Finance Secretary said the Supplementary Budget would be presented around mid-November. As per the dateline communicated earlier, the departments were asked to submit their requirements within a day.

Meena further advised that the anticipated savings, if any, should be surrendered by the departments for reallocations.

The Chief Secretary directed the departments to rearrange their spending patterns so as scale up utilization level to at least 60 per cent of the budgeted amount by end of December.

Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mohapatra advised the Secretaries to make the district visit programme more effective and outcome-oriented.

Meena apprised that the fiscal strategy paper for the financial year 2020-21 would be presented by December and pre-budget consultations would be held between December 16 and 31. Further, the departments were asked to complete online submission of Annual Establishment Review in HRMS portal by November 15.

The review showed that the revenue generation from non-tax sources grew by 10.46 per-

cent by end of September in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year with a total collection of Rs 6,186.48 crore. The revenue generation from mining royalty and water cess increased around 14 per cent to 46 per cent, respectively.

The total collection from mining royalty was around Rs 5,207 crore against last year's collection of Rs 4,580 crore by September end. The revenue generation from own tax sources also increased by 7.16 per cent with a total collection of around Rs 15,055 crore against last year's Rs 14,049 crore.

Keeping in tune with the revenue generation, the budget utilisation by end of September grew by 9.15 per cent over last fiscal by end of September. The total expenditure by September was around Rs 46,819 crore.

# 90% immunisation: Pat for Ganjam, Khordha

Top officials of dists to be honoured in Delhi

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Health and Family Welfare Secretary Pramod Kumar Meherda is happy with the Union Government informing to honour officials of two districts, Ganjam and Khordha, for achieving the goal of immunisation in making India polio-free.

Dr Meherda, who pursued the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI), a flagship programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Odisha during the period, has

received the letter of appreciation of the Government of India here on October 21.

Mission Director, NHM Odisha, Shalini Pandit made sincere pursuit to make IMI a grand success in the State.

Mission Director, National Health Mission of Government of India Manoj Jhalani has informed the Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy in this regard.

Jhalani said that Ganjam and Khordha (Bhubaneswar) have achieved more than 90 per cent full immunization coverage through intensive efforts during IMI.

Jhalani informed that district Collectors of Ganjam and Khordha, CDMOs and ADMOs of both the districts will be honoured at a ceremony to be organised at New Delhi for their achievement.

As India is competing 25

years of Pulse Polio Programme, the country will be celebrating the achievement, which started in 1994 from State of Delhi and later it was scaled up across the country.

And in 2014, India was declared polio free due to relentless efforts of the State Governments, district authorities, health workforce, community influencers and partners in the initiative.

So the Ministry is holding a commemorative event on Pulse Polio Silver Jubilee, renewing the pledge to reach each child on October 31 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

Jhalani said this is an opportune event to reward those who have made efforts for realizing the goal of 90 per cent full immunization coverage.

# Woman doc alleges death threat by ex-partner

**PHULBANI:** A woman Ayush doctor on Tuesday lodged a complaint at the Daringbadi police station in Kandhamal district accusing a Block Programme Manager (BPM) of cheating her on the pretext of marriage and issuing life threats.

Prangyaranai Naik, working at the Simanbadi Primary Health Centre, alleged that the BPM Amulya Kumar Panigrahi has been maintaining a sexual relationship with her since 2017 with a promise to marry her. But when she insisted on marrying her a few days back, he refused the proposal citing that she belongs to the Scheduled Caste.

"Amulya said he cannot marry me as I belong to the Scheduled Caste. He also said his family members would not accept me," Prangyaranai's complaint mentioned, adding that Amulya has issued death threats to her as well, case filed. **PNS**

# Rasagola GI row: Order reserved till October 31

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Geographical Indication (GI) Registry of India has concluded hearing on a petition seeking revocation of the GI tag accorded to 'Banglar Rosogolla' and reserved its order till October 31.

Bhubaneswar-based Regional Development Trust chairman Ramesh Chandra Sahoo has filed the petition and sought revocation of the GI tag given to West Bengal.

"Arguments presented by the lawyer representing the West Bengal Government were strongly countered by our lawyer P Sundarnathan," said Sahoo.

"GI tag given to Banglar Rosogolla should be cancelled as West Bengal has obtained the status fraudulently by submit-



ting fake documents," said Odia Parba editor Santosh Kumar Sahoo, who had joined Ramesh Sahoo in filing the petition.

Notably, the GI Registry recently granted the much-

awaited status to 'Odisha Rasagola', reaffirming Odisha's claim that the sweetmeat existed since 15th-16th century as it has been mentioned in the 'Dandi Ramayana'.

# IN KHORDHA Illegal quarrying: Home guard held

PNS ■ KHORDHA

A Home Guard posted at a police station in Khordha district was arrested on Tuesday for his alleged links in illegal stone quarrying.

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch arrested Chittaranjan Badajena for his complicity in a criminal gang's operations.

"He entered into conspiracy with certain criminals to illegally conduct quarry operations from the land of the Puri Jagannath Temple at Khordha," said a police official.

Badajena was arrested under Section 349, 411, 467, 468, 471, 120 (B), 34 of IPC and r/w 25/27 of Arms Act r/w 3, 4, 5 of Explosive Substance Act



and Sec 51 of OMMC Rule-2016. He was later forwarded to court.

# Elderly couple locked up, looted in city

COPS' SENIOR CITIZEN CELL EFFICIENCY UNDER SCANNER

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a glaring example of senior citizens being unsafe in the State capital, unidentified miscreants allegedly locked up an elderly couple in a room and looted valuables at Divya Vihar in the Samantarapur area under the Lingaraj police station late on Monday night.

Bishnu Charan Palai and his wife Arati, the victims, have lodged a complaint with the Lingaraj police and investigation is underway.



Police sources said the looters entered the house by breaking the grill of a window and locked the door of the room, in which the couple was sleeping, from outside. Then they decamped with gold ornaments, cash and other valuables worth Rs 5 lakh. In the morning, police reached the spot along with a scientific team and snif-

fer dogs for investigations. Efforts were on to identify and trace the criminals.

Of late, there have been a number of incidents of senior citizens becoming soft targets for looters in the Smart City. To make matters worse, the Commissionerate police senior citizens' cell haven't been of much help, feel residents.

# IN PURI DIST

## Bus overturns trying to save motorcyclists 8 PERSONS HURT

PNS ■ PURI

A private bus en route to Bhubaneswar overturned near Biragobindapur under the Sakhigopal police station in Puri district on Tuesday.

Eight passengers, who were injured in the mishap, were hospitalised. The mishap occurred at around 8.45 am when the 'Sri Durga' bus was on its way to Bhubaneswar from Puri with about 30 passengers. The driver lost control over the vehicle while trying to save two motorcyclists travelling in the same direction. The bus hit the bike and turned turtle, injuring its eight passengers, including the



two motorcyclists. Locals rushed to the spot and rescued the injured persons.

Receiving information, Fire Services and police personnel reached the spot and started their rescue operations. The injured were admitted to the Government hospital at Sakhigopal. Later, the critically injured persons were shifted to the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar.

# NURSE NIHARIKA KILLING

## NHRC asks JSpur SP to submit report in 4 weeks

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Superintendent of Police (SP) Jagatsinghpur to submit a report on the murder of nurse Niharika Patra in four weeks by November 24, 2019.

The NHRC issued this direction on a complaint filed by Odisha Sookhana Adhikar Abhiyan member Pratap Mohanty. He mentioned that though complaints had been lodged at the Madhupatna police station regarding missing of Niharika Patra both from hospital and family sides, yet the police didn't act promptly for which the accused



lover found sufficient time to kill her, carry her dead body by

a motorbike and throw it in the Biltuakhai river under the Biridi police station in Jagatsinghpur district.

Due to negligence of police, a family lost an earning member. As a consequence, the family is now facing problems to meet its basic needs, which include medicines for ill- parents, mentioned Mohanty.

Terming the police inaction as a gross violation of human rights, Mohanty urged the NHRC to order for and proper inquiry and take action against the erring police officer. Besides, he urged the commission to direct the Government to provide compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the victim's family.

# Nat'l Hindi Kavi Sammelan held

PADMA SHRI NAG FELICITATED

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An All India Hindi Kavi Sammelan was organised by TOLIC (Bank), Bhubaneswar under the chairmanship of Chief General Manager SBI and convener Praveena Kala here.

About 800 staff members inclusive of Regional Director, RBI MK Malla, CGM, NABARD, A Chandrasekhar, GM, Uco Bank, TR Chokkalingam, GM, Canara

Bank, Srikant Mohapatra and Office Heads/DGMs of all member banks of 26 member banks of TOLIC (Banks), Bhubaneswar.

Renowned poets of national and international fame, Padma Shri Dr. Surendra Sharma, Arunjamini, Ashok Charan, Manisha Shukla and Chirag Jain recited their poems.

On the occasion, famous poet of Odisha Padma Shri Dr Haldhar Nag was felicitated. Staff members of TOLIC member banks were also felicitated for excellent performance in implementation of the official language Hindi in their office.



# IIT student falls off hostel roof, dies

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A student of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar died when he fell off the roof of a hostel late on Monday evening.

The deceased, identified as Chirag Pravin Jain, had been rushed to a private hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Chirag was a BTech (Computer Science) second year student and a native of Pune in Maharashtra. He was staying in Mahanadi Hall of Residence Hostel. At around 7.30 pm, he fell from the sixth floor of the hostel. It is suspected that he committed suicide.

"Last evening, a student of IIT-Bhubaneswar fell off the roof and smashed his head. He was rushed to hospital, but he died. A case of unnatural death has been registered; and we are investigating into the case," city DCP Anup Sahu said.

Later, the IIT Bhubaneswar in a release said, "In an unfortunate incident, Chirag Pravin Jain, Computer Science Engineering student of second year, was found dead on October 21 during evening hours. The parents of the deceased have already been informed. Local police are currently investigating the matter and trying to ascertain the exact cause of the death."

# 'Last evening, a student of IIT-Bhubaneswar fell off the roof and smashed his head'

# LOP URGES CM

## 'Rename city's Janpath after Jayee Rajguru'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the State Legislative Assembly Pradipta Kumar Naik on Tuesday wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urging the latter to rename the important road Janpath in Bhubaneswar from Vani Vihar Square to Rajmahal Square as 'Jayee Rajguru Janpath'.

"Jayee Rajguru (legendary freedom fighter) is a hero not only for Odisha but also for the entire country. I think there can be no better tribute to him than naming a road in the State capital Bhubaneswar after him. I request you to rename the current Janpath (Vani Vihar Square-Rajmahal Square) as



"Jayee Rajguru Janpath" so that people of Odisha and outsiders who are coming to

Odisha will know about Jayee Rajguru," Naik said in the letter.

# Want re-probe into Smita's death: Hubby to OHRC

✓'VLW was blackmailed by sarpanch, her spouse to do illegal acts'

✓'Police only focus on deceased's personal life'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Deceased Haridaspur Village Level Worker (VLW) Smitarani Biswal was being blackmailed to do unethical acts, alleged her husband Sushil Kumar Biswal on Tuesday.

Sushil, who moved the



Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) seeking re-investigation of the case by higher authorities, said his wife was being blackmailed by Haridaspur Sarpanch Madhusmita Bhadra and her husband Rupesh Bhadra for doing unethical works in dis-

charge of her official duties.

"A dispute was on between my wife and them over PMAY and old age pension issues. The Jaipur police only probed into the personal life of my wife but excluded her professional life from the purview of the investigation. She used to

tell me about her problems in her professional life," said Sushil, adding that he was "not satisfied" with the investigation by police.

"I suspect that my wife might have been killed for refusing to do unethical acts," he said.

Sushil met the Chairperson of the OHRC and sought action against the Jaipur Superintendent of Police, alleging that the police official defamed his family by saying that she had an illicit affair with accused Rupesh Bhadra, who has been arrested.

Notably, Smitarani had gone to Haridaspur panchayat to disburse old age pension among the beneficiaries on October 16. Later, she went to a guesthouse of Rupesh Bhadra in the Baligari area in his car. She was then found dead in Rupesh's personal room in the guesthouse. Police have arrested Rupesh on the charge of abetting Smitarani's "suicide".

# 'Dream' to curb exam fear among students

**GANJAM DM ATTENDS HIGH SCHOOL HMs' WORKSHOP**

fetch them good results in High School Certificate (HSC) examinations, said district Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange here. Headmasters and



**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The "Dream Abhiyan" initiated by the Education Department in Ganjam district would curb examination-related fear from Class-X students and

Headmistress of all high schools attended the meeting. The Collector asked the school heads to make all efforts and ensure that no student fails in the coming HSC examinations. There would be common

tests at regular intervals for Class-X students in all high schools in the district under the Dream Abhiyan to cut examination fears in them.

The main objectives of the Dream Abhiyan are to ensure that no school posts 'zero result' and each school produces A-1 grade students.

The programme was presided over by District Education Officer Sanatan Panda.

Rangeilunda BEO Dr Pravati Mohapatra, Purusottampur BEO Harekrushna Panda and National High School HM Rama Rao shared the dais.

Headmasters/Headmistress of 27 high schools, which had produced A-1 students in the last HSC examinations, and of nine high schools, which had recorded 100 per cent results, were felicitated on the occasion.

Common tests began in all schools from Monday.

# 'Sharing community' drive kicks off in B'pur

**Boons of collaborative consumption discussed**

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The Youth for Social Development started a month-long campaign on the theme "Sharing Community".

A city level campaign was organised on sustainable consumption at Brahmapur where over 80 persons from community, civil society, and environment activists participated and the concept of sharing community, its best practices and benefits of collaborative consumption were discussed.

The participants also signed a pledge for sharing community.

The workshop was inau-



gurated by local MLA Bikram Kumar Panda. Environmental activist Bjay Bagaria from Robin Hood Army, M Dilip Kumar from Sabuja Bahini, member of Eco Club, Sargar Patra from Anchalika Vikash Parishad, members of Marwadi Mahila Samiti and members of Mahatma Helping Club narrated responsible consumption.

ACF, Brahmapur, Shankar Narayan Bej of Eco Club joined as speaker on issues related environment and biodiversity. Bibhu Prasad Sahu of YSD set the context for collaborative consumption and Chandan Kumar Sahu, Abhiram Kanhar and Tapash Kumar Patra of YSD coordinated.

# DIG opens new PS building in Gudari

**PNS ■ RAYAGADA**

South Western Range DIG Shafeen Ahmed on Tuesday inaugurated the new police station building at Gudari block headquarters and CRPF Hub in the presence of Rayagada SP Dr Saravana Vivek M.

The building has filled up the gap of infrastructure deficit in a hinterland like Gudari, around 70 km from the district headquarters. It is certainly a

befitting step to equip the police force to combat untoward situations, if any.

Ahmed insisted upon the mantra of Government's Mo Sarkar and directed police officers to perform selfless service and friendly policing.

He also had interaction with the Jawans of CRPF.

SDPO Raj Kishore Das and IIC SK Taudia, police station officers, CRPF officers, Jawans, senior citizens and local gentries were present.



# Family feud: Man kills uncle in Ganjam

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

A family feud turned murderously violent when a person allegedly hacked to death his uncle at Sunarijhol village under the Kabisuryanagar police station in Ganjam district on Monday night.

Reports said that T Sambaria and his nephew had a heated argument over a dispute while other members of the family were asleep. Suddenly, the nephew in a fit of rage attacked Sambaria with a sharp weapon, killing him on the spot.

Getting information, police reached the spot, recovered the dead body and sent it for post-mortem. Police registered a case under Section 302 of IPC and launched a hunt to nab the accused, who is absconding after committing the crime.

# SEFALI PROGRAMME FEDCO aims to widen WSHG network in Puri

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The Feedback Energy Distribution Company's (FEDCO) Woman Self Help Group (WSHG) initiative SEFALI has received a tremendous response in Puri Electrical Division, with 17 such SHGs joining hands with the company to serve its 12,000 consumers.

With the success of the model in Nayagarh and overwhelmed with the response in Puri, the FEDCO now plans to onboard 33 WSHGs by the end of this month to cater around 30,000 consumers in Puri.

Under its incentive-led Society's Empowerment for Assuring Livelihood (SEFALI) programme, the FEDCO



engages WSHGs for metering, billing and collection of energy charges from its consumers. Involvement of the local community through an initiative like SEFALI not only enhances the income-level of participating women members but it also helps in reduction of AT&C losses for the DISCOM.

# Man dies after being 'thrashed' by in-laws

**PNS ■ BHAPUR**

A man died allegedly after being beaten by his in-laws in Badabhuin village in Bhapur block under the Fatehgarh police station of Nayagarh district.

The deceased was identified as Ganesh Dash.

Ganesh was working at a medicine shop at Laxmisagarof Bhubaneswar. But after a dispute, his wife had left Bhubaneswar with their daughter to live with their parents at Badabhuin.

Reportedly, when Ganesh went to Badabhuin to bring back his wife and daughter, his father-in-law and other family members allegedly thrashed him following which he ran away from spot leaving his motorbike behind.

Later, Ganesh was called by his in-laws on Saturday to take back his bike. But when Ganesh reached there, the family members of his wife allegedly thrashed him again.

Subsequently, he was rushed to Bhapur CHC, but the doctor declared him brought dead.

Later, Gunanidhi Das, Ganesh's father lodged a complaint with the Fatehgarh police alleging murder by his in-laws.

On the other hand, Ganesh's in-laws have a different version. "Ganesh was an alcoholic. He came home in an inebriated condition that day and started an altercation with our daughter. He suddenly fell ill and died on the way to hospital," the in-laws claimed. The police are investigating into the incident.

# Congress demands more aid for B'ngir flood victims

**Meets DM, submits memo for CM**

**PNS ■ BALANGIR**

The Congress members led by Balangir MLA Narasingha Mishra, Kantabanji MLA Santosh Singh Saluja and party district president Dilip Behra held a demonstration before the collectorate here protesting against the apathy of both the State and Central Governments towards the flood victims of Balangir.

On August 13, there was unprecedented 555mm rainfall in Balangir town in a single day resulting in heavy flood and damages to houses and agri-

cultural land, besides roads and bridges.

After the flood, both the State and Central Ministers visited the area and we demanded Rs 1,000 crore flood relief assistance. All of them assured to take steps but only Rs 40 crore has arrived, which is inadequate," told Mishra, warning that if the rest money is not provided, the Congress would start an agitation.

Saluja and Behra also criticised the apathy of both Governments towards the flood victims of Balangir. The Congress would also raise the issue in the coming Assembly session, said Saluja.

Later, a delegation of Congress led by Mishra met Balangir Collector Arindum Dakua and submitted a 21-point charter of demands for Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

# Stray dogs attack 15 villagers in Bhadrak

**Victims hospitalised**



**PNS ■ BHADRAK**

Panic gripped villagers in Bhandaripokhari block of Bhadrak district early on Tuesday morning when as many as 15 persons were attacked by two stray dogs in the Manjuri Road area.

Reportedly, the two dogs came out of nowhere and randomly pounced on the 15 persons on the road, leaving them injured. Panicked locals ran back to their houses and locked themselves in to save from the ferocious canine attacks.

Meanwhile, the injured persons were admitted to the Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital for treatment.

# GRS caught taking ₹15K bribe in Boudh

**ESI Hosp Clerk nabbed taking bribe in S'garh**

**PNS ■ BOUDH /SUNDARGARH**

A Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) of Ghantapada gram panchayat under Kantamal block in Boudh district was arrested by the Vigilance police on Tuesday for allegedly demanding and accepting bribe.

Pandav Mahala was caught red-handed by officials of the Brahmapur Vigilance Division while he was accepting the bribe of ₹15,000 from Rispal Rana of Kuansila village to register his name online to get the work order early in his favour

to get a house under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMGAY)

Rana had brought the matter to the notice of Vigilance, following which a trap was laid. A case was registered for further investigation.

In another case, Vigilance officials on Tuesday arrested Bishnu Charan Mallik, a Senior Clerk of ESI Zonal Hospital at Kansbahal in Sundargarh district for allegedly taking bribe from an ambulance driver.

Mallik had reportedly demanded ₹1,000 from Bairagi Behera to process his GPF part final withdrawal of ₹2 lakh.

Behera had reported the matter to the Vigilance, following which a trap was laid. The officials caught Mallik red-handed while he was receiving the bribe.

# Police Saheed Diwas held in Brahmapur

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The Brahmapur district police observed the 60th Police Saheed Diwas at the Police Reserve Ground here on Monday.

"The Police Saheed Diwas is being observed to remember contributions of police personnel who have laid their lives for the nation. Their heroism, sacrifices and patriotism will keep inspiring all of us," said SP Pinak Mishra.

Mishra took salute at a collective police parade organised on the occasion. The SP read out names of 292 police personnel, including two Odia cops, who lost their lives during duty this year. He too remembered martyr Sushanta Gauda and garlanded his statue located on the ground.

Reserve Police Inspector Dilip Kumar Behera led the parade and Sergeant KB Behera coordinated it.

ASP Pravat Routray, Brahmapur town SDPO Bishnu Prasad Pati, Sadar SDPO Jayanta Mohapatra, DSP JK Patnaik and Traffic DSP Rama Krushna Pati were present.



# B'swar man court-forwarded for killing wife

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**

The police after arresting a man on the charge of killing his wife have forwarded him to court.

The accused was identified as Satyaban Mahalik (37) of Paramandapur village under Kuradiha panchayat of Basta block.

According to sources, Satyaban had married Sabitri of Badapal under Remuna block in 2008. The couple had two children out of their wedlock.

Yet due to several reasons including want of dowry, Sabitri was allegedly tortured both physically and mentally by her husband as well as in-laws.

On Sunday evening she was admitted in the District Headquarters Hospital by her husband after she consumed poison.

The parents of the Sabitri while alleged that she was forced to consume poison by her husband and in-laws, yet the accused maintained that she consumed it to commit suicide.

However, she died during treatment.

The enraged parents and relatives of the deceased thrashed Satyaban in the hospital itself leading to chaos in the DHH premises. This situation was brought under control by police.

**ACCORDING TO SOURCES, SATYABAN HAD MARRIED SABITRI OF BADAPAL UNDER REMUNA BLOCK IN 2008**

# Drunken man kills wife, surrenders

**BALESWAR:** A man allegedly killed his wife in an inebriated state at Nuasahi village under the Nilgiri police station in Baleswar district late on Monday night.

According to reports, accused Purna Chandra Singh returned home in the night after consuming liquor. A quarrel ensued between him and his wife Sukanti over the former's habit of heavy liquor consumption.

In a fit of rage, Purna thrashed his wife, killing her on the spot. He surrendered at the Nilgiri police station on Tuesday morning, confessing to his crime.

Police reached the village along with a scientific team and started investigation. The woman's body was recovered and sent for postmortem. **PNS**

# JSpur college fraud: Congress demands CB investigation

**PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR**

The Congress demanded a Crime Branch probe into the local SVM College mark sheet and university registration number fraud.

A DCC team lead by DCC president Natabar Barik and Biplab Choudhury submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through SVM College principal on Tuesday.

After meeting principal the DCC team informed mediapersons accusing college authority of the alleged fraud and playing with career of hundreds of students by giving fake mark sheet and university registration numbers. They threatened to take to



streets if the matter was not settled soon.

Sources said between 2015 and 2019 SVM College authority has been admitting excess students in plus three stream over approved seat by Utkal University. To allow them to take exam, the college has issued fake university registration numbers and fake certificates to those who passed out.

# Youth held for impregnating minor in Ganjam

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

A youth was arrested on Monday for allegedly impregnating a minor girl in the Gangpur area of Ganjam district on the pretext of marrying her.

The accused was identified as Mangulu Nayak.

Police said Nayak had established a physical relationship with the girl on the promise of marriage. Later, the victim was found to be pregnant. A meeting at village-level was convened to resolve the matter, but it yielded no result.

Later, the family members of the girl lodged a complaint

**Police said Nayak had established a physical relationship with the girl on the promise of marriage**

with the Gangpur police, on the basis of which a case was registered under relevant sections of the IPC and the accused was taken into custody by police.

The cops sent him for medical examination and are carrying out further investigation.

# INBRIEF

## SWEPPER THRASHES PATIENT AT HOSP IN BALESWAR

Baleswar: A sweeper allegedly thrashed a patient at the Paunskuli hospital under the Singla police limits in Baleswar district on Monday night. The accused asked the patient Purusottam Jena for giving space for cleaning work, over which an exchange of words erupted between them. It took an ugly turn as the sweeper thrashed the patient, leaving him injured. The victim was then shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital. Acting on a complaint lodged by the patient's wife, police registered a case and detained the accused for questioning.

## B'PUR MAHURI MANDAL HOLDS BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Brahmapur: A blood donation camp was organised by the Mahuri Mandal Haladia Talik Vaisya Samaj here recently. MLA Bikram Panda and BJD Ganjam district president Kanhu Charan Pati, Sarada Satpathy, Kabiraj Sahu, Sivaram Sahu, Narayan Sahu and Sidhant Gangdev graced as guests. More than 80 units of blood were collected. Social activist lawyer Pradeep Kumar Behera coordinated the programme. Mahuri Mandal central president Kirtan Sahu, vice-president Parsuram Sahu, secretary Gopinath Sahu were present, among others.

## CITIZEN AWARD WINNER ROUT GIVEN CIVIC RECEPTION

Brahmapur: Forum for Ganjam convenor Sudhir Rout, who received the Odisha Citizen Award-2019 for best social services and Certificate of Merit for environment protection, was given civic reception at a special programme held here recently. Brahmapur IISER Directo KVR Chara, former President Medial Advisor Dr Satyanarayan Sahu, MLA Bikram Panda and Brahmapur AIR Director Hrushikesh Panigrahi graced as guests. Forum chairman Dr Nrusingha Charan Padhi presided over the meeting. MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu and members of different organisations greeted Rout by offering flower bouquets, citations and shawls.

## SUDIP NAG NEW NTPC KANIHA CGM

Talcher: Sudip Nag took over as Chief General Manager (CGM), NTPC Talcher Kaniha on Tuesday on account on elevation of Ramesh Babu V, as ED to CMD and Designated Director (Operations). In his career of 32 years, Nag has served the Maharatna Company with diverse profiles. He had joined the NTPC in 1987 as 12th Batch Executive Trainee after graduating from NIT, Durgapur in Mechanical Engineering discipline. He also holds a PG Diploma in Business Management from MDI, Gurgaon. He has undergone training at J-Coal, Japan on latest Environment Control technologies.

# Scrapping of Code of Wages demanded

**Central trade unions hold demo before labour officials' conf venue**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Central trade union organisations on Tuesday held a demonstration before a hotel here, where the Regional Conference of State Labour Ministers and Principal Secretaries of Eastern States was being held, opposing the Central Government's move of putting the load on the State Governments to frame rules regarding the Code on Wages.

Sauribandhu Kar said that the Union Labour Minister and Secretary have organised such conference to implement the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019, which has been sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee after being introduced in the Lok Sabha.

He said that the Modi Government is implementing the Code of Wages by holding regional-level conferences instead of a national level conference and by which the State Governments are forced to accept the policies of the Central Government.

The members also said that the merging of 44 Labour Laws into four codes, i.e. wages, social security, industrial safe-

ty and welfare and industrial relations, has been done in the interest of the corporates and the trade unions strongly oppose it.

They also demanded scrapping of the Code of Wages. Among others, Sarbashri Kishore Jena, Bishnu Charan Mohanty, Jaysen Meher, Mahendra Parida, Dushmant Das, CVN Rao, Dr Purna Chandra Behera, Pranati Mishra, Satyananda Behera, Brajabandhu Pradhana and Naba Kishore Mohanty were present.

Notably, the Regional Labour Conference was attended by Union Labour Minister, Secretary, senior officials, Labour Ministers and senior officials of six States.

# BFA Kalla wins Pallahara Cup

PNS ■ PALLAHARA

A State-level football tournament, the Pallahara Cup 2019, ended on Monday. The tournament had been inaugurated on October 15 by local MLA Mukesh Pal.

Two teams, Pallahara BFA Kalla and BBSR unit-VI were selected for the final match and the Pallahara BFA Kalla defeated the rival team by 3-1 goals.

The function for the final match was presided over by Pallahara Football Association president Netrananda Mahakul.

Information Technology and Youth Sports Minister Tusarkanti Behera was chief guest while MLA Pal, Sub-Collector Ajit Kumar Pradhan, DSO Akhaya Kumar Sethi, BDO Tribrikram Kumara, SDPO Jasobanta Samal, Zillaparisad Vice Chairman Indramani Garnayak, Block Chairman Naba Naik and senior journalist Raghunandan Acharya were present.



# Ranji player Natraj retires from cricket



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Ranji cricket player Natraj Behera has announced his retirement from playing all formats of cricket.

secretary Sanjay Behera on Tuesday, Natraj informed about his decision of retirement. Notably, on Monday, former captain of Odisha cricket team Haladhar Das had also announced his retirement from playing all formats of cricket.

# Andhra Bank staff give ₹3.58 cr to CMRF

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Three organisations on Tuesday contributed a total of ₹3,63,25,894 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for undertaking restoration works in the Cyclone Fani-affected areas.

Employees of the Andhra Bank contributed ₹3,58,49,944. Bank CMD-cum-CEO J Packirisamy handed over a check to the Chief Minister at his office in the Loksewa Bhawan here. Similarly, the

**Employees of the Andhra Bank contributed ₹3,58,49,944**

Osta, Bhadrak gave ₹2,60,350 and teachers through the Bhadrak BEO provided ₹2,15,600.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik thanked all the contributors.

# Aditya Aluminium observes Handwashing Day

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Aditya Birla Group's Aditya Aluminium observed the Global Handwashing Day recently at Bomoloi School in Rengali block in Sambalpur district.

To mark the day, an awareness session was organised in the school where more than 50 students, teachers and SHG women participated.

The event was marked with sanitation drive in the village, awareness rally, hand wash

demonstration sessions and IEC display on steps of hand wash.

As many as 12 schools from six GPs will be covered under the hand wash awareness programme within a week benefiting more than 1,000 students.

Among others, Bomoloi Sarpanch Sesadev Pradhan, Rengali block Vice-Chairman Satyanarayan Agarwal, company's Sweta Upadhyay, Manoranjan Behera and Sangram Sara were present.

# Infosys shares tank 17% on 'unethical practices' claims

**Nilekani pledges thorough probe**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of IT services firm Infosys on Tuesday plummeted nearly 17 per cent, wiping ₹53,451 crore from its market valuation, on concerns over a whistleblower complaint which alleged that two top executives of the company were indulging in unethical practices to increase short-term revenue and profits.

The scrip tanked 16.21 per cent to close at ₹643.30 on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 16.86 per cent to ₹638.30, the most since April 2013.

On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), it plunged 16.65 per cent to close at ₹640. The sharp fall in the scrip wiped out ₹53,450.92 crore from the company's market valuation which now stands at ₹2,76,300.08 crore.

It was the worst-hit among the frontline companies on both Sensex and Nifty. In terms of traded volume, 117.70 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 9 crore shares on the NSE.



Infosys chairman and co-founder Nandan Nilekani pledged a full probe, saying the complaint had been placed before the audit committee on October 10 and before the non-executive members of the board the next day.

Nilekani, in his statement on Tuesday, said the company was made aware of another letter (dated October 3) that was purportedly written to the Office of Whistleblower protection programme, Washington DC. This letter referred to the September 20, 2019, complaint, and to

anonymous whistleblowers accusing CEO Salil Parekh of "unethical practices" to shore up profits through irregular accounting, sending its shares to their worst intra-day fall in over six years.

The audit committee began consultation with independent internal auditors EY, and has retained law firm Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. To conduct an independent investigation, Nilekani noted in his statement to the stock exchanges. Meanwhile, mounting troubles for Infosys, US-based Rosen Law Firm has said it is preparing a class action lawsuit to recover losses suffered by Infosys investors.

# J'suguda locals oppose NLC power plant

**JHARSUGUDA:** A public hearing for the proposed power plant by Neyveli lignite corporation Ltd (NLC) Talabira power plant in Hirma panchayat of Jharsuguda district could not take place due to strong opposition by the locals.

The NLC India plans to set up a power plant of (3x800) 2,400-MW capacity in Hirma panchayat.

The company has applied to acquire 753.13 acre land for the power plant. In this regard, the public hearing was arranged at Gariadihi to assess the social impact. The hearing began under the chairmanship of Jharsuguda Sub-Collector Siba Toppo. The locals opposed the hearing from the very beginning for acquisition of a total 753.13 acres of private land in five villages of Hirma Panchayat. They refused to take part in the hearing.

# Rural households to get water tap by '24

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Pratap Jena on Tuesday directed the Engineers working in rural areas to submit a detailed report on water supply in their respective areas by end of this month.

He asked all the engineers to expedite projects so that all household get water tap connections by 2024.

Attending a meeting, Jena said tap connections will be made in all households in Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Angul and Nuapda in the first phase.

While fund was being provided through the CSR and the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), the State Government has now decided to allocate a one-time fund allocation for the projects. The Minister stressed on proper implementation of the plan in the stipulated time limit.

**Attending a meeting, Jena said tap connections will be made in all households in Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Angul and Nuapda in the first phase**

# Top court grants bail to PC in CBI case but he stays in ED custody

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media corruption case filed by the CBI saying he is neither a "flight risk" nor is there a possibility of "his absconding from the trial".

Chidambaram is currently under the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and he can't walk free till he gets bail in the ED case too.

Brushing aside the CBI contentions, a Bench headed by Justice R Banumathi said, "The CBI has no direct evidence against the appellant (Chidambaram) regarding the allegation of appellant directly or indirectly influencing the witnesses".

The Bench said statement made by the CBI that Chidambaram has influenced witnesses and there was likelihood of his further influencing them cannot be the ground to deny bail to him when there

was "no such whisper" in six remand applications filed by the agency before the trial court.

The Bench, also comprising justices AS Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, set aside the Delhi High Court's September 30 verdict denying him bail.

"The appellant is ordered to be released on bail if not required in any other case, subject to the condition of his executing bail bonds for a sum of ₹1 lakh with two sureties of like sum to the satisfaction of the special judge, CBI-06, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi," the Bench said.

"The passport if already not deposited, shall be deposited with the special court and the appellant shall not leave the country without leave of the special court and subject to the order that may be passed by the special judge from time to time," it said. The top court made it clear that Chidambaram will have to make himself available for

interrogation as and when required by the probe agency.

"It is made clear that the findings in this judgment be construed as expression of opinion only for the limited purpose of considering the regular bail in CBI case and shall not have any bearing in any other proceedings," the bench said in its 27-page verdict. The apex court also dismissed the CBI plea challenging the findings of the high court which had said that Chidambaram was not a "flight risk" and there was no possibility of him tampering with the evidence.

The Bench said since the High Court has expressed its views on the merits of the matter in its September 30 verdict, they will not have any bearing either in the trial or in any other proceedings.

The top court noted in its judgement that the CBI has filed a charge sheet against Chidambaram and others in the case and other co-accused have already been granted bail.

"The appellant is not a 'flight risk' and in view of the conditions imposed, there is no possibility of his absconding from the trial," the Bench said. The Bench did not accept the contentions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who had appeared for the CBI and had raked up the issue of persons accused in economic offences fleeing the country.

"At this stage itself, it is necessary for us to indicate that we are unable to accept the contention of the Solicitor General that 'flight risk' of economic offenders should be looked at as a national phenomenon and be dealt with in that manner merely because certain other offenders have flown out of the country," it said.

# Delhi's 9 choked roads to go bottleneck-free

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced that Delhi's nine most congested roads will be widened, beautified and redesigned on the lines of European street model.

The idea to unravel the ₹393.94-crore project is to provide Delhiites with green ambience and "zero" traffic hurdles while travelling/driving on the roads across the national Capital, said officials.

The Pioneer in December 2018 had reported about the Delhi Government's initiative to decongest Capital's most congested roads.

The Chief Minister said if the pilot project of redesigning these nine stretches is successful, then all other roads under PWD's jurisdiction will be redesigned on the same lines.

The city Government also claimed the project was first planned in 2015 and a creative team was set up, but the project was scrapped due objections by the Lieutenant Governor. "After the creative team was disbanded in 2016, and members resigned from the PWD, then the Government engaged private consultants for re-designing and streetscaping of these nine PWD roads," said the official.

The stretches include Ring Road from Mayapuri to Moti Bagh Junction, Satguru Ram Singh (Road no. 36) Marg from Mayapuri Chowk to SD Public School, Britannia Chowk to Outer Ring Road,

West Enclave, Pritampura; Road no 41 and 41-A from Wazirpur Depot Crossing (NSP) to Rithala Metro Station, AIIMS to Ashram Chowk, Ambedkar Nagar to Defence Colony Flyover, Nigam Bodhi Ghat to Magazine Road Crossing.

"There is heavy traffic congestion on the bottleneck roads of the city. Wide roads in Delhi turn into a narrow lane after a few miles, and then back into a wide road after a few miles, which create a bottleneck situation and heavy traffic at some some locations. Our priority will be to remove these bottlenecks first, for a smooth flow of traffic and an organised lane system," said Kejriwal.

The other roads whose streetscaping will be done include Sewadham Road from Road No 63 to UP Border Delhi and Shivdaspur Marg and Patel Road (from Moti Nagar T-Point to Pusa Road about) and the 2.3 kilometres Narwana Road Mother Dairy to Punch Mahal Niwas.

"There is no proper planning or mapping involved in the construction of roads as of now. They will be measured and planned spaces for vehicles, non-motorised vehicles, footpaths, and side-lanes will be made. Footpaths will be widely mapped to an average of 10 feet for the convenience of the peddlers," Kejriwal added.

These footpaths will be redesigned and reconstructed as per a standard height for the convenience of physically handicapped, the CM said.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Bid Identification No 12 of 2019 - 20**

1. Name of the Work :- Execution of different civil works in the district of Kandhamal. (Refer DTCN available in the website :- [tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in))

2. Total No of work :- 02 Nos.

3. Estimated cost :- Rs. 77.54 lakh to 167.50 lakh

4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- B & A

5. Period of Completion :- 06 months to 9 months (Refer DTCN available in the web site [tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in))

6. Other Details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date and time for opening of Technical Bid
		From	To	
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Phulbani	12 of 2019-20	Dt. 1.11.2019 At 10.00 Hrs	Dt. 15.11.2019 Up to 17.00 Hrs	Dt.16.11.2019 at 11 00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
 Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only.

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 R WS&S Division, Phulbani

25006/11/0008/1920

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that our client, M/s. Muthoot Finance Ltd. (GSTIN 32AABCT0343B1Z7), Registered Office: 2nd Floor, Muthoot Chambers, Banerji Road, Kochi - 682018, Kerala, India CIN: L65910KL1997PLC011300, Ph: +91 484-2396478, 2394712, Fax: +91 484-2396506, [mails@muthootgroup.com](mailto:mails@muthootgroup.com), [www.muthootfinance.com](http://www.muthootfinance.com) is conducting Auction of ornaments (NPA accounts for the period up to 30.06.2018), pledged in its favour, by the defaulting Borrowers, as detailed hereunder. All those interested may participate.

Date of Auction: 29.10.2019  
 Talcher - (OR): MLS-13  
 Date of Auction: 30.10.2019  
 Nimapara - (OR): MLS-17

The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.  
 However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date then the auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be issued in this respect.

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

Note: Customers can release their pledged ornaments before the scheduled auction date, against payment of dues of our client. Customer can also contact Email ID: [auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com](mailto:auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com) or Call at 7834886464, 7994452461.

# India has never been offensive: Rajnath on Pak Min remark

PNSPTI ■ NEW DELHI/SLAMABAD

India on Tuesday did not fall into Pakistan's trap despite its provocation by firing at civilian habitations in Poonch and Rajouri even as Islamabad was facilitating a guided tour of envoys and mediapersons to some areas of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) across the Line of Control (LoC). Ironically, it was Islamabad itself which had requested New Delhi to hold fire in view of the envoys' visit.

The Indian Army showed extreme restraint by not retaliating forcefully and playing into the hands of Pakistan that wanted to portray India as the aggressor.

At least, two civilians were injured in mortar shelling by the Pakistan Army in Balakote area of Rajouri on Monday morning. The local authorities also rushed children attending

schools in the border area to safety.

In this backdrop of tension between the two countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while responding to questions on Pakistan Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed threat to use nuclear weapons after terror camps were destroyed in POK areas opposite Tangdhar on Sunday, said India has never been offensive. "We have never invaded anyone nor has India annexed an inch of territory from anyone." However, he added that Indian armed forces are fully capable of giving a befitting reply to any evil designs against the country.

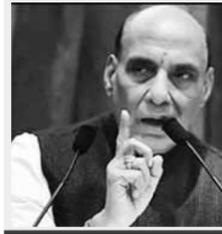
Giving details of the sequence of events regarding latest ceasefire violations by Pakistan, officials said here, Pakistan through established channels on Monday requested India to refrain from firing as diplomatic community and

journalists were to be conducted to a guided tour.

The visit was planned to show the international community about India's claims of destroying some terror launch pads in punitive strikes on Sunday in Tangdhar in North Kashmir.

Army chief General Bipin Rawat said on Sunday six to ten Pakistan Army personnel were killed and three terror camps destroyed in a retaliatory action by the Indian Army opposite the Tangdhar and Keran sectors in Jammu & Kashmir. He also said another terror camp was severely damaged in the action by the Indian forces and the retaliation had caused substantial harm to the terror infrastructure across the LoC.

Nearly 22 diplomats besides scores of journalists and social media professionals were to be taken to the area, officials



**'INDIAN ARMED FORCES ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF GIVING A BEFITTING REPLY TO ANY EVIL DESIGNS AGAINST THE COUNTRY'**

said. However, Pakistan went back on its word on ceasefire violations and targeted civilian hamlets leaving several school children stranded.

Officials said the action from across the border was obviously to incite India to retaliate and show New Delhi in poor light.

Meanwhile, Pakistan on Tuesday said Indian officials did not join a handful of foreign diplomats visiting the sectors along the LoC, where the Indian Army destroyed

three terror camps. Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said diplomats from various foreign mission in Islamabad were visiting Jura and Shahkot sectors opposite Tangdhar where the terror camps were flattened by the Indian artillery fire.

It was in retaliation to killing of two Indian soldiers and a civilian on Sunday when the Pakistan Army tried to push in militants by giving them covering fire. "The Indian

side has not joined us in the visit to the LoC neither have they provided coordinates of the alleged 'launch pads'," Faisal tweeted.

He said "claims by Indian Army chief remain just that: 'claims.'" Faisal is also accompanying the diplomatic corps to the LoC. The numbers and nationalities of the foreign diplomats visiting the LoC was not shared.

Pakistan military on Sunday said India is welcome to take any foreign diplomat or media to the site of alleged terror camps to "prove" its claim on the ground. Director General (DG) army's media wing Major General Asif Ghafoor said, "What good Indian High Commission is which can't stand with its Army Chief? Indian High Commission staff didn't have the moral courage to accompany fellow diplomats in Pakistan to the LoC," he said.

## 7th pay commission benefits for J&K, Ladakh Govt employees from Oct 31

**New Delhi:** In the run up to the creation of Union Territories on October 31, the Centre on Tuesday implemented the 7th Pay Commission to the Government employees of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved the proposal of payment of all 7th CPC allowances to the Government employees of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh, which shall come into existence from October 31, an official statement said.

The move will benefit 4.5 Lakh Government employees who are working in the existing State of Jammu & Kashmir and will become the employ-

ees of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh from October 31, it said.

The annual financial implication of 7th CPC allowances like children education allowance, hostel allowance, transport allowance, LTC, fixed medical allowance, etc. In respect of 4.5 lakh Government employees of existing State of Jammu & Kashmir will be around ₹4,800 crore.

Of the total ₹4,800 crore, a modest ₹607 crore will be for children education allowance, ₹1,823 crore for hostel allowance, ₹1,200 crore for transport allowance, ₹1,000 crore for leave travel concession (LTC), ₹108 crore for fixed medical Allowance and ₹62 crore for other allowances. **PNS**

## CONG NATIONWIDE STIR AGAINST MODI GOVT Protest not cancelled but postponed: Party spokesperson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the exit polls predicting yet another poll debacle, tongues are wagging within the Congress circles as to why the scheduled countrywide 10-day mass protest this month against the Modi Government on economic issues did not take off.

The party had officially announced a month ago to undertake a massive protest between October 15 and 25 at all levels which was to have the participation of party chief Sonia Gandhi, her predecessor Rahul Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and top party leaders.

AICC insiders pointed to the possibility of the protest being 'sabotaged' by a section of leaders midway during the poll campaign for Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra. Sources also said that Sonia and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi were kept off the campaign in both the States presuming the party's poor performance in both the States where the ruling BJP is slated to retain power.

When asked about what happened to the 10-day protest, a spokesman of

the grand old party requesting not to be named said it has not been cancelled but postponed and will be taken up after the festive season is over in northern India. "Priyankaji is already working towards leading from the front in Uttar Pradesh and the new schedules would be announced very soon," said the spokesman.

However sources in the party said that a section of party leaders discouraged the high command to go ahead with the planned protest conveying that the time was not appropriate as the nationwide protest could divert the gains of total from Assembly campaigns in Haryana and Maharashtra.

Congress had announced to hold the massive agitations across the country from October 15 to October 25 against the Government's policies that have allegedly led to an "economic slowdown". The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Sonia Gandhi at the AICC headquarters on September 12. The meeting was also attended by Manmohan Singh, AICC general secretaries and in-charges of various states and Congress Legislative Party leaders, among others.

## Naidu for detailed Legislative Impact Assessment for informed law making

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday advocated detailed Legislative Impact Assessment (LIA) bringing out social, economic, environmental and institutional impacts of legislative proposals for informed law making in the country. Naidu, in his capacity as Chairman of Rajya Sabha said that it would be useful to indicate such impact assessment in the legislative proposals for wider dissemination among all the stakeholders.

Naidu elaborated on the need for such impact assessment while referring to legislative process in the country during his address to 151 officials who have recently joined the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. It is for the first time that Rajya Sabha Chairman has interacted with new recruits on joining the Secretariat. Desh Deepak Verma, Rajya Sabha Secretary General, was present on the occasion.

Naidu said that inter-ministerial consultations are held before the Cabinet considers and approves legislative proposals but the scope for undertaking and indicating the impact of such proposals is limited in the present context. "Informed legislation will help in realising the stated objects of various laws



and this requires a detailed impact assessment of legislation at the stages of both pre-legislation and post-legislation. An account of pre-legislative impact assessment could be included either in the Bill or as an Annexure to the Bill," said the RS chairman.

Referring to Legislative Impact Assessment being undertaken by some OECD countries to good effect, Naidu said; "As the largest and vibrant democracy of the world, it is time that we do take a serious look at such impact assessment for ensuring more informed legislation. I am, hence, making this proposal for wider discussion and consideration by all the stakeholders."

During his interaction, Naidu suggested that the new recruits should take pride in the job as a source of motivation, pursue extensive study of the socio-political processes of the country and the issues being addressed by Parliament from time to time, acquire deep knowledge of the Constitution, understand Rules of Business of the House, be innovative and creative to make work more rewarding, move out of silos and to be aligned with the larger vision and objectives of the organisation and treat workplace as home.

## Centre relaxes gift policy for employees, hikes monetary limits

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government has increased the monetary limits for accepting gifts for all its employees, relaxing the ceiling by more than three-fold, officials said on Tuesday.

All officials under Groups 'A' and 'B' categories shall not accept any gift without the sanction of the Government if the value exceeds ₹5,000, they said, citing recently amended rules. The limit to accept gifts for these groups of employees was ₹1,500 earlier.

Similarly, Group 'C' employees will be able to accept gifts up to ₹2,000 instead of ₹500 without taking Government approval.

Government employees under Group 'A' are senior offi-

cial. Government employees under Group 'B' could either be gazetted or non-gazetted officials. Most clerical posts and multi-tasking staff fall under Group 'C'.

Officials said the ceiling limits were revised to bring them on par with those for the three all India services — Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service.

Gifts include free transport, boarding, lodging or other pecuniary advantage when provided by any person other than a near relative or personal friend having no official dealings with the Government servant. A casual meal, lift or other social hospitality is not considered a gift, according to existing rules.

## INSHORT

### NIRVANI AKHARA TO FILE WRITTEN NOTE IN SC

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed 'Nirvani Akhara', one of the Hindu parties in the decades-old case of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute in Ayodhya, to file a written note seeking the "right to manage worship of the deity" as 'shabaib' (devotee) at the site.

### GOVT SHOULD PAY 'JAZIA TAX': CONG

**New Delhi:** Labelling the USD 20 service fee proposed by Pakistan for each Kartarpur pilgrim as "jazia tax", Congress leader Manish Tewari said on Tuesday that the BJP Government should bear the cost as a Sikh devotee paying for the visit to the gurudwara goes against the grain of "khule darshan" (open darshan).

## Health Min: Govt will soon achieve goal of Universal Immunization

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will soon achieve its goal of Universal Immunization of children, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Tuesday as he noted that at present, up to 90 per cent



of children in India are being given free immunization. India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is the largest in the world.

The Minister was briefing the media here in the run-up to the Government's celebration of the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme's Silver Jubilee, which will be held on the 31st of this month.

The Minister said that, in the early 90s, India saw over two lakh cases of polio annually, but, after the polio eradication programme was launched in 1994, India attained polio-free status over the course of the next two decades due to concentrated efforts and collaboration of the Government, international partners, civil society, health workers and millions of volunteers. The Minister further added that the best practices and

the systems established by the Pulse Polio programme have benefitted other health programs, viz. the community mobilization, logistics management, reaching the last mile or setting up a surveillance system.

The learnings from Pulse Polio programme have helped implementation of other immunization programme i.e. the Mission Indradhanush (MI) and the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI).

The Universal Immunization (UIP) basket of vaccines has expanded to cover 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) from the earlier 7. Since 2014, five new vaccines have been introduced in UIP, which includes Rotavirus vaccine, Japanese encephalitis vaccine for adults, Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV); Measles Rubella vaccine (MR) and, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in a phased manner.

As of today, "Mission Indradhanush and related drives have successfully reached out to and vaccinated 3.39 crore children and 87.2 Lakh pregnant women in India."

## SC to hear pending cases on linking Aadhaar with social media

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred to itself all cases related to the linkage of social media profiles with Aadhaar pending in different high courts and also asked the Centre to submit its report in January to check social media misuse.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, while allowing the transfer petition of Facebook, asked the registry to place all connected matters before the chief justice of India for listing before an appropriate bench in last week of January 2020.

The top court also asked the Centre to submit its report in January on the notification of rules by which social media misuse can be checked and liability could be fastened on intermediaries to decrypt messages.

The bench's order came after Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for Tamil Nadu, dropped his opposition to Facebook's plea seeking transfer of all cases pending in different high courts to the apex court.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, clarified that it is not a ploy to breach the privacy of individuals but it is an attempt to protect national security and sovereignty.

The attorney general then intervened and said a terrorist cannot claim his right to privacy. Mehta also rubbished the claim



of some petitioners, who alleged that the draft rule under consideration of the Government, which would enable authorities to fasten liability on intermediaries to trace the originator of a particular message or a content, is Government's ploy to "trample individual's privacy".

On Monday, the Centre had told the court that internet has emerged as a potent tool to cause "unimaginable disruption" to democratic polity, and sought three more months for finalising and notifying the rules that would regulate the functioning of social media intermediaries in the country.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had told the top court that though technology had led to economic growth and societal development, there was also an exponential rise in hate speech, fake news and anti-national activities.

The court had taken the affidavit on record after counsel representing the Centre said the government had sought three months' time for finalisation of the Information Technology Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

## ASCI orders removal of 299 misleading ads

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The promos of web series "Chernobyl" and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's movie "Malaal" on print, electronic and social media were found misleading and violating the advertisement norms. Similarly, an advertisement featuring actress Deepika Padukone and Ranvir Singh promoting a product was found misleading.

The advertisement claims "100 Days Diabetes Healer" by Rathira Ayurveda and Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute advertisement claiming to overcome Parkinson was not substantiated with proof. Taking note of these false and misleading adverts, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), a regulatory body, has issued directions for

removal of content of 299 adverts from print, television, Twitter and YouTube.

According to the ASCI findings, the promo of "Chernobyl" showing a bloodied hand and a patient with the bloodied face related to nuclear energy during the live streaming of cricket was found violating the advertisement norms. Similarly, promo of the "Malaal" movie features the rider (male) and the pillion rider (female) on a two wheeler without helmets violating the traffic rules, shows dangerous practices, and manifests a disregard for safety.

The regulatory body also found the YouTube Channel video introduces the advertisement communication as "Wondering why you're so tired all the time? Watch how to take the #RiseUpChallenge by Horlicks Protein +".

"The video refers to complaints of "chronic tiredness" by participants of the Rise Up challenge, which is not necessarily linked to muscle strength alone. Such tiredness could be due to other health conditions such as loss of muscle mass, de-conditioning, nutritional deficiencies, oxygen delivery and anaemia. "Rise Up challenge" is to check ability to move which is linked to many factors mentioned above as well as neurological normalcy, balancing apparatus in the brain etc. Muscle strength is one of the outcome factors of the Rise Up challenge; connecting this as a direct "screening test" for "chronic tiredness" by the advertiser was considered to be incorrect," the ASCI said in its ruling.

In TV and YouTube advertisement of Lloyd AC, the advertise-

ment featuring actress Deepika Padukone and actor Ranvir Singh claims "18 degree Celsius in 45 seconds" was found misleading.

The television advertisement's claim, "Jab Challenge Ban Jaaye Tagda, toh Mamuli Nahi Tagda Energy Drink, Rasna Insta Ener-G", "Ye de real tagadi Energy, kyunki dusro ke mukabe sirf Rasna Insta mei hai Real Fruit Powder, 21 Vitamin, Minerals our Glucose ki tagadi shakti" were not substantiated. The pack visual indicated that the advertised product has 90 gm of sugar per 100 gm and has only 0.5 gm Glucose, an ingredient known to provide "instant energy".

The advertisement creates an impression that Rasna Insta Ener-G gives more instant energy than glucose powder or Instant drink as the

Boy Cadet rejects these products but gets instantly energised and keeps running for more than 19 rounds after consumption of the advertised product. The claim of instant energy was not substantiated with composition / FSSAI licence / pack artwork or samples, nor evidence of the ingredients present for the real fruit powder claim; also no comparison to show superiority over other generic glucose products was provided.

Bansal Classes Pvt Ltd print advertisement's claim, "The Leader" was not substantiated with verifiable comparative data of the advertiser's classes and other similar classes, to prove that they are superior than all the rest in providing coaching for the courses claimed, or through an independent third-party validation.

## Low pressure areas form over Bay of Bengal: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Due to formation of low pressure areas over South West and Bay of Bengal and strengthening of northeast monsoon further, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts fairly widespread rainfall over the next four to five days in many parts of South India. The IMD also withdrew the 'red alert' issued on Monday for seven of 14 districts of Kerala.

According to the IMD, the low pressure area over southwest and adjoining west central Bay of Bengal would intensify in the next 24 hours and move north-northwestwards. This is even as a persisting, low-pressure area over the East-Central Arabian Sea awaits further

traction to intensify a round to become 'well-marked', before further strengthening as a monsoon depression by Wednesday.

The IMD has persisted with an outlook for the system to North-North-East over East-Central Arabian Sea (towards the Konkarn-Mumbai coast) till Thursday, and then re-curve West-North-West (towards Oman-Yemen) with gradual intensification. Unlike the four-month southwest monsoon which accounts for over 75% of India's annual rainfall, showers during the northeast monsoon season is limited to southern peninsula. It provides rainfall to Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema, Kerala and south-interior Karnataka during October to December.

IN ASSAM

# No Govt jobs for those with more than 2 kids from 2021

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Cabinet on Monday decided that no Government jobs will be given to persons having more than two children after January 1, 2021.

The important decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held late Monday evening that also adopted a New Land Policy, which will give three bighas of agricultural land to landless indigenous people and half a bigha for constructing a house.

A communique from the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's public relations cell



stated that those having more than two children will not be considered for Government jobs with effect from January 1, 2021 as per the small family norm.

In September 2017, the Assam Assembly had passed the 'Population and Women

Empowerment Policy of Assam' that specified that job candidates with two children only would be eligible for government employment and the existing government staff were to strictly follow the two children family norm.

"New Land Policy was adopted. Three bighas of land will be given to landless indigenous people. Landless people will be offered half a bigha to construct their houses. These cannot be sold for 15 years," the CMO statement said.

The Cabinet meeting also decided to increase the bus fares in the State by 25 per cent, it added.

# Religious fanatics running schools to brainwash youth: Mamata Banerjee

Siliguri: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said religious fanatics have set up schools in the northern part of the State to "brainwash" younger generations.

Without naming anyone, she said this was a part of an attempt to spark communal violence in the region.

Speaking at an administrative review meeting of Cooch Behar, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts in Uttarakanya (branch secretary) here, Banerjee said, "A radical religious outfit has set up several schools in these three districts of north Bengal to be able to take control of our State. The money (to run such

institutions) is coming from outside. The teachers in these schools get a monthly salary of ₹ 20,000 to brainwash the students."

Those threatening to implement Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and National Register of Citizens (NRC) are conspiring to fuel trouble in the State, she stated.

"These are the people who are striking off names (from citizenship list). They are putting one section against another by threatening to bring NRC and Citizenship bill. This is a part of an attempt to spark communal violence," the Chief Minister maintained. PTI

# Fall in polling in TN casts shadow over contenders

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The five per cent fall in the number of voters who cast their votes in the Nanguneri by-election has cast a shadow on the confidence of both the leading contenders, Ruby Manoharan (Congress) and V Narayanan (AIADMK).

According to Tamil Nadu Election Commission, Nanguneri recorded 66.35 per cent polling on Monday while the constituency had seen 71.35 per cent polling in the 2016 assembly election.

Adding to the woes of the Congress (which is supported by the Congress) and the AIADMK, thousands and thousands of Devendra Kula Vellalars stayed away from the polling station to

drive home the significance of their demand to delisting them from the Scheduled Caste and elevation as OBC. The Pioneer had reported about the unique and rare demand raised by the leader of Puthiya Tamilagam Party, Dr K Krishnasamy that the State and Centre Governments for integrating seven sub-sects as Devendra Kula Vellalars and removing them from the ambit of the provisions of the Scheduled Caste.

"It was an aberration of history and that has to be corrected. We were not Scheduled Caste people but a class of land owning farming community which specialized in wet-land farming," Dr Krishnasamy has told this newspaper. Voters belonging to the Devendra Kula Vellar in Nanguneri con-

stituency boycotted Monday's by-poll and hoisted black flags atop their residences and all public places in the villages. The decision of the DKV community to stay away from the polling would affect the prospects of the AIADMK because the Puthiya Tamilagam is a constituent of the NDA in Tamil Nadu.

Dr Krishnasamy refused to say anything about the poll prospects of the AIADMK in the backdrop of the DKV's decision to boycott the poll. Southern Tamil Nadu has a considerable population of the Devendra Kula Vellalars and they are capable of tilting the balance in many constituencies in the region, said Krishna Pillai, an activist of the AIADMK from Kanyakumari.

# Darjeeling BJP MP's car attacked in Kalimpong

Darjeeling: The BJP MP of Darjeeling Raju Bista was on Tuesday shown black flag and his car was attacked in West Bengal's Kalimpong district by alleged activists of TMC and Binay Tamang faction of the GJM.

The GJM faction of Tamang and the TMC have denied the charges as baseless and politically motivated. A police contingent arrived at the spot and dispersed the mob.

The incident took place at a time when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is on a tour of north Bengal. She is scheduled to arrive in Kalimpong after her administrative meeting in Siliguri.

According to sources, the incident took place on Tuesday afternoon when Bista along with his personal security officer (PSO) and two other officials was on his way to Kalimpong.

"When I arrived at Sinji area of Kalimpong to inaugu-



rate a primary school, hundreds of supporters of Binay Tamang surrounded my car and raised slogans against me and the BJP Government. They waved black flags and banged on my car. Then all of a sudden they started pelting stones on it. When I tried to pacify them they threw stones at my PSO," Bista told PTI over phone.

A huge police contingent rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. It started investigation into it.

Reacting to the allegations, Suraj, a senior GJM leader of the Tamang faction, said none of its activists were involved in the incident. PTI

# No one can touch reservation till Modi Govt is at the Centre: Sushil

Patna: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Tuesday alleged that a false propaganda is being spread that reservation will be abolished by the BJP and emphatically said the job quota cannot be touched by anybody till Narendra Modi Government is in power.

Addressing a State-level Ravidas conference here, he said the BJP is in favour of reservation in promotion and against introducing creamy layer provision for the SC and ST categories.

The senior Bihar BJP leader said Modi Government has strengthened provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 through an amendment bill which was passed by Parliament.

"The Modi Government added 23 new sections in the Act through an amendment bill passed by Parliament. The



Government restored the original provisions (that no anticipatory bail be granted to the accused) in the Act which was diluted by the Supreme Court," he said. Later, the apex court also held the amendment act legally valid, he added.

Notably, the amendment bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament in August 2018. The central Government also increased 25 per cent compensation amount for dalits who are victim of atrocities, he said.

"No one can even touch the provisions of reservation till Narendra Modi Government is there at the centre," he said. PTI

# No Ramrajya in UP, BJP Govt taken lessons from Ravan: Akhilesh

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Trashing the BJP claim of good Governance in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said calling the State "Ramrajya" was unfair to Lord Ram. "Ram ko dhoka hai" (It's cheating Ram)," Yadav said while accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party in the State of having taken lessons from "Kalyugi Ravan", the demon king.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has claimed in the past that the State is moving towards the ideal of "Ramrajya".

"They say there is Ramrajya in the State. Yeh Ram ko dhoka hai. It seems they have learnt from Ravan and that is why they are working as Kalyugi Ravan," Akhilesh Yadav said in an interview to PTI.

He claimed Adityanath has failed on all fronts and development taken a backseat.

"I can't call him Yogi as his behaviour is against what Lord Krishna has preached in the Gita," Yadav said. "Had there been an insti-

tution where a complaint can be registered for using the term 'yogi', I would have been the first one to do so as he cannot provide justice to the people."

Citing an alleged fake encounter in which a Jhansi man Pushpendra Yadav was shot dead by police, Yadav said, "Anyone can be killed in this regime. There is no law and order. The police are killing the innocent and the Government, instead of punishing them, is shielding criminals."

Incidents of crime, particularly rape and murder, have increased, he alleged.

"The BJP is ruling by creating terror. Those who raise their voice against misdeeds are silenced. Corruption has increased manifold and there is no development work going on the ground due to which all sections of society are aggrieved," he said.

He referred to the recent murder in Lucknow of the leader of a little-known Hindutva outfit. "The CM has met the fam-



ily members of slain Kamlesh Tiwari. What did they get? The mother is not satisfied with the probe. Hope the CM listens to what she is saying," he said.

About the SP preparations to counter the BJP in the 2022 Assembly polls, Yadav said, "Our party is all geared up and has emerged as the only hope of the people, who are realising their mistake of choosing the BJP."

"We talk of development and our cadre will move ahead with this agenda," he added.

He ruled out an alliance with the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party or any other group. "(Assembly) elections are far but our party men are not

in favour of an alliance. We don't intend to stitch up alliances," he said. The SP-BSP alliance ahead of the Lok Sabha elections unravelled soon after the results were declared.

On a possible patch-up with his feuding uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav, who founded Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), Yadav denied any such move. "Nothing," he replied.

Asked if his party is withdrawing its disqualification petition against Shivpal Yadav from the state assembly, he said, "We have given the petition. It's up to the assembly Speaker to decide. We are not withdrawing it."

The move to withdraw the petition had triggered speculation that the Shivpal Yadav may come back to the SP-fold.

On Monday's bypolls for 11 assembly seats in UP, Yadav predicted that the number of votes for the BJP will go down, "despite their having used all tricks and the blatant misuse of official machinery".

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Maya D/o: Babu Lal R/o: Jhuggi No. G-124, Jahangir Puri, Delhi** is missing/kidnapped since 09.10.2019. In this regard a case vide DD Entry No. 75-A dated 09.10.2019 has been lodged at PS Jahangir Puri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**MAYA** Age: 18 Years 4 Months, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Unknown.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Jahangir Puri, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.

SHO P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi North-West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-27636000, 27631600

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

No. :- 74-W/3/WA/Publication Dated: 19.10.2019  
SRDENC/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders closing date 18.11.2019 16:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/bid up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes, available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No. Date	158-DRM-MB-19-20 Date - 10.10.19
Name of work	Manufacturing, supplying & loading of 60900 cum Machine crushed stone ballast of 65mm gauge size per Rly specification at Khurja city depot under DEN/Track.
Tender Closing Date Time	18.11.2019 16:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	83000001.00
Earnest Money (Rs.)	565000.00
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	10000.00
Bidding Start Date	04.11.2019
Validity of offer (Days)	45 Days
Period of completion	6 Months

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/Esstt/Gunotsav Technical Matter/979/2017/9773 Date: 22/10/2019  
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed agency having in execution of pre and post examination related work i.e. scanning of OMR using ICR/OCR/OMR technology and creation of database with necessary validation, Evaluation of Answer script etc. for Pre and Post Examination related activities.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Five thousands) for each tender as demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.



Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

## RAPE CASE

# Local court in UP dismisses Chinmayanand's plea to book student under Gangster Act

Shahjahanpur: A local court on Tuesday dismissed a petition from BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, who is accused of rape by a law student, demanding that the Gangster Act should be slapped on the woman and three others for trying to blackmail him.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Omveer Singh dismissed the petition saying it was not in his jurisdiction. He directed that it should be moved before the relevant court, Chinmayanand's lawyer Pooja Singh told PTI. Chinmayanand had also sent a letter to the State police chief demanding that the stringent Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-social Activities (Prevention) Act should be invoked against the woman and her three friends.

While the former Union Minister has been booked under the Indian Penal Code's section 376C, a charge short of rape, the woman and three others face a separate extortion case.

They were arrested last month on the basis Chinmayanand's complaint that they tried to extort ₹5 crore, threatening to upload online video clips showing him



getting messages from her.

According to the petition, Sachin Sengar, one the accused in the extortion case, had come to meet Chinmayanand at his home on August 9. He allegedly told Chinmayanand that he had all the evidence with him and a false case will be lodged if the former Minister did not pay up.

The petition claimed that Sanjay Sengar has been earlier booked in two cases, including one for attempt to murder, at Shahjahanpur's Tilhar police station. The plea alleged that cases have also been lodged against the student's father. It levelled allegations against the woman's mother as well.

Chinmayanand has been booked under section 376C of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which is usually applied in cases where a person abuses his position to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape". PTI

# Student files bail plea, HC seeks reply from Chinmayanand's counsel

Allahabad: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday gave two weeks to the police and BJP leader Chinmayanand's lawyer to file their objections to a bail plea by the law student who has accused the politician of rape.

While the former Union Minister has been booked under the Indian Penal Code's section 376C, a charge short of rape, the woman and three others face a separate case of trying to blackmail him.

A special investigation (SIT) of the Uttar Pradesh police has been probing the parallel cases.

Seeking bail for her, the Shahjahanpur woman's counsel argued that she is a victim of sexual harassment and all allegations against her are fabricated.

However, counsel for the State Government and Swami Chinmayanand opposed the bail plea, arguing that she is the main accused in the extortion case and there is sufficient evidence to prove it. They sought more time to file a counter affidavit.

Justice Siddharth granted two weeks' time to the SIT and Chinmayanand's counsel to file their reply and fixed

November 6 as next date of hearing.

The SIT had booked the law student and three others on a complaint made by Chinmayanand that they had demanded ₹5 crore from him, while threatening the release of objectionable videos.

The videos mostly relate to the messages Chinmayanand got from the woman, who claims she secretly filmed them as evidence of sexual abuse she allegedly suffered.

The woman studied at a college run by the BJP leader's ashram. Meanwhile, the SIT also submitted in the high court a status report in the case against Chinmayanand. The court fixed November 28 as next date of hearing and asked the SIT to submit a further report by that day.

The bench of Justices Manoj Mishra and Pankaj Bhatia directed that the SIT should also submit the forensic report by the next date if it has received it.

The forensic report is mainly required to match voices heard in the video clips with those involved in the case. PTI

# Two BSP leaders garlanded with shoes, paraded outside party office in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Two BSP leaders were garlanded with shoes, their faces blackened and paraded outside the party office on Tuesday by its workers who alleged corruption in ticket allocation in the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls.

The BSP workers also made Ramji Gautam, the national coordinator, sit on a donkey and paraded him and former state unit chief Sitaram outside the party office in Bani Park here.

"Our workers are upset with the leaders. The workers were active on the ground for five years but parachute candidates from the BJP and Congress were given ticket in lieu of money. BSP workers and leaders are being ignored and exploited," a BSP worker present there said.

He said they held three demonstrations in the state but the leaders did not convey their plight to BSP chief Mayawati. "Therefore, we had to take this step," he said.

Following the incident, Mayawati has dissolved the state committee of the BSP and lashed out at the Congress. In a tweet in Hindi, she alleged that the Congress first indulged in horse-trading and now it was getting BSP leaders attacked in Rajasthan. PTI

# Any effort to save triple talaq will be futile: UP Min



Lucknow: A day after a Muslim body challenged the law criminalising instant triple talaq in the Supreme Court, Uttar Pradesh Minister Chetan Chauhan on Tuesday said any effort to save the malpractice, which became a "custom" because of slackness of previous Governments, will prove futile.

"Several Muslim countries have put a ban on triple talaq. It is difficult to understand why the AIMPLB has knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court against the new law," he said.

"This new law is in the interest of Muslim women and any effort to challenge it in the court will prove to be futile," the Minister said.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board on Monday filed a plea in the apex court, challenging The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which makes talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq, having the effect of instantaneous and irrevocable divorce pronounced by a Muslim husband, void and illegal.

Chauhan said because of the slackness of previous governments, a malpractice went on to become a custom. PTI

# Position of Guv is weak, not even allowed to hold Press conference: Malik

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Tuesday said the position of a Governor in the country is very weak as he does not have the right to hold a Press conference or talk his heart out.

He also reiterated his Statement that a section of wealthy people in the country are like "rotten potatoes" because they do not do charity or come forward to help improve the education system.

"Governor is a weak entity. He does not have the right to hold a press conference or talk his heart out. I remain



apprehensive for almost three days hoping that my words have not annoyed anyone in Delhi," Malik said, addressing the seventh convocation of the Mata Vaishno Devi University in Katra town of Reasi district. PTI

# BSF keeping close eye on Pak's actions across border: Official

Jaisalmer: The BSF is keeping a close eye on Pakistan's actions across the border and is capable of dealing with any situation, a top official of the force said on Tuesday.

Border Security Force (BSF), Inspector General, Rajasthan Frontier, Amit Lodha, who is on a two-day visit to Jaisalmer, also said steps are being taken to further strengthen the border guarding force.

The BSF is alert and ready to deal with all situations on the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan, he told reporters.

On spotting of drones near the border, the inspector gen-



eral made it clear that the BSF has information about all

places. The force always tries to maintain better coordination with people living near the

border, Lodha said.

The BSF has launched a scheme 'ghar aangan' to maintain a better rapport with villagers and positive results are being seen, he said. PTI

## PWAY AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS AT ALIPURDUAR JN.

E-Tender Notice No. CON/APDJ/2019/OCT/01; Dated: 17-10-2019. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works:- E-Tender No. CON/APDJ/JN-G/2019/01. Name of work: At Falakata-PWay and other ancillary works during NI works and assistance to track machines in connection with New Maynaguri - Gumanihat BG Doubling project. Tender Value: ₹2,25,48,280.00; Earnest Money: ₹2,62,800.00. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 18-11-2019 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 18-11-2019. For Details please visit [www.irgpa.gov.in](http://www.irgpa.gov.in). Dy.Chief Engineer/Con, Alipurduar Jn. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organisation). "Serving Customers with a smile"

# Cong for jammers in strong rooms

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Apprehending "tampering" of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) ahead of the counting of votes on October 24, the Opposition Congress in Maharashtra on Tuesday demanded that "network jammers" be installed in and around strong rooms where the EVMs are stored and that "certain" VVPAT machines be made available for physical verification of votes polled through EVMs.

A day after the State Assembly polls, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Balasaheb Thorat— in a representation made to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Maharashtra, said that "a large section of our citizens apprehend that these EVMs can be tampered with" and sought installation of "network jammers" in and around strong rooms storing EVMs in



all 288 Assembly constituencies in the State.

"The citizens of our country at large fear that the said EVMs can be tampered with various wireless networks like mobile towers, Wi-Fi networks etc. Hence we feel that the installation of 'network jammers' is highly necessary in and around strong rooms where these EVMs are stored till counting. These jammers should be installed during the counting process as well," Thorat said, urging the CEO to install network jammers in all 288 Assembly constituencies in the State immediately.

Thorat also requested the election authorities "to make and declare the result sheet for each round of counting and for that particular round. "Only after result sheet for that particular round is prepared, duly signed by the returning officer and provided to all the parties, then the EVMs of next round should be opened for counting. Prior to this, any request for recount should be considered round-wise," he said.

The MPCC chief said that as per the guidelines of the Election Commission, "certain" VVPATs be made available for physical verification. "We hereby request you to grant our candidates liberty to select the EVMs to be tested against the VVPAT slips out of the total EVMs available," he said.

In another request to the CEO, Thorat said "in any doubtful EVM case, the same

machine be allowed for counting four times in a row at that moment".

The MPCC chief went on to reiterate the Opposition parties' demand for testing 50 per cent of EVMs against VVPAT for physical verification. The MPCC's demand for installation of "network jammers and for "physical verification of votes polled in EVMs through "certain" VVPAT machines should be in the context of an electoral round of the Opposition Congress-NCP alliance predicted by the exit polls which have suggested that the two parties would win collectively anywhere from the 41 to 90 seats in Monday's state Assembly polls.

The Congress and NCP, it may be recalled, had won 42 and 41 seats (out of the total 288 Assembly seats in the state) respectively in the 2014 State Assembly polls.

# Maha villagers claim every vote cast went in BJP's favour

**Pune:** Voters in a Maharashtra village have claimed that an EVM malfunction during Lok Sabha bypoll on Monday resulted in votes cast for any candidate going into BJP's account, a claim denied by election officials.

Kirti Nalawade, the returning officer for the Koregaon Assembly segment in Western Maharashtra, where this village is located, said the EVM was replaced but it (replacement) had "nothing to do" with the claims.

Villagers said votes cast in favour of the NCP nominee Srinivas Patil were going into the "account" of BJP candidate Udayanraje Bhosale, a claim district poll officials rejected.

"When Deepak Raghunath Pawar, a villager, went to cast

# Deepika Padukone, PV Sindhu flag-bearers of PM's 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' initiative

**Mumbai:** Actor Deepika Padukone and shuttler PV Sindhu on Tuesday were named the ambassadors for 'Bharat Ki Laxmi', an initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that aims at bringing commendable work done by women across the nation to light ahead of the Diwali festival.

The Prime Minister shared a video on the new campaign underscoring the cause of women empowerment. 'India's Nari Shakti epitomises talent and tenacity, determination and dedication. Our ethos has always taught us to strive for women empowerment. "Through this video, @PvSindhu and @deepikapadukone excellently convey the message of celebrating

#BharatKiLaxmi," the PM wrote on Twitter.

Deepika and Sindhu registered their support for the campaign on the microblogging site.

"This Diwali, let us throw light on & celebrate the contribution & accomplishments of the women of our country! #BharatKiLaxmi," Deepika wrote as she shared the video.

Sindhu said societies grow when women are empowered and their accomplishments are given a place of pride.

"I support PM @narendramodi ji #BharatKiLaxmi movement. It celebrates extraordinary achievements of extraordinary women of India. This Diwali, let's celebrate womanhood," she added in the tweet. **PTI**

# Mirchi aide held in money-laundering case sent to ED custody til Oct 24

**Mumbai:** A Mumbai court on Tuesday sent a close aide of gangster Iqbal Mirchi, who was an associate of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, to the Enforcement Directorate custody till October 24.

Humayun Merchant was arrested under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) here on Monday night, according to the central probe agency.

He was produced before PMLA judge P Rajvaidya, who remand him to ED custody till October 24. Merchant is being probed by ED in connection with illegal real-estate deals of Mirchi, who died in London in 2013, and his family. The agency arrested two other people in this case earlier this month. **PTI**

# Bengal Govt slams Didi Govt again

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ SAJNAKHALI

A day after venting his grievances against the Trinamool Congress and its senior Ministers for humiliating his chair, a furious Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhanekar on Tuesday once again slammed the State administration for dereliction of duty.

The Governor who had a prescheduled programme to meet elected representatives and senior officials of South 24 Parganas district on Tuesday and directed the District Collector accordingly, complained that none of the elected representatives and officials were present at the venue so that he was compelled to abandon his programme.

"When I enquired that why the elected representatives and othersenior officials were not present I was told that there was no prior permission from the State Government in this regard. This is not accept-



able. Am I subservient to the State Government?" the Governor said, adding "the cultured people of Bengal will find it difficult to digest."

A visibly angry Dhanekar wondered whether "attending a meeting called by a Governor is beneath the dignity of the District Magistrates and senior Police Officers."

He asked, "before whom they (DMs South and North 24 Parganas) are trying to prove their credibility," without naming Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee.

The Governor's repeated attempts to conduct adminis-

trative meetings in North Bengal and South Bengal have allegedly been spiked by the State Government, Raj Bhavan sources say.

Reacting to Dhanekar's comments TMC leader and State Minister R.N Ghosh said, "Being a constitutional head he cannot enjoy administrative power. It is for the Chief Minister to convene such administrative meetings."

While TMC MPs like Pratima Mandal and MLAs like Sukumar Mahato said they had not been invited to the meeting by the Governor's House wondering whether he at all had the power to do so, senior minister Partha Chatterjee left it on the Chief Minister to counter the Governor's argument.

Reacting strongly to Tuesday's development State BJP President Dilip Ghosh said, "there is no administration, no democracy, no regard for the constitution in Bengal."

# TEJPAL RAPE CASE - Victim cross-examined by defence for 2nd day

**Panaji:** The woman who lodged a sexual assault case against Tehelka magazine founder Tarun Tejpal was cross-examined by the defence counsel for the second consecutive day in a Goa court on Tuesday.

She appeared before the court for the first time on Monday for the trial, which was held in-camera.

District Judge Shama Joshi in Mapusa town of North Goa was hearing the case against Tejpal lodged by his former colleague, who was cross-examined by the defence counsel on Tuesday.

Tejpal was present during the trial. Later, Tejpal's lawyer Rajiv Gomes said the cross-examination will continue on Wednesday also.

A Supreme Court bench in

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/Gunotsav/Technical Matter/979/2017/9774 Date: 22/10/2019 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed agency for Printing, Packaging and Supply of Question Paper, Gunotsav 2019.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Five thousands) for each tender as demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

**ICICI Bank**  
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra 390 007  
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi -110055

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(G)	(H)
1.	Satyaveer Singh (Borrower), Suman (Co Borrower) LBDEL00001386142	Flat No. 1, 1st Floor, Plot No. S- 2 Blik-A Shilmar Garden Extn- 2 Ghaziabad, U.P. 201002 Area. - 600sq. Ft.	Rs. 2,813,529.43/- (as on October 7, 2019.)	Rs. 22,20,000/- From Rs. 2,22,000/-	November 13, 2019 From 12 Noon to 1:00 P.M.	November 29, 2019 From 11 A.M. Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link - "https://eauctions.saml.in") of our auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd.** The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **November 28, 2019, before 5:00 P.M.** else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to **ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055** or to our marketing agent **Shriram Automall India Ltd at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034** on or before **November 28, 2019 before 5:00 P.M.** The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on **8657476284/8584874809** or **Shriram Automall India Ltd on 9910453434**. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4)

Date: October 23, 2019  
Place: Delhi NCR  
Sd/- Authorised Officer ICICI Bank Limited.

### KAMLESH TIWARI MURDER CASE

# Accused forged colleague's Aadhaar card to join HSP

**Surat:** Surat resident Ashfaq Shaikh, a prime suspect in the Kamlesh Tiwari murder case, allegedly impersonated his colleague by forging the latter's Aadhaar card to join the Hindu Samaj Party (HSP) of the slain leader.

Tiwari (45), who headed HSP, was killed at his home in Naka Hindola area in Lucknow on October 18. He was earlier associated with a faction of the Hindu Mahasabha.

Shaikh and another suspect Moimuddin who have been on run have emerged as the key accused in the murder. Shaikh allegedly replaced his colleague Rohit Solanki's photo on the latter's Aadhaar card with his own. He also changed the birth date on the Aadhaar card.

Solanki told reporters that he had no idea about Shaikh's acts before his name cropped up in the murder. "I used work as a medical representative for a pharma company and forged the Aadhaar card to assumed my identity". **PTI**

# Kerala MP's wife equates fate with rape, draws netizens ire

**Kochi:** The title of a Facebook post put up by Congress MP Hibi Eden's wife, drawing an analogy between fate and rape, has created an uproar on the social media. Hibi Eden represents Ernakulam constituency.

"Fate is like rape, if you can't resist it, then try to enjoy it," wrote Anna Lina Eden on top of two video clips posted on the site to depict the plight of her daughter and husband Eden during the floods following rains in Kochi on Monday. While one video showed her daughter being evacuated from their waterlogged residence on Monday, another clips showed her husband enjoying a sizzler somewhere. **PTI**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT) W-1 DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, ROOM NO. 511, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005**  
E-mail Id:- ee1.djb@gmail.com

**NIT No. 05 (2019-20)**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fees (Rs.) Non (Refundable)	Date of release of e-procurement solution	Last date/time of submission of tender through e-procurement solution	Tender ID
1.	Re-boring of 05 nos. tube wells at (i) 7/8 Block, Mahiya Nagar (ii) B-100, Mahiya Nagar (iii) Prithvi Park, Kharki Village (iv) MCD Hospital, Mahiya Nagar, (v) Tool Sarai Village under Mahiya Nagar Constituency	29,56,956/-	59,200/-	500/-	22.10.2019	04.11.2019 upto 03:00 pm	2019_DJB_182695_1

Note:- Any further amendment/corrigendum made in this NIT will be uploaded and can only be seen on website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 470/2019-20  
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I

**DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I  
OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET - NEW DELHI-110017.

**NIT No. 50(S-I) (2019-20)**

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Replacement of sewer lines from H.No. C- 705 to T-9/1 ward no. 3 (near Kalika Das), H.No. 2818 to C-281/20 (Sunita Yadav), Near 211 C, 177 F-8, Prince Public School, Gaushala Gate N-2 to 266 P/20 ward no. 2 in Mehrauli Township in Mehrauli Constituency AC-45 under EE(South)-I	28,80,387/-	2019_DJB_182592_1 21.10.2019	11.11.2019 upto 3:00 PM
2	Replacement of old/damaged/ silted up sewer lines near Poochal Chowk Valmiki Basti Near Valmiki Mandir, old BDO office & H.No. 243/6 in Mehrauli in Mehrauli Constituency AC-45 under EE(South)-I	30,36,633/-	2019_DJB_182592_2 21.10.2019	11.11.2019 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 467/2019-20  
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I

**M/s Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Ltd.**  
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC049038  
Tel No.: 011-49800900, Fax: 011-49800933  
E-mail: [commodities@bharatbhushan.com](mailto:commodities@bharatbhushan.com)  
Website: [www.bbinvestments.in](http://www.bbinvestments.in)  
Regd. Office: 503, Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited (the Company) will be held on Friday, 01st November, 2019 at 04.30 P.M. at its Registered Office situated at 503, Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001, inter-alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Un- Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2019 and to consider any other matter with the permission of Chair.

Further, pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of aforesaid Regulations, this information is also available on the website of BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) where the Company's securities are listed and shall also be available on the website of the Company at (<http://www.bbinvestments.in>).

For Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited (Nisha Ahuja) Director  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 23-10-2019

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Age: about 23 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Shirt and pant, was found injured in a road accident at Seemapuri Guru Dwara. He was admitted in GTB Hospital. Where he died. In this regard a FIR No. 628/19 u/s 279/337 IPC dated 19.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
P.S. Nand Nagari, Delhi  
Ph. No.: 011-22583307, 22585985  
DP/7409/NE/19

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, Age 45 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Blue, green colour checkdar shirt & grey colour pant and blue colour underwear was found dead at Ring Road near divider under Matro Flyover Apposite 12 Area of PS R.K. Puram, New Delhi on 06.10.19. In this regard a DD No. 37-A dated 06.10.19 has been lodged at PS R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

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

SHO  
PS: R.K. Puram, New Delhi  
Ph.: 26185222, 26186963  
DP/7119/SW/19

**RAM LAL ANAND COLLEGE**  
University of Delhi  
Benito Juarez Road, New Delhi-110021.  
E-mail : [rlac.du@gmail.com](mailto:rlac.du@gmail.com); Website : [www.rlacollege.edu.in](http://www.rlacollege.edu.in)

Advt. No. RLAC/2019/ET-1/01  
Date: 18.10.2019

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, in the Academic Pay Level 10 of the 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the College. The last date for receipt of application is 08.11.2019 or two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News, whichever is later. For details, please visit the College website.

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the College website <https://www.rlacollege.edu.in/>.

**Important Note:**  
The details regarding qualifications, publications, experience, screening guidelines and indicative proforma etc. are available on the College website along with this advertisement. The applicants are required to read these details before filling up the form.

**PRINCIPAL**

## Is there voter fatigue?

Amid predictions of a cakewalk for the BJP in Haryana and Maharashtra, low turnout signals disenchantment



A crucial aspect got swamped by exit poll results that predicted a thumping and roadrolling win for the ruling BJP in the Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra. While hyperactive anchors across TV channels wondered about the margin of victories and whether the BJP would best its own record in the Assemblies so far, Haryana recorded the lowest turnout in 50 years and Maharashtra in 39. According to the Election Commission's figures, 63.55 per cent turnout was recorded in Haryana, while only

56.65 per cent came out to vote in Maharashtra. The former has seen its lowest voter turnout in Assembly elections since 1968 whereas the latter's figures are lowest since the 1980 election. Not only that, both percentages are significantly lower than the turnouts in the last round of State polls in 2014 and the Lok Sabha elections in May. This means that almost half the voters did not exercise their choice despite greater awareness and an increase in polling booths, either out of a sense of resignation or a deep distrust. This is surprising considering that behaviourally, the voter seems most invested in local self-governance issues and, therefore, is expected to turn out for the Assembly elections that are fought on local affairs rather than national ones. Clearly, there is fatigue at work. Now this can be interpreted in many ways. Could it be that there is an immediacy of contexts, the Lok Sabha results having bolstered the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with such an overarching appeal that any other State, where his party is in power, is assumed to be operating as a satellite? The voter probably believes that the continuity of the same regime at the Centre and States would automatically ensure a Central-level urgency to resolving local issues. Perhaps, this unitary rather than federal character of governance has bred complacency. Even though both Chief Ministers, Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra and Manohar Lal Khattar in Haryana, have managed to consolidate their positions and blend in, the former a non-Maratha and the latter an outsider, they, too, encountered a voter slide. Nagpur south-west, from where Fadnavis is contesting, recorded 49.25 per cent of votes, down from 56.44 per cent in 2014, while Khattar's constituency Karnal recorded 49.3 per cent of voter turnout, down from 67.84 per cent.

Also, there is now legitimacy to a majoritarian discourse given the BJP's big win in the Lok Sabha and a larger acceptance of the muscularity of the party in pushing the One India narrative. The collective decimation of the Opposition parties and the total annihilation of the only other nationalist party of consequence, the Congress, have meant that the common man has already accepted the "there can be no alternative" formula in States where the BJP is in command. In the light of this understanding and absence of a real contest, many voters may have just thought that the ballot process would anyway be a futile exercise. Particularly for those with divergent views, there is a sense of helplessness that their vote would be too minuscule to matter or that their dissent was unwanted. Tidal verdicts in succession have meant that very few seats in "friendly" States are considered "unsafe" for the BJP. Besides, at the State level, not even the ruling party is seen as following through with pledges to keep the voter animated as a decision-maker. Or it could be plain disgust at the thought that nobody would anyway give them a hearing. This ennui is dangerous to the extent that it undercuts the value of election in a democracy and actually veers it to a measure of a personality cult and a presidential style debate. This could also mean that the committed Opposition voters have dissipated somewhat and driven to as much irrelevance as the parties they feel echo their concerns. Particularly in Haryana and Maharashtra, the Congress failed even to get its basic act together with faction fights tearing it apart and turf leaders working at cross purposes. In Maharashtra, the party bled like never before with several key leaders deserting the ship. No wonder the monolithic predictability has dampened enthusiasm and though there is a younger demographic that's perhaps gung-ho, the older registered voters are still a sizeable chunk of the pie. This is not new. Even in the UK, from where we have derived our parliamentary democracy, a large proportion of voters have shunned the "political elite." Indeed, the Brexit vote has been viewed by many commentators as a vote of disillusionment. However, this only lulls the political class into an illusionary sense of popularity. The vote matters in ensuring checks and balances.

## In the firing line

Pakistan's use of deadly force on civilians is reprehensible. Not that condemnation will stop it



The military in Pakistan has always thought of civilians elsewhere as second-class citizens as was evidenced by the brutal genocides against Bengalis in 1970-71 or Indians. Proxy attacks by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists have cost thousands of Indian civilians their lives over the past three decades — be it during the height of the Punjab crisis or to this day, with Kashmiri terrorism being influenced by the likes of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed. However, Pakistan's Army, the Inter-Services Intelligence

(ISI), and the establishment have always had an answer. They were not directly responsible for the deaths. After all, anonymity is the advantage of proxy forces. However, the unprovoked firing of artillery and mortar shells over the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region over the past few days has hit civilians hard, maiming and killing Indian villagers. This is unacceptable and serves little purpose unless the aim is to give covering fire to terrorists trying to cross the LoC.

Pakistan has been nursing the black eye that India gave it with the Balakot air strikes. Then the failure of its own counter-attacks and the subsequent revocation of Article 370 by the Indian Government, which caught the Pakistani military and its Government headed by Imran Khan off-guard, have dented its "bleeding cuts" strategy vis-a-vis India. The attempts by Pakistan-backed terrorists to sabotage the local economy, particularly targeting apple growers and truckers, have also fallen flat. While the Indian paramilitary forces and intelligence forces have managed to keep a lid on active acts of terrorism in the Valley, the area still remains in a virtual lockdown even after two months of the abrogation of Article 370, although things appear to be easing ahead of winter. Pakistan is getting desperate to hurt India despite its economic situation, which is still far worse than India's, becoming almost a virtual pariah state. Even the Chinese money, supposed to flow in through investments, is drying up. China, which has for long propped up Pakistan as a counterfoil to India, has realised that investing money in Pakistan is worse than burning it. Besides, Pakistan's own hypocrisy in condemning Indian actions on Kashmir while ignoring the Chinese treatment of the Uighur Muslims has become more apparent. The Army has made a few raids into Pakistan but if these unprovoked attacks on Indian villages continue, it seems we cannot get the new Rafale jets soon enough.

# A ride into military school

The defence academy at Khadakwasla is truly tri-service and a unique training institution, which sows the seeds of camaraderie, military ethos, customs and traditions



ASHOK K MEHTA

Returning to one's roots in soldiering is replete with nostalgia, inspiration and feeling 10 years younger. Revisiting the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, Maharashtra, after more than six decades was re-living one's days when well-rounded heads were being fitted on square shoulders. We were the pioneers, who in 1955, moved from the Joint Services Wing (JSW) in Clement Town, Dehradun, to the emerging military township of Khadakwasla near an iconic lake — the spectacular landscape overlooked by Shivaji's impregnable Sinhagad Fort. In the sixth and final term, Sinhagad became the touchstone for long-range patrolling, stamina and survival. Sticking out of the earth was the majestic central cupola, the nerve centre of the academy, flanked by the cadets' mess and the education block. Neat rows of road radiate from these commanding heights in three directions — towards the Pashan Gate, the Central Vista and the Avenue to the Lake.

In January 1955, trainloads of cadets were relocated in their new home Khadakwasla, the pride of India. It was to become the cradle of military leadership and excellence where "jointness came naturally." All the 1,000 cadets would branch out after three years together for their choice of service: Army, Navy or Air Force. Potential Army cadets were cross-trained. For example, I was sent on Indian Navy frigate Cauvery for a week while a Navy volunteer went to an Army establishment and similarly, the Air Force to a different sister service. After the sixth term, one would go to the Naval, Air Force and Army military academies for the final year of training. Currently, cadets indicate their choice of service after the fourth term.

Last week in Khadakwasla, I witnessed change and what has not changed and is still reminiscent of 1955. First, the change. All the way from Pune's Southern Command Officers Mess, the 25-km stretch to Khadakwasla was then desolate, habitated with lush green woods. What took one hour on a bicycle, took two hours, given the concrete jungle that has crept towards NDA and much is in the possession of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) — its kingdom. Farmhouses, luxury resort hotels and restaurants have encroached on the precincts of Khadakwasla. The Pashan Gate is new with a massive security apparatus.

The welcome landmark is the Gole Market — nothing has changed here. This market is etched in my memory because a week before we were to "pass out" and move to the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, our joyful celebration was rudely interrupted by one "Major The Sandhu", an infantry officer who was uniformly dreaded by cadets. It was past midnight. Four riding an ornance-issued bicycle, strictly meant for one, was sacrilege, especially when Maj Sandhu, who was returning in his car from Pune, nearly collided with the overloaded bicycle. For breaking several military regu-



lations, Maj Sandhu used multi-lingual invectives and had four of us charge-sheeted.

**Punishment:** While all of the 11th course was allowed to pass out on December 1, 1956, we were detained for 14 days. The driver of the bicycle was Divisional Cadet Captain Jaswant Singh, who was complimented by the Commandant, Maj Gen Inayat Habibullah, for "steering a bicycle as expertly as a horse."

The cadets' living room is the same except that a limited wi-fi is now available. Like Jammu & Kashmir was put in a lockdown, cadets are forbidden the use of cellphones. The technology of the bicycle is vintage though the satchels the cadets carry has improved.

From 12 squadrons, the academy now has 18 squadrons and a cadet strength of 2,000. "Item" has become "India" squadron, my "Fox" squadron to "Foxtrot" and "Dog" to "Delta." The Ante Room has the familiar aquarium but now a billiards table, too.

Barbara Bonny, the wife of our Squadron Commander, Maj LKM Bonny, used to teach us the Foxtrot and on the weekends, commandeered busloads of Pune lasses for live practice. Gen Habibullah and his wife Hamida put the cadets through sessions of Indian cultural training — music, drama, *mushaira* and once even Bollywood.

There was no change in the cadets' mess. Rations and quality of food match any reputable restaurant. Outside are pictures of early times. Former President

“  
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 ”

Rajendra Prasad, dining with the cadets, flanked by Gen Habibullah and Gen Moti Sagar, both drinking port... the classic shows Premier Chou en Lai in a black Mao jacket in the cadets' mess during our passing out parade.

As the chief guest, he presented me with the inter-company Squash trophy, which is captured in the film on 1962 war, *Hum Dono*. This was the era of Panchsheel and *Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai* (India and China are brothers) full of banter and bonhomie even as the Chinese had started building the road through Aksai Chin, which former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru divulged to Parliament only in 1959.

There are fabulous pictures, which must be the envy of memorabilia collectors — Pandit Nehru and Gen Habibullah, both on horseback, surveying the academy from a vantage point as it was being built. It is clear from other pictures of Nehru that the Khadakwasla project was his baby. Another picture is of Lt Gen JN Chaudhury and Nehru engaged in serious conversation. Army Chief Gen KS Thimayya and Nehru in a tete-tete. Thimayya and Nehru were good friends, enjoyed immense rapport despite professional differences.

Today, like yesterday, there is total lack of rapport and conversation between top military leaders and the political elite. The last Army Chief, who could chat up politicians, was Gen Bipin Joshi. The absence of

meaningful dialogue between the political and military leadership has let the bureaucracy usurp critical advisory space. Today, the Prime Minister cannot find the time to have a useful conversation with his Service Chiefs.

The Habibullah Museum, meagre in space, contains rich memories and souvenirs, including a stunning ornamental *khukuri*, presented by C in C Royal Nepal Army, Gen Surendra Bahadur Sahib (must be Shah) in January 1966. The once-splendid Bombay Stadium has alas gone to seed. So have the Squash courts near it. The cadets play individual sports like squash, tennis and golf. The Golf Course doubles as the military training area and is named after the legendary Russian language teacher Jaouralov.

Notwithstanding our fear of Maj Sandhu — he would famously counsel "do not trust wife, rain and enemy" — he taught us the best field craft to be a cat burglar, poacher and marksman that saved our lives and those of the men under our command in all the skirmishes and wars. NDA is truly tri-service and a unique training institution, which sows the seeds of camaraderie, military ethos, customs and traditions. That is how DCC Jaswant Singh became the Defence Minister of India.

(The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

## SOUNDBITE

I will love to see India-built applications used in the US. I would love to see India-built data system used around the world. That will be the biggest win.

Former Google CEO  
 —Eric Schmidt



My next one is about climate change, it's my obsession now. There's no time to discuss anymore, it's time to act.

Filmmaker  
 —Fernando Meirelles



We believe that direct dialogue between India and Pakistan, as outlined in the 1972 Shimla Agreement, holds the most potential for reducing tensions.

US diplomat  
 —Alice Wells



They say there is Ramrajya in the State. *Yeh Ram ko dhoka hai*. It seems they (BJP) have learnt from Ravan. This is why they are working as Kalyugi Ravan.

Samajwadi Party chief  
 —Akshay Yadav



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More power to women

Sir — The story of the life and struggles of Pranjal Patil, the country's first visually challenged woman IAS officer, reminds us that nothing is impossible if one has the determination to persevere against all odds. Patil has truly struggled far more than others to achieve her goal of becoming an IAS officer. Losing vision at the age of six did not deter the young girl from Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra, from pursuing her dreams. In spite of several hurdles, Patil has become the first visually-challenged woman in the country to hold such a high post in the bureaucracy. The old English proverb, "where there is a will, there is a way", holds completely true in this instance.

M Pradyu  
 Kannur

### Guarding our lives

Sir — This refers to the report, "Efforts being made to demonise tech: PM" (October 21). The impact of technology on the future of human society is difficult to predict. With the advent of

### Poll results shouldn't be surprising

As expected, a bunch of exit polls has projected an emphatic victory for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led alliance in Maharashtra and Haryana, which went to the polls recently. They suggest that the Congress, the principal Opposition in both States, has not begun to recover from its decimation in the 2019 Lok Sabha election in May this year. Given the increasing power of State Governments in the day-to-day lives of people, the outcome of elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will have clear governance implications for their development and growth.

Though both States are currently ruled by the BJP, the notable fact is that before 2014, neither Maharashtra nor Haryana was a stronghold of the party. To their credit, both the Chief Ministers, Devendra Fadnavis and Manohar Lal Khattar, under the supervision of the Modi-Shah duo, have made the BJP the dominant player in their respective States. The rise of these two Chief Ministers and the free hand their party allowed them in running their Governments helped the BJP expand its vote base. But the BJP's dominance has also been due



to the collapse of the Opposition, with its major partner, the Congress, being in tatters. No wonder, most polls have given nearly three-fourths majority to the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena combine in Maharashtra and a similar margin to the BJP in Haryana. By this count, incumbents Fadnavis and Khattar are on the course for second terms as Chief Ministers in their respective States.

Padmini Raghavendra  
 Secunderabad

### Alarming figures

Sir — According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, India saw a total of 100 deaths in police custody in 2017, which is up by eight, compared to 2016. Police are known to apply third-degree methods to elicit confession from "crimi-

nals" to buttress their case in the courts. There are many cases where undertrials have succumbed to physical and mental torture from cops. Unable to bear the torture, there are also cases of people resorting to the extreme step of committing suicide. Sadly, even natural deaths in police custody are treated as custodial deaths.

Deaths of this kind would have, perhaps, occurred even if such a person was not in custody. In the case of undertrials, the courts are also to be blamed since many cases drag on for years before they are even listed for hearing. It is appalling that out of 56 cases registered, only three of 48 people were chargesheeted and convicted for human rights violation. The fall in custodial deaths is not possible unless the police involved in the crime of physical and mental torture are convicted of the offence. Expedient disposal of cases in courts can substantially contribute to drastic reduction in custodial deaths.

KV Seetharamiah  
 Hassan

Send your feedback to:  
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## An alternative to direct investing

Through mutual funds, small investors can put money in the stock markets and benefit from any upswing in share prices



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The growth of mutual funds (MF) as a worthy alternative to direct equity investment over the years has been humongous. According to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the Indian MF industry has grown from ₹6.28 trillion in September 2009 to ₹24.51 trillion in September 2019, a four-fold increase in a decade. Depending on how the money is being invested, there are different categories of MFs based on asset class, structure and investment objective. On the basis of asset class, MFs are of the following type:

**Equity funds:** Here at least 70 per cent of the money is invested in stocks of listed firms. Equity funds can be further classified based on sectors like infrastructure funds, IT funds; size of the company like large cap, mid-cap; purpose, like equity-linked savings schemes that give benefit of tax savings; tracking an index through index funds; or fund of funds (FoF) which invests in other MFs.

**Debt Funds:** Here, majority investments are in debt instruments like Government bonds, firm debentures and other fixed income assets.

**Hybrid/Balanced Funds:** These invest in both the asset classes of equity and debt instruments with the proportion of equity and debt varying in different funds. A balanced fund could be 60 per cent invested in equities with remaining 40 per cent in debt or vice-versa.

**Money Market Funds:** These invest in money markets that are short-term in nature and are highly liquid and are mostly preferred by companies to park their idle cash and by large institutions and the Government to meet their short-term fund requirements.

MFs can also be categorised based on structure as open-ended or closed-ended. Although the industry is growing, investors are also increasingly concerned about fund selection and are demanding detailed information and investment advice. Due to the large number of funds, evaluating and selecting MFs can be challenging.

So what are the metrics that are used to analyse and compare the performance of different MFs? For debt schemes, credit rating is important as it is a known fact that debt funds are prone to interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity exposure. While interest rate perils and liquidity exposure affect the returns and redemption of debt investments, the credit risk tends to affect the principal value of the investment. Hence, various credit rating agencies, like CRISIL, CARE, ICRA, measure and evaluate the credibility and creditworthiness of the borrower and these ratings are derived on the basis of the credentials of the entity, which may be the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, or any other financial information. Equity MF investors can also use several ratios to analyse the performance of their investments. It is a misconception that higher returns mean better performance, since returns cannot be judged in isolation and have to be simultaneously measured with the risk taken to generate the returns. This is where Sharpe Ratio is helpful, as it assesses the returns generated by a portfolio against per unit of risk undertaken. A higher Sharpe Ratio represents a higher return generated per unit of risk. Investors should also note that any ratio would only make sense if it is compared to the benchmark index.

Treynor Ratio, also known as reward-to-volatility ratio, like Sharpe Ratio, helps analyse returns in relation to the market risk of the fund except that it uses beta or market risk as the volatility measurement and gives the return over the risk-free per unit of market risk, whereas Sharpe Ratio uses standard deviation.

By comparing the beta of the investment to the volatility in the entire stock market, people can assess the risk associated with the investment. Stocks with a beta greater than one tend to increase and decrease in value faster and more quickly than stocks with a beta of less than one. Higher the Treynor Ratio, the better the performance under analysis. For instance, if the fund's average return is 10 per cent and the risk free rate is seven per cent, the difference becomes three per cent. If the historic beta of the fund is 1.5, then the Treynor Ratio is 2 (3 divided by 1.5). This means that in the past, the fund has given two units of return for one unit of its market risk.

Small investors, who are trying to make the most of their investments are often plagued by questions whether MFs are safe? Are they safer than direct equity investments?

MFs are an easier way for small investors to put money in the stock markets with low initial investment as they can get the benefit of any upswing in the prices of the shares because of the expertise of fund managers. However, small investors should be aware that since MFs in turn invest in shares, the returns are subject to the fluctuations of the stock market and are not fully insulated from it. The extent of risk, and also the returns come down with the inclusion of debt securities in the portfolio of MFs and investors should understand their risk tolerance before investing. MF investing can be a good alternative for small investors provided they tread with caution.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

**SHE'S (GABBARD) THE FAVOURITE OF THE RUSSIANS. THEY HAVE A BUNCH OF SITES AND BOTS AND OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING HER. —DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER HILLARY CLINTON**



**ANYBODY THAT IS OPPOSED TO HER (HILLARY) IS A RUSSIAN AGENT. THAT'S A SCAM THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH PUT DOWN. —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP**

# Finding the path to happiness

Most actionable solutions to the findings of a recent survey on the status of women and their health, literacy and employment, will come through the digital revolution



BINDU DALMIA

Last week I had the pleasure of releasing *The Status of Women in India* report in Nagpur, which is a comprehensive survey conducted by the Sangh-linked organisation Dristhi Stree. I share my reflections in two parts on this very thought-provoking survey: The problems red-flagged in the report and how most of the solutions can be addressed through the big digital revolution in the offing in the country.

While the sample size of 74,000 is large, the fact remains that had more people from metropolitan cities and States with high literacy rates like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala been included and more inputs been taken from professionals like bankers, lawyers, corporate executives and so on, the report might have arrived at better averages. Because while the real *Bharat* resides in its villages, it also comprises the aspirational class in the cities. In some areas the report is an eye-opener, while in some it just confirmed pre-conceived notions.

The following findings did not surprise anyone: Recently, India slipped 10 places in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitive Index. This was attributed to a poor employable skill base, lack of worker protection rights and critically-low participation of women in the workforce. All three factors were accurately captured in this survey conducted last year, confirming the authenticity of the Dristhi methodology.

Workers from tribal areas are given low wages and subjected to trafficking and inhuman exploitation in the unorganised sector of domestic staff. Therefore, employment agencies must be accredited and regulated and the Government must ensure that statutory provisions for medical coverage, dignity of labour and minimum wages are enacted.

The survey revealed that there is an increased participation by women in voting, which shows that there is more understanding of local and national issues, enough for them to assert their electoral preference.

According to the survey, there is also a need to ensure that women, especially in the rural areas, are equipped to handle every adverse situation in life. Any social scientist would confirm that over-dependency is a complacent state of being, hence women must also learn how to cope with every contingency.

Because, with life expectancy increasing — and wives are known to outlive their husbands — in order not to be economically vulnerable, women need to be included in the decision-making process of deployment of family savings and understand the basics of matters like title-deed, financial securities and savings instruments. The report confirmed the healthy trend that "today one-third of the women participate in decision-making in the family", which was earlier a male domain.

The survey captured high dropout rates up to high school and that women were falling off the employment curve due to family responsibilities between the ages of 18 to 30 years, which is also the peak earning period for most people. The future success of globalised economies will lie in the increased participation of women. Regrettably, on the Gender Inequality Index, India ranks as low as 132 out of 136 countries. Gender parity is a basic human right and its

“ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, ARE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE EVERY ADVERSE SITUATION IN LIFE. ANY SOCIAL SCIENTIST WOULD CONFIRM THAT OVER-DEPENDENCY IS A COMPLACENT STATE OF BEING; HENCE WOMEN MUST ALSO LEARN HOW TO COPE WITH EVERY CONTINGENCY”



achievement has multiplier socio-economic implications. Empowering women makes for thriving economies, elevates their self-worth and protects them from domestic violence. Further, according to the survey, Jan Dhan Yojana figures revealed that 79 per cent women have individual bank accounts, which is a step towards financial inclusion. However, just opening a bank account without earning adequate income is not enough. The Dristhi study confirmed the NABARD's (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) pan-India findings — which had a larger sample size — that median income was between ₹5,000 and ₹20,000.

Most actionable solutions to Dristhi's findings on literacy, health and employment will come through the big digital revolution that is in the offing.

Low per capita income and low per capita savings can only increase through increased economic opportunities. The solution is rapid industrialisation of rural India by bringing employment to the villages. This can happen through increased digitisation and advancement of online commerce. Because rural women are hesitant to travel far in search of jobs and for skilling or educational purposes, we need to lower the cost of smartphones and increase internet penetration.

It is heartening that literacy rates improved to 79.63 per cent up to graduation levels. But acceleration is needed to improve the figure of 46 per cent in achieving primary literacy. To further improve India's low ratings in the Human Capital Index, NITI Aayog has proposed to increase education outlays from the current three per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to six per cent by 2022.

Our education system has remained static for too long and we are

ill-equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The solution, according to the latest McKinsey report, lies in lifelong learning and upgradation of skills, so as to be continuously prepared for challenging technological disruptions and a paradigm shift from theoretical to experiential learning in specialised domains like agriculture, Information Technology, tourism and so on.

Online education through e-classes and skill training through distant learning will bridge the gaps in teaching quality of Government schools where there is a shortage of brick and mortar schools in villages, and bridge the low student-teacher ratio. There are mega e-learning platforms like Byju's and so on that have sprung up in the country, but awareness of these institutions is low. Increased digitisation will provide "stay-at-home employment" through e-commerce jobs for women in rural areas and Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities. Digital commerce brought millions out of poverty in China, as it linked the remotest craftsmen and farmers to the global marketplace. In India, we have the successful model of Khadi Gramodyog, that linked clusters and communities to national marketing networks, so as to get a market-linked price for their commodity.

As India progresses from being a high-cash economy towards a digital economy, even dispensing credit to those that lack credit histories and collaterals will become easier, as algorithms in future will determine creditworthiness of borrowers.

As regards healthcare, because India has a low patient-doctor ratio, and poor patient-hospital bed capacity, we need to progress to online doctor consultations. This will help take medical expertise to remote areas and fulfil the need for preventive care and diagnosis.

With this in mind, the NITI Aayog has proposed increased outlays for health from a paltry 1.5 per cent to three per cent of the GDP. Also, medical insurance premiums must be lowered for women, as only 20 per cent of them are covered by it at present.

However, the findings of the survey that surprised were that the Gross Happiness Index (GHI) scores were as high as 80 per cent, regardless of trying circumstances and stresses of daily life.

What was hard to endorse was that the survey found that "income has no influence on levels of happiness." I am sure that most would agree that money is not everything, but is surely a necessity for self-sufficiency.

To the contrary, the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) 2017 report on depression, shows India in the top 10 slot. It also states that depression has risen by 50 per cent in the last eight years.

Look at Punjab and Delhi, where substance abuse is on the rise and drugs are available freely in betel shops, the increase in farmer and student suicides and rise in divorce rates.

How can we be high on the GHI? There exists a powerful correlation between a country's economic development and social progress, and GHI is a composite picture of multiple feel-good factors linked to increased literacy levels and employment opportunities; increased per capita incomes and savings; advanced amenities for better living conditions; decrease in incidence of lawlessness and crime; social security; high quality and accessible healthcare; physical exercise and nurturing spiritual practices.

(The writer is an author, columnist and Chairperson of the National Committee on Financial Inclusion at NITI Aayog.)

# Ayodhya holding its breath as verdict looms

The Supreme Court's ruling would have legal, political and religious ramifications. Though the apex court's order might put a lid on the legal aspect, its impact on politics and communal harmony will be equally significant



KALYANI SHANKAR

Ayodhya is getting ready to face the impact of the Supreme Court (SC) ruling on the Ram jannabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, next month. The verdict is expected to put a lid on the dispute between the two communities on the right of ownership of the site.

A violent mob of *Karsevaks* and prominent politicians had pulled down the mosque adjacent to the Ram temple in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, which has tested the communal fabric of the country since then. The Hindus — represented by seven parties — have argued in the apex court that there was a temple dedicated to the birthplace of Lord Ram before the Babri Masjid was erected during

medieval times. The verdict is likely to be delivered before November 17, by which time the present Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will be retiring.

The BJP leaders are upbeat and hoping for a favourable ruling. The party is happy that their "Mandir wahin banayenge (we will construct the temple on that spot)" slogan could at last become a reality, after a wait of nearly three decades.

Local BJP leaders claim that over 65 per cent of the stone craving work for the proposed temple has been completed and a lot of *Karsevaks* have volunteered to work for its construction. According to BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj, if the verdict goes in favour of the Hindus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi could lay the foundation stone on December 6.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also said that he is hopeful of a favourable ruling. He has already prepared the State administration to face a post-verdict scenario. The Faizabad District has been renamed as Ayodhya, which is

being developed as a tourist attraction with wider roads, spruced up ghats and refurbished heritage temples.

The Ayodhya verdict would have legal, political and religious ramifications. Though the apex court's order might put a lid on the legal aspect, its impact on politics and communal harmony will be equally significant.

It is likely that the two sides might accept the SC's judgment. Muslim religious scholars and leaders have also said that parties on both sides of the dispute should accept the verdict, whatever it may be.

It will be a big gain for the BJP, as the party's political and electoral fortunes in the past three decades owe their rise to it, as the BJP began its campaign for the Ram temple in the



'90s. The razing of the Babri Masjid in 1992 was a turning point in the history of the BJP and its Hindutva politics. In fact Narendra Modi, who was a senior Gujarat leader at that time, had a role to play in BJP stalwart LK Advani's Ram rath yatra, which began from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in 1990. However, the yatra did not culminate in Ayodhya as planned, as Advani was arrested.

The Babri Masjid demolition not only changed the political narrative of the country but it also helped the BJP establish itself in national politics.

Post the Babri Masjid demolition, the BJP acquired a national identity and stature. The party, which was known as a Bania-Brahmin party and had a strong presence only in the Hindi belt, has expanded as a pan-

national party now, replacing the grand old party, the Congress.

The Ayodhya agenda has been a recurring theme, to which the Sangh Parivar and its affiliates, most importantly the BJP, have returned to again and again. The party has been consistently talking about building the Ram temple and had included it in its poll manifesto since 1996.

However, after the demolition, Advani had said that "the agitation is not just for constructing a temple, but to propagate Hindutva's foundational idea — cultural nationalism."

Other political parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have been treading on the issue very cautiously.

Seeing the phenomenal rise of the BJP, the Congress has also been trying to play soft-Hindutva politics in recent times, with party leaders like Rahul Gandhi visiting temples before elections. The SP, BSP, RJD and other parties relevant in the '90s have lost their sheen now.

The BJP's future agenda depends on how it plays its Hindutva card. At present, the party would primarily like to consolidate its base all over the country. It has to expand in the North-East and the South and it is also planning to expand in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Moreover, the economic agenda needs priority as it is slipping beyond its control. Creation of jobs and boosting the economy needs immediate attention. It is easier said than done when the global economy is also facing a slowdown.

The saffron party's next agenda is likely to be Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). In fact, BJP chief Amit Shah and the Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar have gone public on reclaiming the PoK after the revocation of Article 370. But there is enough time for this until the next elections. Of course, one week is said to be long time in politics and five years are a very, very long time and there could be other issues, which may come up.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



**SOMETHING TO PONDER ABOUT**

The size of the Extinction Rebellion (XR) protests over the past year add weight to the idea that people in this decade were in revolt before they had any clear idea what form a revolution might take. Politically it looked like a whole generation was up for grabs. In the beginning of the decade this anger veered leftwards with movements like Occupy, but at the end it has moved greenwards, under XR. The question is how much of the country will go with it.

(The Guardian editorial)

# Infosys probing alleged 'unethical practices'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT services giant Infosys Ltd on Tuesday said it is investigating claims by anonymous whistleblowers accusing CEO Salil Parekh of "unethical practices" to shore up profits through irregular accounting, sending its shares to their worst intra-day fall in over six years.



Infosys Ltd resulting from allegations that Infosys may have issued materially misleading business information to the investing public.

just two years after Infosys endured an internal turmoil that saw its then head Vishal Sikka resigning from the company.

Chairman and co-founder Nandan Nilekani pledged a full probe, saying the complaint had been placed before the audit committee on October 10 and before the non-executive members of the board the next day.

A September 20 letter, signed by "Ethical Employees", had alleged that Parikh as well as Chief Financial Officer Nilanjan Roy engaged in forced revenue recognition from large contracts not adhering to accounting standards.

Its American Depository Receipts were trading nearly 2 per cent down on the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday. US-based Rosen Law Firm has said it is preparing a class action lawsuit to recover losses suffered by Infosys investors. In a statement, Rosen Law Firm said it is "investigating potential securities claims on behalf of shareholders of

"Rosen Law Firm is preparing a class action lawsuit to recover losses suffered by Infosys investors," the statement added.

The letter — dated September 20 — addressed to the board claimed that recent big deal wins carried negligible margins and that Roy directed certain people to make wrong assumptions to show margins. The latest allegations came

In a statement to stock exchanges, Nilekani said the audit committee has begun consultation with independent internal auditors EY and has retained law firm Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co to conduct an independent investigation.

He said one board member had received two anonymous complaints on September 30, 2019 - one dated September 20,

2019, titled "Disturbing unethical practices" and an undated note with the title "Whistleblower Complaint".

He said both had been placed before the audit committee on October 10, 2019, and before the non-executive members of the board the following day.

"Post the board meeting of October 11, 2019, the audit committee began consultation with the independent internal auditors (Ernst & Young) on terms of reference for their prima facie investigation. The audit committee has now retained the law firm of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (October 21, 2019) to conduct an independent investigation," Nilekani noted in his statement.

The board, in consultation with the audit committee, will take such steps as may be appropriate based on the outcome of the investigation, he added. The whistleblower complaint by a group that calls itself "ethical employees" had alleged CEO Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy were indulging in "unethical practices" to boost short-term revenue and profits.

"We have high respect for all of you and bring to your notice the unethical practices of CEO in recent quarters. The

same measures are taken up in the current quarter also to boost short term revenue and profits," the letter addressed to the board of directors dated September 20, read.

The whistleblowers said they have emails and voice recordings on these matters.

Infosys on Monday had said the whistleblower complaint has been placed before the audit committee as per the company's practice, and that it will be dealt with in accordance with the company's whistleblower policy.

Nilekani, in his statement on Tuesday, said the company was made aware of another letter (dated October 3) that was purportedly written to the Office of Whistleblower protection programme, Washington DC. This letter referred to the September 20, 2019, complaint, and to emails and voice recordings in support of the allegations.

"These complaints are being dealt with in an objective manner. The undated whistleblower complaint largely deals with allegations relating to the CEO's international travel to the US and Mumbai," Nilekani pointed out.

"Although we have not been provided any of the emails

or voice recordings, we will ensure that the generalised allegations are investigated to the fullest extent. Additionally, to ensure independence in these investigations, the CEO and CFO have been recused from this matter," Nilekani added.

He also noted that Infosys' statutory auditors, Deloitte, India, have been "completely updated" on this matter post the October 11 Board meeting. In 2017, Infosys had witnessed a protracted stand-off between its high profile founders and the previous management over allegations of governance lapses and issues relating to severance package doled out to former executives, including ex-CFO Rajiv Bansal.

Following the tussle, the then CEO Vishal Sikka quit followed by some board members. Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani was then brought in as Chairman to steer the company. Parekh joined the company in January last year as the CEO.

Infosys has also settled with Sebi the case of alleged disclosure lapses regarding a payment made to Bansal earlier this year. It paid Rs 34.34 lakh to the market regulator to settle the case.

## BUSINESS CORNER

### OBC Q2 NET RISES 24% TO ₹126 CRORE

New Delhi: Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) on Tuesday reported a 23.5 per cent rise in net profit at ₹126 crore in the second quarter ended September of the current fiscal year. The state-owned bank had posted a net profit of ₹102 crore in the corresponding July-September period last fiscal. The bank's total income rose 15 per cent to ₹5,702 crore in July-September as compared with ₹4,967 crore in the year-ago period. Net interest income also rose 15 per cent to ₹1,456 crore in the quarter under review, while the non-interest income was up 35 per cent to ₹824 crore. The net interest margin (NIM), difference of interest gained and expended, also increased 0.06 percentage points to 2.62 per cent during the quarter ended September 2019. OBC's gross non-performing loan or bad loans came down to 12.53 per cent of the gross advances as on September 30, 2019 from 12.74 per cent at the end of September 2018. Net bad loans also reduced to 5.94 per cent from 10.07 per cent a year ago. However, provision for bad loans rose to ₹1,050 crore during the quarter as against ₹832 crore parked aside in the year-ago period. The bank said there were fresh slippages to the tune of ₹1,388 crore during the quarter that emanated from loans to retail, agri, MSME and other sectors.

## ₹ rises to 2-week high on US-China trade talks hopes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Tuesday rose to a two-week high against the US dollar on hopes of partial trade deal between the US and China next month.

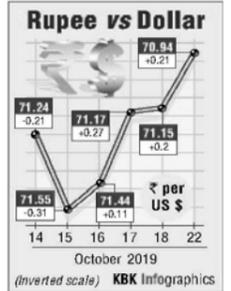
The domestic currency closed at 70.94 to the dollar, a gain of 20 paise or 0.28 per cent over the previous close on Friday.

Forex market was closed on Monday on account of assembly elections in Maharashtra.

Analysts said growing expectations of a partial trade deal between the US and China next month bolstered the appetite for riskier assets like emerging currencies.

Also, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India and the US will hopefully come out with the first set of agreements soon to address their trade issues.

Trade tensions have weighed on emerging and developing currencies as investors are looking for safe bets amid uncertainty over



(Inverted scale) KBK Infographics

Trade growth. "Trade talks between the US and China have started to progress and the risk-on sentiment could further support the rupee. Brexit related uncertainty could continue as fresh updates on the same are likely to come in today's evening session. Parliament Brexit Vote is scheduled and we expect that could keep the volatility high for pound," Gaurang Somaiyaa, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd, said.

# Malaysian PM stands by his remark on Kashmir

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

A defiant Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday said he stands by his remarks on Kashmir, asserting that he speaks his mind and does not retract and change, days after India expressed regret over his statement.

Raising the Kashmir issue at the UN General Assembly last month, Mahathir alleged that India has "invaded and occupied" Jammu and Kashmir and asked New Delhi to work with Pakistan to resolve the issue, drawing strong reaction from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Speaking to reporters during a press conference in Parliament, he said "we felt that the people of Kashmir had benefited from the resolution of the United Nations, and all we are saying is that we should all abide, not just India and Pakistan, but even the United States of America and other countries".

"We speak out our minds and we don't retract and change," the Malaysian Prime Minister was quoted as saying by The Star newspaper.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar earlier this month said India and Malaysia

have traditionally enjoyed good and friendly ties and "We deeply regret these comments since they are not based on facts".

Acknowledging the strained diplomatic relations between Malaysia and India over his remarks, Mahathir said that it is necessary to speak out on the issues, even though such remarks could be

disliked by some. "Sometimes, we have to have strained relationships but we want to be friendly with people. Malaysia is a trading nation, we need markets and so, we are nice to people. "But, also, we have to speak up for people. So, sometimes what we say is liked by some and disliked by others," he said.

# Shun Malaysia, palm oil buyers told amid Kashmir standoff

PNS/AGENCIES ■ MUMBAI

Top vegetable oil trade body called on Tuesday for the government to close a South Asian regional free-trade pact loophole it said had been used to circumvent tax by re-routing palm oil and soybean imports through Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India said some traders were sourcing palm oil and soybean from Nepal and Bangladesh under the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), even though both rely on imports from other countries.

"The palmolein being imported from Nepal is of Indonesian and Malaysian origin and soybean oil is of South American origin, routed through Nepal or Bangladesh ... for getting the duty exemption for such imports," it said in a statement.

India charges 50% tax on refined palm oil and 45% on refined soybean and another 10% surcharge on the duty.

Nepal imported 54,076 tonnes of palm oil from July to August and exported 35,706 tonnes to India during the period, the trade body said, citing import data as evidence.

# Banerjee expresses worry about banking crisis; bats for aggressive changes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee on Tuesday flagged concerns about banking crisis in India and called for aggressive changes to deal with the situation. There is a need to bring in important and aggressive changes to deal with the crisis, he said during interactions with media here.

Banerjee said there is need to bring down stake of the government to below 50 per cent in banks so that the decisions are taken without fear of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). The banking system has been afflicted by the scourge of high NPAs for nearly five years now, which has led to network erosion and discovery of scams in the sector, with the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) being the new addition.

Earlier in August, Central Vigilance Commission had constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over ₹50 crore and recommend action.

On August 30, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the profitability of public sector banks was improving as the total gross non-performing assets of public sector banks came down.

# CAIT urges PM not to yield ground to Walmart

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to concede any ground to Walmart and other overseas e-commerce players, saying such firms have no regard for the sanctity of Indian laws and policies.

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) wrote to the Prime Minister after Walmart CEO Doug McMillon raised issues concerning data privacy and regulatory stability for the e-commerce sector and urged Modi to reduce the number of licences and permits for the opening of new stores.

Global retail giant Walmart, which has invested USD 16 billion in Flipkart, is facing challenges after the foreign direct investment rules for e-commerce marketplaces were changed by the government through a revised policy on FDI in online retail.

In the letter, CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandalwal said: "These kind of rhetoric by global players are nothing but a pressure tactic to find a headway into the large existing business potential of India's Rs 45 lakh crore retail market..."

# PMC Bank scam: Court extends HDIL promoters' ED custody till Oct 24

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai court on Tuesday extended the ED custody of HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang Wadhawan, arrested in connection with Rs 4,355 crore Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam, till October 24.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) produced Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd's (HDIL) chairman and managing director Rakesh Wadhawan and his son before special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court judge P Rajvaidya, after their remand ended on Tuesday.

It sought further custody of the father-son duo to probe them further in connection with the scam. The probing agency's counsel Kavita Patil said the accused played a crucial role in laundering huge amount of money and were concealing material from investigation.

The money trail of proceeds received from the bank and properties derived from the same were yet to be ascertained, the ED said.

The court extended the ED custody of the duo till Thursday. The Wadhawans were arrested last month by Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

# Banking services affected due to strike by 4 lakh employees

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Banking operations across India were partially hit on Tuesday as 4 lakh employees of public sector banks, a few old generation private and foreign banks went on a one-day strike to protest the government's mega-merger plan and reduction in interest rates on deposits by banks.

In Maharashtra, 40,000 bank employees from around 10,000 branches of various banks went on strike. The one-

day strike has been called by two bank employees unions—All India Banks Employees Association (AIBEA) and Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI). In August, the government announced a plan to merge 10 public sector lenders into four to create fewer and stronger global-sized banks.

It had announced four new sets of mergers of state-run banks — Punjab National Bank taking over Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India.

### SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Rajesh, S/o: Ram Shobhit, R/o: G-348, Adhyapak Nagar, Delhi Aged: 29 years, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 04.08.2019 at vide DD No. 100-A, Dated 05.08.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:



Rajesh

**Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'1", Face: Long, Clothing: T-Shirt Jeans Paint and chappie in feet.**

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O

P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

DP/2717/OD/19.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Lalit Sharma, S/o Shri Lala Ram Sharma, R/o Z-187, Gali No. 12, Narain Vihar, Prem Nagar-II, Delhi, Age 30 years, Height 5'9" Complexion Fair, Long Face, Wearing Black colour shirt & jeans pant has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Prem Nagar, Delhi since 05.10.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 32-A dated 09.10.19 has been lodged at PS Prem Nagar, 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](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS : Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 25489080 Fax: 011-24368639

DP/3377/RD/19

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Baber @ Chand Mohammad, S/o Ayub, R/o: 127, Kaila Bhatta, Behind Moti Masjid, Ghaziabad, U.P.** Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 242/19, u/s 420/406/407/468/120B/34 IPC dated 31.08.2019** registered at P.S. Hauj Khas, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Baber @ Chand Mohammad** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Baber @ Chand Mohammad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Baber @ Chand Mohammad** accused of **FIR No. 242/19, u/s 420/406/407/468/120B/34 IPC dated 31.08.2019**, is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **25.11.2019**.

By Order Ms. Vijeta Singh Rawat, Ld MM/ Saket Court, Room No. 614, 6th Floor, Saket Court, Delhi

DP/5788/SD/19

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one man **Namely: Lakhman Kumar, S/o: Matadin Jha, R/o: H.No. 6/23, Raksha Enclave Extn., Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi. Age: 50 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White Checkdard Shirt-Black Pant and Black Shoes in Feet has been missing/kidnapped since 10.10.2019 from the area of PS Ranholha, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 04-A, dated 12.10.2019 has been lodged at PS. Ranholha, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped man please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) P.S. Ranholha, Delhi Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003 DP/2809/OD/19

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Mohd. Sajid S/o Mohd Mustafa R/o F-771, Inder Enclave, PH-II, Delhi Aged-09 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 30.09.2019 vide FIR No.541/19 Dated 01.10.2019** registered at Police Station Prem Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-



Mohd. Sajid

**Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4', Face: Oval, Clothing: Red coloured T-shirt and Blue coloured Jeans.**

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi DP/3379/RD/19 Tel.: 011-25489080

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Rani Devi W/o Dheeraj Kumar R/o A-24/25/26, Veer Bazar, Chander Vihar, Delhi Aged - 24 Years has been reported missing since 07.10.2019 with her daughter namely Sonam Kumari (Age: 5 years) & a 1 Months aged baby vide DD No. 54-A Dated 09.10.2019** registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Rani Devi

**Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Clothing: Pink suit salwar and slipper in feet.**

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female and her children, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi DP/2805/OD/19 Tel.: 011-25946700, 25946710 Mob.: 7065036129

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work and location	Completion period of the work	Approx. Cost of work	Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online)
1.	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 kV AC single phase OHE for the Electrification work of Ghaziabad-Road Over Bridge at Dhobi Ghat in lieu of L-Xing No. 153 & Modification work in lieu of ROB at L-Xing 31 Garhi harsaru on DL-RE section.	9 Months	Rs. 64.47,789.97/-	Rs. 1,29,000/-
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

No. 302 Mod.-Dy.CEE/C/NDRS/2018-19(RS) Dated: 10.2019 3372/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sharan Chaudhary**, the owner of **Balaji Diagnostic Centre, Building No. 4 Basement, Near Sapna Cinema, Community Centre, East of Kailash, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 204/19 u/s 420/406/34 IPC** has been registered at P.S. **Janak Puri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sharan Chaudhary** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sharan Chaudhary** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sharan Chaudhary** accused of **FIR No. 204/19 u/s 420/406/34 IPC, Janak Puri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **11.12.2019**.

By Order Sh. Deepak Vats, Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 9, Ground Floor, Dwarka District Courts, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi DP/8472/WD/19-(Court Matter)

# Trai moots clarity in 'other service providers' definition

Simplifies norms for some categories

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trai has suggested exempting certain categories like data/internet based and captive contact centres from detailed registration, retaining it for voice-based outsourced other service providers (OSPs), in a set of recommendations that the regulator said will make India a "preferred BPO destination" and drive sector growth.

"Clarity in definition of OSP has been brought. Only voice based, outsourced OSP need to have registration at par with existing process. Data/internet based OSP would need to furnish intimation only," the telecom sector regulator said in a statement.

Notably, though, Trai has recommended that Contact Centre Service Provider (CCSP)/ Hosted Contact Centre Service Provider (HCCSP) involved in reselling of telecom resources, say bandwidth, would require a Virtual Network Operator or VNO license.

When contacted, Nasscom's Senior Vice President, Sangeeta Gupta told PTI that while Trai's suggestions to the government offer clarity on many of the chal-

lenges facing the industry, the association will await more details to see what the recommendations mean for CCSPs or HCCSPs, in particular, in terms of additional compliance burden, if any.

Meanwhile, a Trai statement said that: "The CCSPs/HCCSPs who provide only the platform as service including a combination of the components of EPABX, IVR, call handling/administration, call recording, contact centre data analytics, customer relationship management...For contact centres, should be required to get registered with DoT."

These players "should be Indian company, having their data centres in India for providing the contact centre platform to OSPs", the regulator said. "Trai recommendations also prescribe various penalty for violation in terms and conditions."

The CCSP/ HCCSP involved in reselling of telecom resources would require VNO license, the statement added.

CCSP/HCCSP should be given 3 months' time to get themselves necessary registration / license after declaration of the policy by Department of Telecom, the statement released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said.

The regulator has also recommended additional clarity in

definition of OSP players.

It said it expects implementation of its recommendations to create better environment for growth of the sector making India as preferred BPO/ITeS destination.

"Provision of services for captive purposes, that is, Captive Contact Centres have been kept out from the scope of OSP. They would require to furnish intimation only," it said.

The complete process of registration and intimation shall be through online portal and time bound. Multiple OSP centres of single company within one circle can be registered as single OSP, it has suggested.

In a major breather to the players, it recommended that the requirement of bank guarantee for availing Work-from-Home (WFH) facility, should be done away with. A Trai official explained that so far companies had to shell out Rs 1 crore in bank guarantees for each employee availing such facility.

"Internet obtained at one OSP centre can be shared with other OSP centres of same company (provided the ISP has geographical jurisdiction)," Trai release said.

Elaborating on the terms and conditions for CCSPs/HCCSPs, Trai said that a complete log and record of

# Sebi issues framework for listing of commercial paper

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday came out with a framework for listing of commercial papers on stock exchanges in order to broaden investor participation in such securities. To enable listing of commercial papers (CPs) and to ensure investor protection, Sebi noted that it is important that issuers, who intend to list such securities, make appropriate disclosures at the time of listing and on a continuous basis.

The disclosure framework has been based on the recommendation of the Corporate Bonds and Securitisation Advisory Committee (CoBoSAC), chaired by H R Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sebi said in a circular.

Under the guidelines, Sebi said an issuer who desires to list its CP needs to send an application for listing along with the specified disclosures to the stock exchanges. The disclosures pertain to details of the issuers, information related to change in directors as well as auditors in past three financial years, including any change in the current year, details of top 10 holders of equity shares, debt securities and CP of the

company, any material information and details of borrowings of the company, as on the latest quarter end.

# Two employee unions' strike partially hits banking services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banking operations in some parts of the country were affected on Tuesday as two employee unions are on strike, protesting merger of public sector banks. Some of the services like cash deposit and withdrawal at the counter as well as cheque clearances have been impacted due to the nation-wide strike.

However, branches of public sector banks in urban areas are operational as officers at these branches are not participating in the strike. Most of the banks, including SBI, had informed their customers about strike call given by All India Bank Employees Association (AIBE) and Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) to protest bank mergers and fall in deposit rates.

Merger of banks is totally unwarranted in India as there is a need for more banking services and opening of more branches to serve the people, AIBE General Secretary CH Venkatchalam said. "The merger has so far resulted in closure of branches and hence it is a wrong policy. Recovery of the huge bad loans is the top priority for banks, and merger will change the priority. Hence, it is a bad idea," he added.

# Pvt telecom operators pay govt over ₹4,500 cr in spectrum dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private telecom operators Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel have paid the Telecom Department over Rs 4,500 crore in spectrum dues in the last three to four days, according to sources. Sources said that the payments came in before the due date. The sparing telcos — some of which are reeling under acute financial stress and are seeking immediate relief measures — have made the payment towards deferred spectrum liability (or instalment payment for radiowaves bought in past auctions) which fell due on October 21.

While Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio has paid Rs 1,133 crore to the Department of Telecom, Vodafone Idea has made Rs 2,421 crore payment towards spectrum dues. Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel has paid Rs 977 crore. Taken together, these three players have paid over Rs 4,531 crore towards spectrum dues late last week.

Emails sent to Reliance Jio and Airtel went unanswered, while a Vodafone Idea spokesperson said that the company does not comment on matters that are business as usual. The government, in March last year, enhanced the number of annual instalments

for spectrum payment from 10 to 16 years to provide a breather to the debt-laden telecom sector. But with the industry reeling under financial stress, Vodafone Group Chairman Gerard Kleisterlee and CEO Nick Read recently met Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash, as the company sought a two-year moratorium on deferred spectrum payments, and other relief measures from the government.

The British telecom giant has asserted that it is focused on the successful integration of business between Vodafone and Idea. The telecom sector has been battered by falling tariffs, eroding profitability and mounting debt in the face of stiff competition triggered by disruptive offerings of Reliance Jio. The industry has been seeking urgent relief such as cut in levies like licence fee and spectrum charges, and release of GST input tax credit locked up with the government.

In a sector stung by policy and regulatory issues, battle-lines have been drawn more recently over the contentious matter of call connect charges, where the regulator is reviewing whether or not the zero termination charge regime should be pushed back from the originally-stated timeline of January 1, 2020.

# Govt to soon change definition of MSMEs, says Gadkari

New Delhi: The Government will soon make changes to the definition of a micro, small and medium enterprise, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday and hoped to generate five crore jobs in the MSME sector in five years. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in August said the government would consider amending the MSME Act to move towards a single definition.

The update in the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) may allow a single definition for purposes related to taxation, investment, etc. The new definition is likely to be effected through an amendment to the MSME Act and may lead to further improvement in India's ease of doing business scenario. In February last year, the Union Cabinet had approved amendments to the law to change the criteria for classifying MSMEs from 'investment in plant and machinery' to 'annual turnover'.

Asked about proposed changes to the definition of MSME, the minister for micro, small and medium enterprises said this will soon be implemented. "We will have one meeting and then finalise it (changes to MSME definition)," Gadkari told PTI, adding that extensive changes will be made soon. **PTI**

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
<b>NIFTY 50</b>	11657.15	11714.35	11573.65	11588.35	-73.50
DREDDY	2722.25	2820.70	2710.85	2819.90	95.05
ICICIBANK	440.50	458.70	437.55	451.75	13.95
BPCIL	532.00	538.60	522.35	532.70	12.40
TITAN	1300.45	1336.80	1294.50	1331.00	30.40
CIPILA	441.25	457.75	440.20	453.65	9.50
COALINDIA	206.00	209.95	203.30	209.95	4.00
WIPRO	249.00	254.45	247.10	253.55	4.65
NESTLEIND	1488.00	1511.95	1483.60	1510.00	26.55
HINDUNILVR	2120.00	2149.00	2112.00	2131.70	24.85
BAJAJ-AUTO	3090.05	3154.40	3089.65	3123.35	35.30
GRASIM	745.95	772.00	742.45	755.00	8.50
POWERGRID	201.00	205.75	201.00	204.70	2.15
HDFC	2115.00	2140.50	2096.00	2116.00	21.55
SUNPHARMA	402.00	408.00	400.00	405.60	3.95
YESBANK	53.00	56.60	50.25	51.90	5.00
HEROMOTOCO	2660.00	2713.45	2641.20	2670.05	23.90
HDFCBANK	1257.00	1257.00	1232.60	1239.00	10.90
ITC	245.00	251.10	244.95	248.00	2.00
IOC	147.00	148.10	145.55	146.75	1.15
KOTAKBANK	1626.85	1643.00	1592.00	1626.80	11.55
M&M	594.00	601.20	587.45	596.85	3.55
AXISBANK	712.40	723.00	703.35	713.75	3.70
ONGC	143.50	146.15	142.20	144.10	0.60
SIBER	27.00	27.50	26.80	27.35	0.70
BRITANNIA	3220.10	3291.90	3220.10	3260.00	7.65
ZEEL	250.20	255.00	247.10	250.65	4.05
RELIANCE	1425.00	1436.85	1403.35	1417.40	1.05
GAIL	129.55	130.95	128.80	129.05	-0.05
INDUSINDBK	1340.00	1357.85	1320.00	1341.00	-1.65
ADANIAPORTS	41.50	42.85	41.10	42.60	-1.10
NTPC	599.00	603.90	592.95	597.00	-2.00
UPPL	121.65	121.65	119.95	120.65	-4.00
TCS	2080.00	2111.50	2040.05	2050.00	-7.35
LI	1448.50	1467.80	1439.15	1441.60	-6.20
MARUTI	7333.00	7392.00	7232.00	7262.25	-40.05
VEDL	150.60	151.95	147.20	149.10	-1.15
ULTRACEMCO	4295.00	4409.90	4217.00	4280.00	-44.50
HINDALCO	186.40	190.95	185.05	185.20	-3.20
INFRATEL	266.00	266.00	256.25	258.40	-2.20
EICHEMOT	2027.60	2051.25	1985.00	1996.45	-312.45
JSWSTEEL	223.00	225.90	219.20	219.00	-3.85
ATASTEEL	357.50	363.80	353.00	353.25	-6.35
ASIANPAINT	1822.70	1825.00	1775.00	1780.00	-36.70
TECHM	727.40	732.00	714.30	719.00	-15.20
BAJFINANCE	4165.00	4218.85	4000.10	4050.00	-87.65
HCLTECH	1090.20	1095.90	1051.50	1064.90	-30.60
BHARTIARTL	381.80	386.90	376.20	376.65	-10.85
BAJAJFINSV	8300.00	8393.00	7975.25	8005.00	-260.95
TATAMOTORS	133.35	135.60	129.80	131.35	-5.95
INFY	691.10	691.10	638.35	640.00	-127.85

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
<b>NIFTY NEXT 50</b>	28888.00	28379.95	28049.40	28163.95	149.80
PEL	152.00	172.00	152.00	168.35	130.50
SRIJEE	929.20	997.50	929.20	989.90	63.95
PAGEND	21580.00	22699.00	21537.50	22699.00	1200.55
DLF	170.00	183.00	169.35	177.20	8.35
SRECEM	19400.00	20312.45	19258.25	19550.00	870.25
HDFCAML	2890.00	3074.70	2884.50	3010.00	127.35
ICICI	1237.00	1306.35	1237.00	1296.75	52.70
PFC	98.20	103.15	97.80	101.70	3.60
BOSCHLTD	14199.00	14700.00	14162.00	14600.00	460.50
PETRONET	268.95	277.50	267.85	275.15	7.85
SIRANSFIN	1085.55	1127.80	1080.10	1119.05	22.80
SIEMENS	1650.00	1693.50	1645.95	1680.35	31.65
CADILAC	240.00	248.50	238.80	245.00	4.35
OFSS	3095.00	3114.40	3070.00	3109.00	38.75
L&T	84.10	90.80	83.60	84.10	0.50
PGHIL	11800.00	12000.00	11750.00	11950.00	125.65
PNB	60.25	62.25	59.90	60.85	0.60
HINDPETRO	316.95	324.45	312.30	319.90	3.30
DABUR	466.00	480.00	465.70	471.50	4.50
MARICO	392.50	400.90	392.30	395.30	3.50
DIVISLAB	1732.40	1773.35	1726.25	1752.00	14.05
LUPIN	738.90	748.35	735.45	744.80	5.70
ICICIFRULI	479.35	488.45	475.40	481.00	3.35
HDFCLIFE	698.95	724.65	695.50	712.00	4.05
AUROPHARMA	477.00	485.40	471.20	479.00	2.55
NMDC	110.00	110.70	107.40	109.40	0.55
BANKBARODA	89.50	92.60	89.05	90.15	0.35
BANDHANBAN	554.00	580.45	553.80	555.00	0.20
PIDILITIND	1360.00	1382.00	1340.05	1352.00	5.00
COPAL	1540.00	1554.90	1524.00	1538.50	-2.30
DMART	1929.95	1943.25	1901.00	1913.00	-11.85
CONCOR	490.00	637.75	603.75	607.00	-4.50
BEML	1536.00	1536.00	1299.30	1319.30	-10.70
ACC	151.90	156.95	152.80	153.60	-12.35
BHAVEN	297.00	301.35	295.05	300.40	-1.40
COALINDIA	609.00	629.95	605.00	628.00	-11.60
HDFCCLCP	710.05	714.50	695.00	702.45	-14.45
BAJAJHIND	3162.40	3800.00	3656.00	3725.00	-77.40
ASHOKLEY	77.05	77.15	75.85	-1.65	
HINDZINC	215.50	219.70	209.20	210.00	-6.40
NHPC	24.10	24.10	23.50	23.10	-0.80
INDGELL-N	1719.00	1719.00	1665.00	1668.80	-6.10
MCDOWELL-N	634.90	644.30	606.65	617.75	-23.45
MOTHERSUMI	105.80	105.85	103.50	104.50	-0.55
IDEA	6.40	6.55	6.40	6.15	-0.25
BERGEPAIN	593.00	594.80	477.00	479.50	-95.55
AMBUJACEM	205.00	205.40	192.50	195.00	-11.70
IBULHSGFIN	239.00	252.00	205.35	218.00	-13.20
NIACL	143.70	149.00	135.25	135.50	-8.25
GCRE	279.50	291.00	258.00	259.85	-19.75

# BSE 500

SCRIP	Open	High	Low	LTP
INFY	691.10	691.10	638.30	643.30
YESBANK	53.00	56.50	50.25	51.80
IBULHSGFIN	238.20	252.00	206.00	218.20
HDFC	2102.00	2140.85	2096.50	2115.95
RELIANCE	1427.05	1437.65	1404.00	1414.25
BAJFINANCE	4157.00	4219.50	4001.00	4031.95
ITC	245.00	251.00	245.05	248.85
BPCIL	530.00	538.50	522.60	534.00
ICICIBANK	439.00	458.75	437.90	451.15
HDFCBANK	1257.00	1257.00	1232.60	1238.65
PEL	157.00	172.50		

GLOBE TROTTER

TURKISH AIRSTRIKES KILL TWO PKK OFFICIALS

Baghdad: Turkish airstrikes on Tuesday killed two senior officials of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) on Azmar mountain in Slemani governorate region. According to sources, the PKK condemned the incident. It also called on the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party and Kurdistan Region's Parliament to reveal details of the operation.

VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT IN BOLIVIA OVER VOTE COUNT

La Paz: Violence broke out in several Bolivian cities on Monday after the main opposition candidate rejected presidential election results that seemed set to give victory to long-time incumbent Evo Morales, as international monitors voiced "deep concern."

SYRIA'S ASSAD VISITS IDLIB FRONT LINE (18:42)

Damascus: Syria's President Bashar-al-Assad on Tuesday visited troops deployed along the front line of Idlib province, in western Syria, for the first time since the beginning of the conflict in 2011.

Trudeau wins Canada vote, will form minority Govt

AFP ■ OTTAWA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party held onto power in a nail-biter of a Canadian general election on Monday, but as a weakened minority government.

Television projections as of 2 am Tuesday (0600 GMT) declared the Liberals winners or leading in 156 of the nation's 338 electoral districts, versus 122 for his main rival Andrew Scheer and the Conservatives, after polling stations across six time zones closed.

As early as Tuesday, Trudeau will have to form an alliance with one or more smaller parties in order to govern a fractured nation.

The first test of his future government will follow in the coming weeks with a speech to parliament outlining his legislative priorities and a confidence vote.

"From coast to coast to coast, tonight Canadians rejected division and negativity," Trudeau said. "And they rejected cuts and austerity and voted in favour of a progressive agenda and strong action on climate change."

He reassured Quebec that his Liberal government, despite an electoral setback in the French-speaking province, "will be there for you."

He also spoke directly to a growing sense of Western Canada's alienation within the federation, telling those in Saskatchewan and Alberta provinces: "I've heard your frustration."

The 47-year-old former school teacher dominated Canadian politics over the four years of his first term, but faced a grilling during the 40-day poll campaign, which he described as one of the "dirtiest and nastiest" in Canadian history.

Trudeau and Scheer exchanged barbs as attack ads and misinformation multiplied.

Trudeau evoked the bogeymen of past and current Tory parties fostering "politics of fear and division" while Scheer called the prime minister a "compulsive liar," "a phony and a fraud."

Going into the election Trudeau's golden boy image had already been damaged by ethics lapses in the handling of the bribery prosecution of engineering giant SNC-Lavalin. His popularity took a further hit with the emergence during the campaign of old photographs of him in blackface makeup.

At one rally, the prime minister was forced to wear a bulletproof vest due to a security threat.

"Trudeau has really lost his halo. It's pretty tarnished," commented Lois Welsh, 77, in Regina, disappointed over the Liberal win.

Erdogan warns Syria offensive will resume unless Kurds complete pull out

AFP ■ ANKARA

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday threatened to resume Turkey's military offensive in Syria "with greater determination" unless the withdrawal of Kurdish fighters is completed under a US-brokered deal.

"If the promises given to our country by the United States are not kept, we will continue our operation from where we left off with greater determination," Erdogan told reporters before departing for talks with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Following a deal with US Vice President Mike Pence last

week, Turkey announced a 120-hour suspension of the offensive from last Thursday under which Kurdish fighters were to be set up along the border.

Erdogan was to meet with Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi later on Tuesday as the end of the 120-hour deadline approaches.

"We will have the opportunity to discuss steps to end (Kurdish fighters) presence in regime-held areas," the Turkish leader said.

Erdogan last week said he was not bothered by the Damascus regime's presence in several regions along the Turkish border.

Pompeo says too early to judge Syria success

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday it was too early to know if an accord to end Turkey's assault in Syria would succeed, ahead of a deadline for Kurdish fighters to leave border areas. "Some progress has certainly been made," Pompeo said at the Heritage Foundation in Washington hours before the 1900 GMT deadline for formerly US-allied Kurdish fighters to pull out.

But he added: "It is a complicated story, to be sure. The success of the outcome there is not yet fully determined." AFP

Impeachment is 'lynching': Trump

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday likened the impeachment investigation against him to a "lynching," a racially charged word from the darkest days of America's slavery legacy.

There was an immediate backlash to Trump's tweet in which he claimed that impeachment was unfair and stripping him of his legal rights. "All Republicans must remember what they are witnessing here — a lynching."

But we will WIN!" Trump tweeted.

Kristen Clarke, president of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said she was "sickened to see Trump's gross misappropriation of this term today." Clarke said that 4,743 people were lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968, of which 3,446 were African Americans.

"Lynchings were crimes against humanity and an ugly part of our nation's history of racial violence," she said.

US diplomat drawn into Trump's Ukraine effort set to testify

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

William Taylor has emerged as an unlikely central player in the events that are at the heart of the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

The retired career civil servant was tapped to run the US Embassy in Ukraine after the administration abruptly ousted the ambassador.

He was then drawn into a Trump administration effort to leverage US military aid for Ukraine.

And then he apparently grew alarmed.

"I think it's crazy to withhold security assistance for help with a political campaign," he wrote at one point in excerpts of text messages released by impeachment investigators in Congress.

Now, members of Congress will hear directly from Taylor.

The former Army officer is scheduled to testify behind closed doors Tuesday in an inquiry trying to determine if Trump committed impeachable offenses by pressuring the president of Ukraine into pursuing information that could help his campaign as Trump withheld military aid to the Eastern European country.

Taylor had been serving as executive vice president at the U.S. Institute of Peace, a non-partisan think tank founded by Congress, when he was appointed to run the embassy in Kyiv after Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch was removed before the end of her term following a campaign against her led by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani.

He was chosen for the post because he was among only a handful of former officials with experience in Ukraine who would be perceived as neutral by local officials and wouldn't raise objections at the White House, according to a colleague.

Bangladeshi-origin ISIS bride appeals to return to UK

London: A Bangladeshi-origin woman who fled the UK as a schoolgirl in 2015 to join Islamic State terror group in Syria, on Tuesday launched an appeal against the government's move to revoke her citizenship and prevent her from returning to London.

Shamima Begum left her home in east London with two other teenagers and travelled to strife-torn Syria when she was 15. She has lived under the rule of the Islamic State group for three years, before being found in a camp run by Kurdish forces in northern Syria in February.

Now aged 20, she is fighting a legal battle to return to the UK and her appeal is being heard at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) this week.

High Court judge Elisabeth Laing is expected to consider whether depriving Begum of her UK citizenship rendered her stateless.

Under UK law, a person can legally have their citizenship revoked but they cannot be made stateless. The UK government maintains that Begum has access to

Bangladeshi dual citizenship through her parents, even though the Bangladesh government has since denied any such rights.

The lawyer representing her on behalf of her family, Tasnime Akunjee, said the arguments for Begum's appeal will centre around her being a rape victim of her militant husband.

"She was married in an ISIS ceremony within two weeks of reaching Syria to a 23-year-old fighter. Her context is as a rape victim, or a statutory rape victim," he said. PTI

Will pull Brexit bill if MPs vote against timetable: Johnson

AFP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned MPs Tuesday if they vote against the timetable to push his EU divorce deal through parliament this week he will abandon

the legislation and try to hold a snap election.

"The bill will have to be pulled... And we will have to go forward to a general election," Johnson told lawmakers in a raucous debate hours ahead of the crunch vote.

Juncker bids adieu, slams 'stupid nationalism'

Strasbourg (France): Jean-Claude Juncker on Tuesday prepared to step down as European Commission chief with a message urging MEPs to fight against "stupid and blinkered" nationalism.

The Luxembourgish politician concludes his time as one of the European Union's (EU) most senior figures, making way for German conservative Ursula von der Leyen who was voted in to replace him, Efe news reported.

"Take care of Europe. And fight with all your force against stupid and blinkered nationalism. Long-live Europe," Juncker said, concluding what is likely his final address to the European Parliament as Commission chief.

The 64-year-old took a look back at the milestones of his five-year mandate at the helm of the EU's executive arm as well as the disappointments along the way, including the failure to agree on arrangements with Switzerland and the lack of progress on Cyprus' reunification. IANS

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice (through E-Tendering) table with columns for Name of work with its location, App. Cost of the work, Tender inviting officer address, Earnest money to be deposited, Date & time for closing of tender, Website particular & notice board location.

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002.

POSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Table with columns: Name of Borrower/Co-borrower, Description of Property, Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession, Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.).

NORTHERN RAILWAY Restriction on sale of platform tickets at New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar Terminal stations. It has been decided by Northern Railway that there will be no sale of platform tickets at Delhi Jn., New Delhi & Anand Vihar Terminal stations with effect from 25.10.2019 to 02.11.2019 due to Deepawali & Chhat Pujara rush and Hazrat Nizamuddin station with effect from 25.10.2019 to 27.10.2019 due to Deepawali festival.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI. MALAYA RANJAN JAYPURIYA & ORS. Respondent vs. MALAYA RANJAN JAYPURIYA & ORS. Applicant. WHEREAS the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.61,21,357/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Seven Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 14.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform to all concerned that Mrs. Savita Kohli W/o Shri S.R. Kohli, R/O D-89, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi- who is the original allottee of Residential Flat No. 203C, Block-B-10, Sector-34, Noida U.P., had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to Shri Jai Krishan Raina S/o Shri R.K. Raina R/O B-10/203C, Udgain-II, Sector-34, Noida, U.P., which is registered on dated 23-09-95, the Agreement to Sell has not been executed. So it is informed to all concerned that the said flat in going to be transferred in favour of Mrs. Manju W/o Shri Anil Kumar R/O B-12A/26C, Sector-34, Noida, U.P. on basis of General Power of Attorney.

British Sikhs ask JUI-F leader to stop march

IANS ■ LONDON

A group of British Sikhs has appealed to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) leader Fazal-ur Rahman to stop his proposed march and October 31 sit in at Islamabad.

The group, as reported in the Pakistani media, said: "There is threat of disturbance and disorder in Pakistan due to this march and protest which forced around 200 British Sikhs to cancel their Pakistan visit".

Thousands of Sikhs from across the world would head to Pakistan to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism. Big programmes will be organised at Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak, and other places.

The JUI-F has announced to start a march from October 27 to bring down the Imran Khan government in Pakistan. The protesters will reach Islamabad on October 31 where they will hold a sit in.

स्वास्थ्य विभाग प्रेस विज्ञप्ति. बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग पटना द्वारा राज्य के चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों में सहायक प्राध्यापक के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु विभिन्न स्पेशलिटी विभागों यथा रेडियोलॉजी (विज्ञापन संख्या-23/2017), फिजियोलॉजी (विज्ञापन संख्या-08/2017), पीएमओआर (विज्ञापन संख्या-21/2017), चर्म एवं रति रोग (विज्ञापन संख्या-17/2017), मनोरोग (विज्ञापन संख्या-25/2017), कान नाक एवं गला (विज्ञापन संख्या-29/2017), टीओबी एवं चेस्ट (विज्ञापन संख्या-16/2017), एफएमटीओ (विज्ञापन संख्या-14/2017) एवं शिशु रोग (विज्ञापन संख्या-19/2017) के सफल अभ्यर्थियों की अनुशंसा सूची भेजी गयी है।



# GO FOR VOCATION

Enrolling in a hands-on skill training course can be of great help to those looking out for better opportunities, says DR NARENDRA SHYAMSUKHA

Let us start with harsh realities — the rate of employability in India has noted a sharp decline in the past few years. Gone are the days when India was considered rich in talent — apt skilling is something that the youth are lacking. Naturally, it shows — reports say that 95 per cent Indian technical/non-technical graduates are unemployable, giving rise to what people coin as an industry-institute gap. At present, nearly 80 per cent of new entrants to the country's workforce get little or no opportunity for skills education. Merely 2.5 per cent of our workforce is exposed to formal vocational training.

**Challenges of skill gap**  
The evolution of talent acquisition is something that the leading institution and educational bodies should take note. The focus has shifted to experiential knowledge as major organisations are dawning to the importance of acquiring the brightest talent. A strong hike in market profitability is linked to having the right kind talent to understand the pulse of the market and channelise that insight into elevating organisational value in the right direction.

Despite this, the rise of the skill gap is alarming — desired skills are

greatly lacking amongst today's youth. To cope up to the uncertainties of the market, one needs to have the ability to think on his feet. A prepared individual can cope up with its variances and still emerge with zeal to learn and contribute greatly to the growth of the market. Unfortunately, the sluggish educational system, paired with the directionless intent of students, makes it difficult for this gap to be bridged. The key here is to integrate vocational skilling, into the educational framework, emboldening the learning experience of students. For a densely populated like India, skilling is the golden wand that can elevate the living standards and transform the nation into the leading skilling hub.

### Importance of Vocational Training Institutes

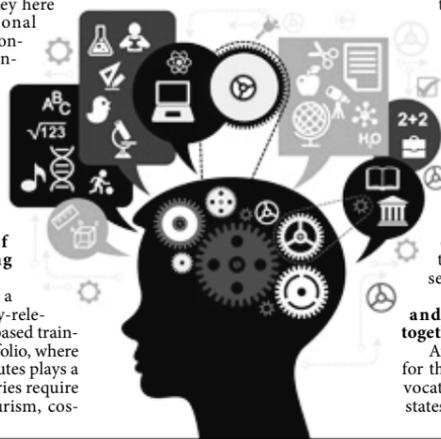
Yet, there needs to be a direction as only industry-relevant education and skill-based training can augment the portfolio, where vocational training institutes plays a big role. A host of industries require such training- retail, tourism, cos-

metology, or traditional crafts, cottage industry and many more. Enrolling in a vocational training institute or hands-on skill training course can be of great help to candidates looking out for employment opportunities. These training institutes aids students in mastering the soft skills, from expanding their business vocabulary and increasing their speaking skills, to writing customised e-mails for clients, and preparing interesting PowerPoint presentations and others, to increase the individual market value of the students. Students can also leverage the network of employers and colleges these institutes have, to maintain coordination with industry. Finally, the accreditations and certifications gained through the tenure can add value to job seekers.

**How can the government and private entities work together to enhance this?**  
At present, the requirement for the proper administration of vocational education by various states government and better co-

ordination between different state departments and agencies, is rising as industries clamour about to find relevant talent. While there is a place for promises, what the Indian educational scenario needs is an actionable approach. Of late, courses in computer programming and electronics have started as part of Governments' skill development programs and yet, they lack the fire. These verticals need to be systematised and accelerated, via the help of private entities. While several government agencies and private institutes have engaged in a trust to impart skill education in India, here is little coordination between them, making the path precarious. Yet, hope is there as certain companies are partnering with various State and Central Government departments in offering skill-building programmes for the country's potential workforce in diverse sectors including agriculture, IT-ITES, retail, telecom, banking, accounting, finance and others. With such institutions, the draught of employability can be replenished as India powers ahead to edge over other nations, in terms of skilled manpower.

The writer is Founder & Chairman, ICA Edu Skills



## Companies must broaden training framework

A research on emerging trends, by DR VENKATA RATNADEEP SURI and DR NIMMY RANGASWAMY, in the automation of manual work practices in IT talks about its effects on employment and how to address the issue

Since the 1990s, Indian software firms have developed expertise in outsourced back office tasks, and mid-level IT services like data entry, managing call centers, and software quality testing for foreign companies at very low prices by taking advantage of the cheaply available and technically trained local workforce. However, the rapidly improving automation technologies are allowing AI-based software to carry out routine IT support work, and repetitive back office tasks that were previously performed by human actors — the very tasks that global companies originally outsourced to India to take advantage of cheaper labour.

This emerging trend of automating manual work practices in the IT industry has generated a debate about the effects that this trend would have on employment patterns and the overall growth of the IT industry. Automation has been seen as a grave threat to the rule-based and easily automated jobs. According to a World Bank Report, about 69 per cent of jobs in India today are under threat as a result of automation. In fact, the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) predicted a 20-to-25 per cent reduction in jobs

in the Indian IT industry over the next three years, confirming a general global trend. Technological solutions applied to streamline command-based tasks are giving a tough time to machine operators, clerks, and entry-level IT workers. This is also compounded by a significant increase in the demand for lower-skill jobs, as those with middle level-skills are likely to try move to lower-skill jobs resulting in demand for the latter outstripping its supply.

Recently, a group of researchers set out to investigate how AI-based technologies can affect one such important segment that is expected to have a significant impact of automation- the IT Software Quality Testing (QT) segment. Using ethnographic methods researchers explored the day-to-day work activities of Code Testers across several companies in Hyderabad (India), in their effort to understand the impact of automation on code testing. The study revealed several interesting facts. First, though automation does simplify the testing process, how effectively a software can detect and unearth deeply seated bugs to a large extent depended on the design of test cases-an inherent human cognitive activity.

Quality testers in the course of



everyday routines of testing a product, go beyond their call of duty and care about their client's company image, market share, brand value, and customers. It seems that testers slowly and surely begin to focus on goals that their client business wants to achieve through their testing work. These might range from improving sales, focusing on conversion, funnel, lesser cost per customer acquisition, increase profitability, making customers happy by just allowing them to do what they intend to, with the software.

However, the value brought about the code testers is often undermined, and in the process, the

value that a client can accrue through manual testing is often neglected or goes untapped. The collective testers' voice calls for promoting a hybrid (human-automated) testing environment where the efficiency of automation can be creatively combined with human intelligence input to add more value to testing.

The research has also revealed that testers regularly carry out several work tasks in their daily routines that draw upon their business process expertise, critical thinking, tactics, knowledge and experiences. This also dispels the notion that QT is merely a routine or repetitive task-based activity.

To address employability issues in the testing sector, companies must also broaden their training framework and inculcate skills centered around context analysis, customer-facing interaction, tacit knowledge, critical thinking and means to combine these skills in testing contexts. This allows the testers to add more value to the customers and foregrounds the value that combining AI-based automation with human testing brings to the table.

The writers are Assistant Professor at IIT-Delhi and Associate Professor at IIT-Hyderabad

## TIPTOP How to overcome exam fear

Students get stressed and nervous at the time of exams. This leads to anxiety. ALKA KAPUR shares tips that may help

Examinations give an opportunity to every child to reach his/her full educational potential with flying colours. However, students tend to become restless and nervous at the time of exams. The bug bear of an examination interrupts the smooth course of a student's life. Students generally find exams so difficult that the phobia makes them fall ill as they simply find themselves unable to cope up with the exam fear and this fear factor before the exams cause them to underperform on their D-day. But there is nothing to worry about. To ensure that courage doesn't ooze out from the finger ends and the experience doesn't become perplexing and exasperating, the only thing you require is the amalgamation of 3 Ds viz a viz determination, dedication and discipline in one's life.

Fear can be overcome by combining self-confidence with disciplined study and faith in one's abilities. So, students are advised not to lose heart and gain control of the situation with a calm mind.

Here are some of the tips to overcome fear and anxiety:

- Prepare a revision timetable and set out what topics, subjects you want to cover each day.
- Start planning well before the exam begins.
- Make your timetable in such



a manner that you keep sometime for relaxation.

■ Make sure you are able to shell out sometime for exercise, walking, cycling, swimming, dancing, anything to get rid of stress in your body.

■ Go out with friends, listen to music, do whatever you enjoy to relax yourself but keep time frame in mind.

■ Have a balanced diet. Make sure you always eat breakfast to keep yourself energised the entire day. You can only concentrate when you are physically and mentally fit.

■ Practice regular meditation as it helps improve concentration.

■ Test your preparation from time to time by attempting sample papers and mock tests. Nothing gives you a better reality check than those tests. Performing well in these tests

will help you overcome exam fear.

■ Don't hesitate to reach out for help. Reach out to your teachers, mentor or peers to make headway.

■ Think positively as your expectations can affect your performance.

■ Remind yourself that exams will not determine your success or failure in life.

■ Sleep well at night before the exam.

■ Never compare yourself with other students.

■ Make notes while studying as these notes will be useful during revision.

So, cultivate fearlessness and face exams boldly and success will embrace you.

The writer is Principal, Modern Public School Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi

## Sharda varsity in Uzbekistan

The Sharda University is all set to take forward its legacy of providing world class quality education to all by opening a new campus in Uzbekistan.

Sharda University will be the first independent private university in Uzbekistan, especially across the Andijan, Fergana, Samarkand region that be a gateway for students from Eurasia to experience future-focused education in various disciplines including Engineering and Management.

With a highly qualified and competent full time faculty members (20), around 15-20 visiting faculty and 250 students, the University currently offers specialised courses in BTech and BTech (Hons) in Engineering, covering streams like Computer Science, Electrical engineering, Information Technology, and

Electronic and Communications, with a special focus on new-age Digital Technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. In the management discipline, the University currently offers specialised courses in human resource management, entrepreneurship, marketing and international business.

Commenting on the occasion HE Shukhrat Abdurakhmanov, Chief Governor of Andijan Region, Republic of Uzbekistan said: "It gives us immense pleasure to enter into this new stage of partnership with Sharda University. We wish Sharda group all success and hope for great co-operation and contribution in the overall development of Uzbekistan. We will extend all our support to the group time and again for a glorious path ahead."

## 4th edition of SRM Hackathon

Future mobility, defence, sustainability, technology in brand experience, IT security and tourism were the themes of the fourth edition of the SRM Hackathon. This national-level event was organised by IT Association, School of Computing and SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Katankulathur and was held at SRMIST campus recently.

The winner was team Dragon Booster from Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Sriperumbudur. The Social Stars award was won



Winning team Dragon Booster receives award

by team Gen-Y of SRMIST, Kattankulathur. Their application was to solve travel plan complexity and can help people cre-

ate any trip according to their preferences.

People's Favourite award was won by SRMIST's Beecust\_mrsrl group consisting of Inderan Kannan, Atul John Abraham, and Sukriti. Their work was a prototype that uses algae and draws in CO2 and other harmful gases like Sulphur Di Oxide and fullerene (excess air) into the system.

SRM Hackathon 4.0 was a 36-hour long event and had about 1000 entries. Only 40 ideas were selected to participate in the finals.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

**No other investment yields as great a return as the investment in education. An educated workforce is the foundation of every community and the future of every economy**  
— Brad Henry

### PINNACLE MBA

JK LakshmiPat University invites applications for admissions to its Pinnacle MBA programme for the year 2019-2020.

A one of a kind reimagined programme designed by experts from higher education, management studies, business and industry with an aim to offer the right blend of academics, experience and experimentation to the students.

This course consists of three converging tracks of the programme that form the pillar of programme — Management Studies, Liberal Arts & Studies and Personal Growth.

**Duration:** Two years

**Eligibility:** Minimum 50 per cent marks (45 per cent for SC/ST candidates) or equivalent CGPA in a three-year bachelor's degree or equivalent in any discipline from a recognised university. Students appearing in the final examination of bachelor's degree can also apply. The candidates must have appeared in CAT/MAT/ATMA/XAT/CMAT or any other national level entrance test. In case the candidate has not appeared for any of the mentioned tests, they will have to appear in the JKLU Management Entrance Test (MET) to qualify for the programme.

### MSC PROGRAMME

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow invites applications for admissions to its MSc International Relations, Law & Security programmes.

The course familiarises students with contemporary issues relating to the course topics, examining them through legal and political viewpoints. It reflects contemporary policies by taking a broad view of 'security', rather than simply focusing on traditional areas of concern.



**Duration:** One year  
**Eligibility:** First or upper second-class Honours degree, or international equivalent, in social sciences/law subjects or substantial professional experience.

**How to apply:** Log on to [enquiries@strath.ac.uk](https://www.strath.ac.uk/enquiries@strath.ac.uk)

### MSC HAZARDS & RESILIENCE

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for admissions to its new MSc Hazards & Resilience course.

The MSc Hazards & Resilience course focuses on addressing the causes and effects of climate change with engineering solutions; creating engineers the world needs right now.

This course educates engineers to become skilled in providing technical and sustainable solutions to these risk-based challenges, and protect infrastructure and society from a broad range of hazards.

**Eligibility:** Candidates should have a three year bachelor degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or first class (BEng, MEng, BSc) in Civil and Structural Engineering or other appropriate engineering or science subject from a reputable university. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

**Fees:** £ 23, 750 for international students.

**How to apply:** Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2020/hazards-and-resilience-msc-pg-certificate-pg-diploma>

## Vishwa Rang festival

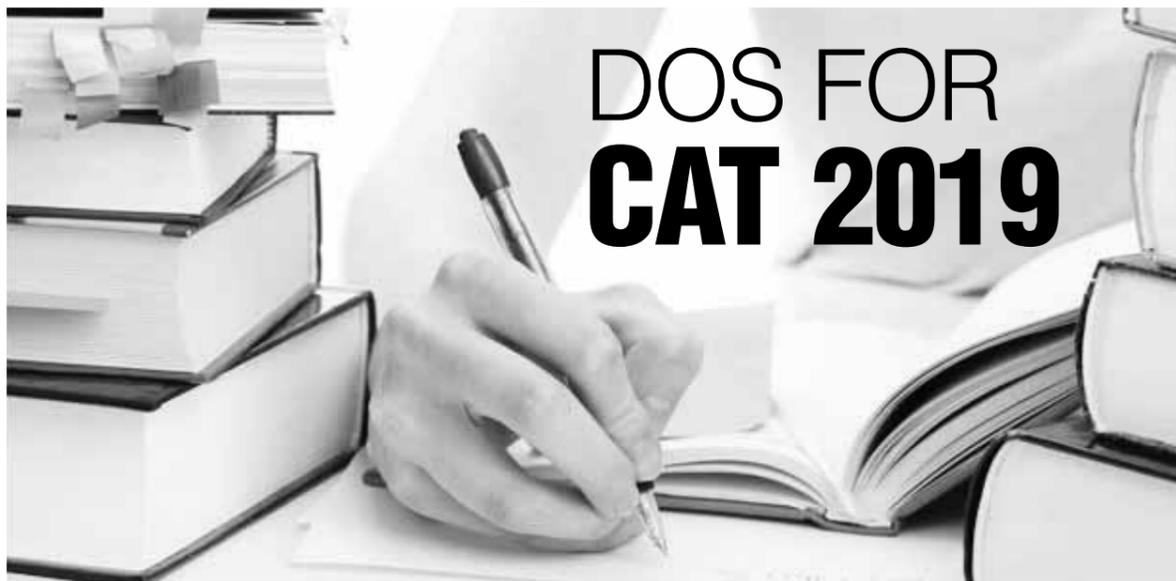
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first edition of the Tagore International Literature & Arts Festival, also known as Vishwa Rang, will be held in Bhopal from November 7 to November 10, 2019.

The event is being organised by the Tagore International Centre for Arts and Culture, housed under Bhopal-based Rabindranath Tagore University (RNTU), and the AISECT Group of Universities. Vishwa Rang 2019 will be the first world-class lit-

erary and arts festival to be organised by an educational institution of India. It will celebrate the essence of Arts and Literature in Hindi and other Indian languages and witness the coming together of over 500 artists and authors from over 30 nationalities.

It will be a platform for ideological dialogue and cultural interplay spread over 60 sessions, which will feature discussions, celebration and discourse on many subjects including literature, culture, education, cinema, journalism and environment.



# DOS FOR CAT 2019

The CAT 2019 exam is scheduled for November 24. ANKUR JAIN shares last-minute tips that can help ace it

With only a month left for CAT 2019, for admission to the coveted IIMs and other good management institutes of the country, the preparation is moving to higher gears. We look at how to prepare for maximum success.

The exam has three main sections — VARC, DILR and QA. First of all give two-three mock tests to assess your current level of preparation. Find where you are weaker or stronger based on your percentiles (ranks) not just scores. Weaker areas should be allotted more time. The general rule is that the weaker you are in an area, the more time you allocate for the section.

Most students allot more time to those areas which they prefer and are therefore stronger. Resist this temptation and spend more time on the areas you like relatively less. This will help you with the sectional cutoffs.

As the exam setters provide less time than required to solve the entire exam, time management is the most crucial element in doing well. Always work with a time deadline when you are tackling/solving questions/exercise/tests so that you are accustomed to the time pressure. Set an alarm to keep you under pres-

sure. You may not use the alarm when you are learning something but always use it for taking a test. The standard guideline is that the time you set, should be sufficient for tackling around 75 per cent of the questions. This simulates actual exam conditions.

It is difficult for most people to study with concentration at a stretch. We recommend that you study for two hours and take a break for 10-15 minutes.

Studying different areas in a day also helps. For example, if you plan to study eight hours a day in buckets of two hours, you may do Quant, RC, DI and LR for two hours each with about 10-15 minutes break between two sessions. However, cover all areas every week.

While taking AIMCATs it is important to know relative strengths and weaknesses, it is even more important that you analyse performance thoroughly and have an action plan to improve. Initially taking around one-two mock tests per week with complete analysis and taking action based on the analysis is sufficient. By the end, taking around two-three, full-length tests in a week will be sufficient followed by analysis.

**DO NOT START ANYTHING NEW IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE EXAM. FOCUS ON STRONG AREAS. GRADUALLY REDUCE STUDY IN THE LAST THREE-FOUR DAYS AND RELAX ON THE DAY BEFORE THE TEST**

When analysing, look at what you solved but took too much time, look at what you solved but got wrong and look at what you left but could have been solved easily. This will give you targets to work on for study.

Revision of mathematics concepts and important formulae can be done the last one week. For now, focus on improving your conceptual clarity. Do not memorise formulae since the CAT is not looking at your ability to memorise, but rather the

ability to apply concepts. Working on lots of questions in practice tests that test your concepts is a much better approach than just working on formulae based questions.

For DI and LR, do look at all types of questions, so that there are no nasty surprises in the exam. If you are familiar with various problems in the exam beforehand, you are likely to do well on the test. Your mock tests can serve as an excellent source of a large number of sets which are the level of the exam.

For English, note that more than two-thirds of the section is reading oriented, whether it is RCs or reading oriented VA questions like Logical Completion of Paragraphs, Logically ordering the Paragraphs etc. Vocabulary and Grammar questions may appear but the effort you put in preparing for them is not going to be as fruitful as improving reading skill. So focus more on tests of RC and VA.

You may continue reading some newspaper articles etc. but now the time is for solving the material provided to you, which will give you reading practice and question practice. Do not worry too much about lots of grammar

rules, new vocabulary words etc. Whatever new words you do find in a passage, that you may revise but don't focus extensively on improving vocabulary now.

Do not start anything new in the last two weeks before CAT. Focus only on strong areas in the last two weeks. Gradually reduce your study in the last three-four days and relax on the day before you will take CAT.

Some students fail to do well in mock tests and feel demotivated. Be realistic in your assessment of your caliber and set realistic and achievable goals. Performance improvement takes place slowly since everyone is studying and is trying to improve. Even if you improve on an absolute scale, you may not see much improvement in your relative performance. You should therefore set a target of 'achievable improvements' for your next AIMCAT and keep on repeating it.

There are cases of students who never crossed 90 percentile in the AIMCATs but got 99 percentile or more in the CAT. Most students tend to get higher percentile in CAT than in AIMCATs so be confident.

The writer is Chief Knowledge Expert, TIME, Delhi

# 'Language is essence of communication'

People are doing business globally. SANJEEV RAWAT stresses on the need for taking up a foreign language to create a lucrative future

Language is an essence of communication which can remove the boundaries of two different people who belong to different countries, culture, States and religion. Now, it's becoming important globally to know each other language for better communication and even for job opportunities. The scope in foreign languages is increasing internationally. There was a time when everybody wants to be a doctor and engineer or choosing career in hotel management for a better future, but opportunities in these sectors are very less now and the numbers of candidates are increasing daily because everybody is running for it. There is a better way to make your future bright and successful by choosing a career in foreign language, if you have an interest and want to learn different languages, this will be beneficial for your career.



**Sanjeev Rawat**  
Director, Langma School of Languages, New Delhi

**CAREER PROSPECTS**  
It is not only extraordinary career option it is also attracts to fulfill your passion for knowing different cultures and also give good salary. The future of learning of foreign languages is all time high, on being able to learn a language and have acquired fluency in the same, a person can think of becoming a foreign language specialist, interpreter and translator or you can get a job in multinational companies even person get a job at different levels and platforms Entertainment, Tourism, Public Relation, BPO, Teaching and Online Content writer.

**ELIGIBILITY**  
Candidate must have passed 10+2 with any recognised board after this, person can do Bachelor's in any foreign language is required and the duration of UG is mostly of three years.

Doing Master degree in any foreign language but the candidate have to pursued graduation in relevant stream the duration of masters degree is usually of two years. The most important requirement is to have native level proficiency in English and at least one other language. And active interaction should be needed to communicate with people; no one is perfect in native language so talk more to improve it.

**NATURE OF WORK**  
Before doing something you should know what the nature of work is or how to work in the field you chosen. As we know many people who may not be able to understand the foreign language, so the most common work is to translation because translator is the only per-

son who commonly visible during public events to translate, without missing a beat converting the second language into their native tongue. Same as for a Tour Guide, Teacher, Researcher and Liaison Officer who coordinates between two parties or companies. These are the common work to do in the field of foreign language.

There are countless reasons to learn foreign languages, you can meet new people around world and quickly get connected, can help you to boost your brainpower, or you can expose yourself to new career opportunities. After getting a degree or course certificate in any foreign language student can find their way in Healthcare, Education, and Business Administration or in Embassy.

In some media houses there is a need of translator and they may get a person as a Reporter. During these days career in foreign language is becoming a great platform in all countries because language skills are essential attribute in the most profession and advanced

**SALARY**  
The translator can expect to get around ₹15,000-₹20,000 at the beginning. With a bit of experience one can earn ₹30,000-plus per month. If person is a graduation in European language like French or German, he may earn ₹50,000-₹90,000 a month.

A good interpreter can get ₹10-₹12 lakh per annum. A freelancer can earn ₹50,000-₹60,000 per assignment; a senior person earn even more.

Gaining accreditation via a relevant degree has always been an essential step for a successful career, for which it is important to get into a university that provides the best of learning, as well as practical experience. Hence, acing entrance examinations such as JEE — Main, CAT, GATE, NET, NMAT, to gain entry into a host of prestigious colleges and yet, tackling these examinations is a tricky slope that students need to master.

Entrance exams are highly competitive, with students from all across the nation vying for limited seats in prestigious colleges. To gain the seat you're interested in, while edging ahead of the competition. Here are a few tips that one needs to keep in

**Gain required intelligence on the exam**  
It is a known fact that each competitive exams differ from each other, concerning the subject they cover and the nature of the exam. This will have a great emphasis on the pattern and sequence, as well as the topics, covered, so it is prudent to learn as much as you can about these exams, in the initial months of preparation. Apart from motivating you, this will help identify the skills/techniques required to tackle the respective exam providing leverage.

**Manage time**  
Competitive exams are akin to a ticking

**MIND IT**

time bomb, with students being required to solve the question paper within a required time-frame. Here, students need to master time management, to show their dexterity over the requirements, under any circumstance.

A piece of great advice is to create a mental flow-chart, to dedicate the required time to each aspect of the paper. Slotting it into categories helps you priorities and streamline the flow, to optimize the time allotted. One of the important aspects of time management is to fix up a study plan-

this will help you grasp the distinctive pattern that needs to be identified.

**Train yourself via previous test papers**  
We all know the importance of training before every competition, to harness victory. In terms of exams, too, it is important to train your mind and body, to endure the kinds of hurdles that these competitive exams would pose.

For this, you might require the assistance of previous test papers, as it will not just help you train, but also will provide

you with a clear picture on your shortcomings, as well as giving you a comprehensive idea on what to expect. Here, it would be easier for you to grasp the nuances of the subjects and understand the exam pattern well if you refer to previous papers for guidance.

Unless you don't push yourself through constant practice, you won't be able to overcome your weaknesses and achieve what you desire.

**Develop Strategies and Practice them**  
A pro-tip- it is always important to strategize, in every aspect of life. Even for exams, it is important to strategize, to edge over the competition. Every student must

acquire and set up a various array of strategies, depending upon the marks allotted and the level of difficulty.

You need to cultivate and expand your aptitude level via practicing papers and questions. This will help you create a mind map, to proceed with certified results in mind.

To nail the exams successfully, you need to keep yourself abreast through practice. There are a host of websites that provide you mock tests and practice papers that provide end-to-end solutions that help uplift careers while helping build a better education as well as the vocational scenario.

The writer is Rachit Jain, Founder-CEO, Youth4Work



**The Newcastle University is awarding Vice-Chancellor's Global international awards** — Postgraduate in the UK. The university offers five bursaries for outstanding international applicants who apply to commence full-time Master's studies in session 2020-2021.

**Award:** £4,000  
Indian students can apply.  
**Eligibility:** Applicants must be assessed as international for fee purposes, hold an offer for an eligible Master's degree programme at the University's Newcastle city-centre campus for the 2020/21 academic year and already have or expect to receive the equivalent of an upper second class UK honours degree or above.

Must provide details of your qualifications, including pre-university qualifications, give details of why you are applying for this application, providing evidence of academic ability, energy, and commitment to studies, enhance your academic and personal development (500-word maximum).

**Admission requirements:** Before applying for admission, you need to check the entry requirements of the university.

**Language requirements:** If English is not your first language you will need to provide

- FULL STACK DEVELOPMENT AT LUMINOL TECH**  
Location: Delhi, Gurugram  
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954360  
Application deadline: November 1, 2019
- GRAPHIC DESIGN AT TRIPVENZA**  
Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954361  
Application deadline: October 31, 2019
- CONTENT WRITING AT ENQODLE**  
Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹4,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954362  
Application deadline: October 31, 2019
- ACCOUNTS (QUICKBOOKS) AT FUZIA**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954363  
Application deadline: November 1, 2019
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT NARAYANAN RAJESH**  
Location: Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954357  
Application deadline: November 1, 2019
- DATA ENTRY AT NOBROKER TECHNOLOGIES SOLUTIONS**  
Location: Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954358  
Application deadline: October 31, 2019
- SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT CLINIKK HEALTHCARE**  
Location: Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month  
Link: internshala.com/i/1954359  
Application deadline: October 31, 2019

## STUDY ABROAD

### 'Post-study work policies play a role for foreign students'

It is no stretch to say that post-study work rights can open doors to multiple individual success stories and growth opportunities for the host country. However, even though there is a whole world to choose from, students seek out particularly those countries that have favourable post-study work policies. Generally, the best study destinations are found in 'traditional immigration countries' like Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US.

Recent developments in the UK's policies has put the country back in the front seat. The UK is back to becoming one of the most popular study destinations following the present government's restoration of its two-year post-study work visa policy.

This has opened multiple opportunities for foreign students, who can now seamlessly switch to a skilled work visa once they find a job after the completion of their studies.

Earlier the then Home Secretary Theresa May had scrapped the post-study work visa as a part of immigration crackdown in 2012, which was discouraging students to apply in UK universities. To avail the benefits policy that comes in force from 2020-2021, students must know that it will be a separate visa. They will have to fill a new application form, inclusive of immigration health surcharge and payment of a visa fee. Moreover, graduates need to see if their leave expires before the visa's implementation as if it does, they will not be eligible for the benefits.

With all its eight universities ranking in the top three per cent of the world, New Zealand is well-known for its quality education and conducive learning environment. It has been gaining high traction among students, particularly the South Asian students for its liberal post work visa policies, in comparison to the UK and the US.

It allows students to work for almost any employer without any restrictions on the kind of job or its location after the completion of the course. The visa can be extended for up to three years. Moreover, the education programs that it offers are based on the British education system (also followed by South Asian countries, including India).

Many countries like the UK have been going through an anti-immigration sentiment. However, after witnessing a drop in the foreign student influx, the host countries are realising the economic benefits of cross-border student mobility. High revenues are generated from student tuition fees, increased spending by them on multiple other expenses and value addition by an international talent for the employer corporations.

The writer is Rohit Sethi, Director, ESS Global - Study Abroad Consultant

## IN BRIEF

- PROGRAMME ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES**  
The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Compass Cambridge has collaborated with BrainGain Academy for its 10-day — *Leadership Program On Global Challenges*. The programme will take place at the University of Cambridge from December 7-17, 2019. The deadline to apply for the program is November 10, 2019.  
This programme for young professionals, university students, and entrepreneurs, will focus on the prevalent challenges like global economic crisis, climate change, and health and well-being. The programme will be taught by faculty at University of Cambridge, Prof Gil Lonzarich, Senior Professor, Department of Physics, Cavendish Labs; Dr Patricia Alireza, Experimental Physicist and Dr Richard Sidebottom, Scholar at University of Cambridge's Centre for Development Studies.
- WIRELESS SENSORS FOR LANDSLIDE MONITORING**  
The students of Amrita Center for Wireless Networks and Applications (AmritaWNA) have come up with a state-of-the-art system that give advance warnings of landslides so that people can be safely evacuated before disaster. It is the only system that makes use of AI and ML to monitor and detect landslides. The project is jointly funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.  
AmritaWNA has issued early warnings about imminent landslides multiple times during 2009, 2011, 2013, 2018 and 2019 in Munnar. The IoT technology used, allows the system to scale and multi-scale and the scientific validity of the same has been discussed in more than 50 journals across the world.  
Maneesha Sudheer, Professor & Director Amrita Center for Wireless Networks & Applications (AmritaWNA) said: "Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is the only Indian institute to be recognised as a world center of excellence in Landslide Disaster Reduction. We are now readying the second installation in Sikkim to guard against rainfall-induced landslides in the Sikkim-Darjeeling belt."
- DIWALI VACATIONS TO PREP FOR NEXT SEMESTER**  
As sessional exams in schools all across the country come to a close and with the festive season underway, Brainly, conducted a survey on its Indian user-base to observe how students plan to spend their festive vacations.  
A major share of 37.2% of the students responded that they will be proactively utilising their Diwali vacations to prepare themselves for the upcoming semesters, whereas over 25% of students noted that will be celebrating with their families and more than 22.5% will be traveling with them. Over 53.9% of students stated how they may be keen on doing activities that involve research on different topics that are beyond their curriculum during this time. Over 70.9% of them said they will be completing the homework assignments that were given to them by the teachers, right before the vacation began.  
Students are also looking to hone their skills and capabilities during these vacations. Be it learning a new language, engaging in sports-driven skills, and practising arts, crafts, and cooking.

# One Plus One Equals 11

India complete 3-0 clean sweep formalities in two overs & win consecutive 11th series at home under Kohli

PTI ■ RANCHI

A formidable Indian team ticked all the boxes with ease as it completed a 3-0 rout of an out-of-sorts South Africa with an innings and 202 runs victory in the third and final Test at Jharkhand State Cricket Association stadium on Tuesday.

With another 120 points in the ongoing World Test Championship, India now sit pretty on top of the table with 240 points as the formalities were completed within the first two overs of the fourth day.

This was Virat Kohli's 11th series win as captain and the first clean sweep over the Proteas who were no match for the hosts. This was India's 11th successive series triumph on home soil.

The scoreline was not only an indicator of India's absolute dominance but also the decline in standard of South African cricket as the visitors couldn't handle the might of India's batting and the fiery pace attack led by Mohammed Shami (13 wickets in the series).

Debutant left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem (2/18 in 6 overs) wrapped it up in the second over of the day as South Africa were all out for 133 in their second innings, 29 runs short of their dismal first innings score of 162.

This was India's sixth clean sweep at home in a three-Test series and the side didn't put a foot wrong during the three-match series, winning the first Test by 203 runs and the second one by an innings and 137 runs.

If Rohit Sharma's coming of age in his new role as an opener with 529 runs, turned out to be a masterstroke in home conditions, Mayank Agarwal also consolidated his place in the side with a double century and a ton, easing India's long time opening woes.

"I was very happy to make my debut in Australia and make little contributions to the team. It's hard work over a period of many areas," Agarwal said after the match.

However, what stood out during the series was how lethal the Indian pace attack looked despite their premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah's absence due to a stress fracture.

Rarely has there been a series where the impact of pacers has



Members of Indian team pose with the winners trophy after their win on the fourth day of third and last Test match between India and South Africa in Ranchi

"Indian conditions were always known to be spin friendly. Now we have that power, among our pacers, that we can make batsmen dance with the bat."

— MOHAMMAD SHAMI

"The support of the coach and captain helps. I am thankful for the opportunity to the management for that opening slot."

— ROHIT SHARMA

"They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department - spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome"

— FAF DU PLESSIS



Indian captain Virat Kohli shakes hand with Faf du Plessis AP

## We want to be the best: Kohli

PTI ■ RANCHI

The intent has always been honest and that precisely is the reason for the stupendous results that the Indian cricket team is currently delivering, skipper Virat Kohli said after a thumping 3-0 whitewash.

"As long as we keep working with honest intent, those things will follow. We have wanted to be the best team in Test cricket, and as long as we compete, things will work out well for us," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

The best part about the win was taking the conditions out of equation, said Kohli.

"Amazing. You guys have seen how we're playing. Making things happen on pitches that don't seem to offer too much, is something we're very proud of," the skipper said.

"Even when we travelled away from home, we wanted to compete. Getting into the right kind of mindset is something these guys have worked really hard to get into. To be the best side in the world, you have to be multi-dimensional," skipper said.

"Spin was always our strength, batting was never a problem for us. Ishant (Sharma) was the only experienced bowler for us. We said we can play an extra bowler, and as batsmen we said we'll get the job done.

"We've got runs in every Test match, our catching has been good too. (Goal) As I said, even without much experience, we travelled very well. We believe we can win anywhere," the skipper added.

His counterpart Faf du Plessis also agreed that it was high quality pace bowling from India.

"I think it's the skill of the bowlers. They have a skiddy nature and they hit the right spots and the stumps at all times. Those are the things we talked about before we came here, but naturally the length in South Africa has to be a little shorter, and that takes time to adjust," Du Plessis said.

The fight tapered off after the first Test in Visakhapatnam and du Plessis acknowledged that his side wasn't up to it.

"That's the frustrating part of the tour. There were some really good signs, but it went the other way," the Proteas skipper said when dissecting performance on the tour.

"Every Test, we made more mistakes. But we have to give credit to the Indian team. They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department — spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome.

"The mindset after 2015 was to prepare ourselves for really spinning tracks, but it's been the opposite. Really sporting tracks — fantastic for fast bowlers and even for batsmen. There's a lot to learn for us," he added.

The visiting skipper said that this is a young team which would learn to fight its way out of trouble in adverse conditions.

"It's important that we have some young guys, and they'll experience this in 3-4 years ago. It was important for us to take something back again.

"We have to learn to compete the next time again. This is the toughest tour on the circuit... (India's) 11 series wins in a row bears testament to that."

Margin	Opponents	Venue	Season
Innings & 272 runs	West Indies	Rajkot	2018-19
Innings & 262 runs	Afghanistan	Bengaluru	2018
Innings & 239 runs	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2006-07
Innings & 239 runs	Sri Lanka	Nagpur	2017-18
Innings & 219 runs	Australia	Kolkata	1997-98
Innings & 202 runs	South Africa	Ranchi	2019-20

Opponent	Season	Overs	Runs	Wkts
England	1933-34	353.3	926	30
Sri Lanka	2017-18	235.4	758	30
England	2005-06	254.5	763	27
South Africa	2019-20	152.5	455	26
South Africa	1996-97	221.3	625	25

Team	Series	Period
India	11	February 2013 to October 2019
Australia	10	November 1994 to November 2000
Australia	10	July 2004 to November 2008
West Indies	8	March 1976 to February 1986
England	7	May 2009 to May 2012
South Africa	7	March 1998 to November 2001

FAISEL FEATURES

been as much as the spinners. In two Tests) and Ishant Sharma (2 in 2 Tests) picked 26 wickets. "We are always ready to fulfill our responsibility. As a captain, Virat gives you confidence, lets you do what you want. We

try to keep the ball in the right areas and bowl the right length," Shami said at the end of match.

It was one such series, where South African batsmen looked scared and scarred by the ferocity of India's pace attack. The pacers did a lot of damage with the new ball and reversed the old ball.

Two hundreds and four fifties is all that the South African batting line-up managed and South African skipper Faf du Plessis agreed that they were completely outplayed on sporting tracks unlike the ones in 2015 where the ball was turning square.

"They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department — spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome," Du Plessis agreed.

Pleased as punch, skipper Kohli couldn't agree more with his opposite number.

"You guys have seen how we're playing. Making things happen on pitches that don't seem to offer too much, is something we're very proud of," Kohli summed it up aptly.



MS Dhoni speaks with Shahbaz Nadeem after the end of third Test BCCI/Twitter

## MS checks in

RANCHI: A notable absentee for the duration of the Test, former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni finally showed up after India wrapped up the Test series, posing with Ravi Shastri among others.

Ranchi's most popular son was expected to turn up during the third Test, and he did, but only after the formalities had been completed by Virat Kohli and his men here.

"Great to see a true Indian legend in his den after a fantastic series win #Dhoni #TeamIndia #INDvsSA," Shastri tweeted with

a picture of him with a grinning Dhoni.

In fact, when a scribe asked about Dhoni, a beaming skipper Kohli said in jest: "He is here in the change room. Come and say hello to him."

The BCCI also posted a picture of Dhoni, wearing his all-India accreditation card, in the Indian dressing room.

In the picture posted by the Indian board, Dhoni is seen in conversation with debutant left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem, who took four wickets. PTI

## All credit goes to Rohit

PTI ■ RANCHI

Skipper Virat Kohli feels that no one but Rohit Sharma alone "deserves credit" for overcoming "anxiety and hesitation" while performing commendably in his new role as an opener, giving bowlers enough time to take 20 South African wickets in the 3-0 sweep.

Rohit turned out to be a revelation as opener with scores of 176 and 127 in the first Test and 212 in the third Test. The team management's stand that he could be a game-changer in the longest format stood vindicated.

"Credit solely goes to the player for the way he overcame his anxiety and hesitation and performed in such a manner that he was adjudged Man-of-the-Series in the first series as an opener. It's been outstanding for him," Kohli was effusive in praise for his white-ball deputy.

"There is always an anticipation on how would you perform as an opener in Test cricket, as he has been the world's best opener in ODI cricket for a long time. Despite missing close to two sessions because of rain, his pace in the batting gave us so much of time to bowl them out twice," the skipper said.

The top-order had performed brilliantly in the series, something that the skipper finds deeply satisfying.

"Mayank (Agarwal) also has done very well. Despite being new to opening, he performed consistently. Ajinkya (Rahane) also got a century at home after a long time (three years, 188 v NZ October 2016, Indore).

"He also got a Test century in West Indies after a long time. Things are moving in the right direction in the last two-three months. So I said, it feels very pleasing to see individuals performing collectively well."

Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami took 24 of the 60 South African wickets and

their strike-rate is something that makes them stand apart from a lot of Indian fast bowlers over the years, said the skipper.

"If you look at these two guys, their strike-rate is probably the best in Indian conditions in history. So it tells you that these guys hit the stumps and the pads more. It's a great sign of intent the bowlers are running with. The fitness levels have gone up," Kohli said.

### 'WILL MEET & TALK ABOUT DHONI'

India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday said he hasn't had any conversation with Sourav Ganguly with regards to MS Dhoni's international future and believes that the BCCI's President-elect will get in touch with him when he needs to.

After being nominated as the BCCI's President-elect, Ganguly had said that he would like to speak to the selectors as well as Dhoni to know what they had in mind.

"I congratulated him (Ganguly). It's great that he has become BCCI President. But he's not spoken to me about that (MS) yet. He will get in touch with me when he has to. I am sure I will go and meet him when he tells me to," the Indian skipper said at the post-match press conference.



PTI ■ RANCHI

India captain Virat Kohli feels that time has come for the BCCI to zero in on five permanent Test centres for future home series, similar to the English and Australian model when top teams tour those countries.

In Australia, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide are the five designated Test centres whenever the big teams come calling.

Similarly in England, the Lord's, Oval, Trent

## 5 Test venues

Skipper Virat backs Aussie, English model of having only five permanent Test centres

Bridge, Old Trafford, Edgbaston, Southampton and Headingley are the seven main Test centres for any marquee series (Ashes/India).

Asked about the lukewarm response in Ranchi, the Indian skipper lapped up the question.

"That's a great question. keep Test cricket alive and

exciting, I totally agree with the fact that we need five Test centres at max. It can't be sporadic and spread over so many places where people turn up or they don't," the skipper didn't mince words.

"So in my opinion, absolutely, we should have five strong Test centres where the team coming to India knows that this is where we're going to play and nowhere else," he said.

The BCCI follows the rotation policy across formats but it has now more than 15 Test centres.

## Shastri likens Indian batting to Ferrari, calls Hitman different class

PTI ■ RANCHI

An exultant India coach Ravi Shastri on Tuesday said Rohit Sharma has shown himself to be of different class in the newly-acquired role of a Test opener, acclimatising exceptionally well to the challenges posed by the position.

"Ajinkya Rahane was always there in the middle order, he only needed to rediscover, which he did himself. Rohit is different class. As an opener he needed to have a different mindset, he acclimatised. It was a difficult pitch to start with but usne jhela," Shastri told official broadcaster Star Sports at the end of the match.

"He has it in him to be unfazed by difficult conditions. What he has done in this series is tremendous," he added.

Shastri lauded the mindset of the team, which he said, is never perturbed by the conditions it encounters whether at home or abroad.

"Our philosophy has been bhaad mein gaya pitch (to hell with the pitch). We need to take 20 wickets and it doesn't matter if it's Mumbai, Auckland, Melbourne, anywhere. Once we have taken those 20 wickets, our batting, once it gets going is like smooth-running Ferrari," he quipped.

"When you have five bowlers who can take 20 wickets, bas that's what matters," he added. Despite the individual brilliance that shone through, Shastri said the triumph was, in the end, a team effort.



Mohammed Shami celebrates by showing broken wicket after dismissing Dane Piedt in Pune AP

"It's a team effort. A captain who leads from the front. You have opening batsmen who got double hundreds. Middle-order batsmen got hundreds. Normally in India, you have two players who hog the limelight. Here we've had six or seven payers. This is going well, enjoy," he said.

## 'Ind tour caused mental scars'

PTI ■ RANCHI

Humiliated by a ruthless India, the South African team will go back with "mental scars" as skipper Faf du Plessis rued a lack of vision that impeded phasing out of their great players.

"A tour like this reveals that there's a lot of mental scars that can happen and then obviously it's difficult to come out of that hole," Du Plessis said after they conceded their heaviest defeat to India in the third Test.

"It's just a relentless, ruthlessness the way they put big totals on the board every time. The effect it has on you mentally as a batting lineup, it takes a lot of energy and it takes a lot of toll and that's why you could see towards the end our batting was mentally weak. You don't want to be mentally weak."

Blaming Cricket South Africa, the visiting skipper further said the tour exposed the lack of planning as they did not think for future after greats like Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers retired.

"It shows that our structures are not where they need to be. The gap between domestic cricket and International cricket. If you look back three



Faf du Plessis & Zubayr Hamza, left, leave the field at the end of day's play AP

or four years and if someone had the vision of saying, in three or four years' time there will be a lot of inexperienced guys. A lot of 34, 35, 36 year olds could possible retire. So what do you do to make sure you get yourself ready for when that time comes?

"And possibly we are guilty of not planning or when these guys going at the same time. And now you've got to replace not only one player but four or five of your best players. Perhaps we could've been a little bit smarter in our planning phase, and the phasing out of the great players," he said.

Asked about the way forward, Du Plessis said they have to find the right people to build the side. "It's a rebuilding phase. You have to start identifying characters that will drive the team forward. You look for personalities within a team that you see in 3-4-5-6 years to come. And then the process starts. It's a tough place to start right at the beginning. "The process will probably take a little bit longer. So for me, our next journey now is trying to make sure that we get a lot stronger as a cricketing team mentally. So if there's work that needs to be done in that department, then so be it."



## Modric, Neymar miss out on Ballon D'Or shortlist

AFP ■ PARIS

While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year. Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016.

Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer.

The 34-year-old Reign FC playmaker was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as she led the United States to victory in France in July. Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg was the first women's winner.

The Lyon forward did not play in the World Cup but is among the 20 nominees as are stars who were present at the competition, such as Australia striker Sam Kerr, England's Lucy Bronze and France captain Amandine Henry.

Virgil van Dijk, 28, who has had an impressive six months with Liverpool lifting the Champions League, could become a rare defensive winner of the men's award.

Fabio Cannavaro was the last defender to win in 2006, and only the fourth since the award began in 1956.

Another nominee, Kylian Mbappe, the top goal scorer in Ligue 1 last season, would represent a genuine change of the guard.

The Paris Saint-Germain striker is ineligible to defend his Kopa trophy for the best player under 21 last year as he celebrates his 21st birthday on December 20.

This year also sees the introduction of the Yashin trophy, named after the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon D'Or, Lev Yashin of the Soviet Union, to give that ignored minority a chance to get their hands on a prize of their own.

The award winners will be unveiled on December 2 during a ceremony in Paris after a voting process including journalists from 180 different countries.

### SHORTLISTED MEN'S LIST

Sergio Agüero, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Alisson Becker, Karim Benzema, Kevin De Bruyne, Frenkie De Jong, Matthijs de Ligt, João Félix, Roberto Firmino, Antoine Griezmann, Eden Hazard, Kalidou Koulibaly, Robert Lewandowski, Hugo Lloris, Riyad Mahrez, Sadio Mané, Marquinhos, Kylian Mbappé, Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Mohamed Salah, Bernardo Silva, Son Heung-Min, Raheem Sterling, Dusan Tadic, Marc-André ter Stegen, Donny van de Beek, Virgil van Dijk, Georginio Wijnaldum.

The north Londoners sit fifth in the league after a powder-puff performance that showed Emery's rebuilding job is still a work in progress.

But Emery insisted Arsenal deserved at least a draw and criticised the failure to give a penalty for a foul on Sokratis.

"We didn't deserve to lose. We can speak about two key moments, one is the goal and the other is a clear penalty with Sokratis. With VAR, the foul should have been reviewed, but we have to accept it," Emery said after Arsenal's winless run in the city of Sheffield extended to 26 years.

"We had more chances than them. If we scored one goal then we could have controlled better."

Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 away league matches and once again they wilted too easily in a hostile environment.

This was a signature win for the Blades after last season's promotion and they sit proudly in ninth place, just three points behind Arsenal.

Chris Wilder congratulates his boys after end of Premier League match against Arsenal PL/Twitter

Chris Wilder congratulates his boys after end of Premier League match against Arsenal PL/Twitter

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# SUPER 6

## Barca seek sixth straight win at spirited Slavia

AFP ■ PRAGUE

Barcelona will be looking to extend their five-game winning streak when they take on Champions League underdogs Slavia Prague in the teams' first-ever encounter in Prague today.

Brushing aside political turmoil around them, Ernesto Valverde's men eased past Eibar 3-0 away on Saturday with goals from Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann.

Their fifth straight competitive win — including a 2-1 victory over Inter Milan in their last Champions League game — took them to the top of La Liga a point ahead of Real Madrid.

Last week the two giants agreed to postpone the Clasico, which would have been a showdown for the top league spot, from next Saturday to December because of the protests in Catalonia.

In a much calmer Prague, reigning Czech champions Slavia came back from a goal down to see off minnows Pribram 3-1 on Saturday to secure a six-point lead in the Czech top flight.

With two games played, Barcelona are second in the Champions League Group F with four points following the Milan win and a goalless draw with Dortmund who top the group on a goal difference.

Slavia sit at the bottom with a single point after holding Inter to a 1-1 draw in Milan and a subsequent 2-0 loss to Dortmund at home. Barcelona relished their attacking form after the Eibar clash, giving Slavia a cause for concern.

An underdog in today's clash, Slavia are building up confidence, betting on a physical style and tireless pressing promoted by coach Jindrich Tрпиšovsky. Last season, they eliminated Sevilla from the Europa League before bowing out at the hands of Chelsea in the quarter-finals.

"We'll go to the pitch knowing we can succeed," said defensive midfielder Tomas Soucek, the Slavia captain.

"We want at least a point, we have proved we can face the giants and I believe we'll give them a hard time at home," added goalkeeper Ondrej Kolar.

The Czechs remember Barca's last match in Prague where they were hosted by Viktoria Pilsen in the Champions League in 2011. Barcelona won 4-0 as Messi scored a hat-trick.

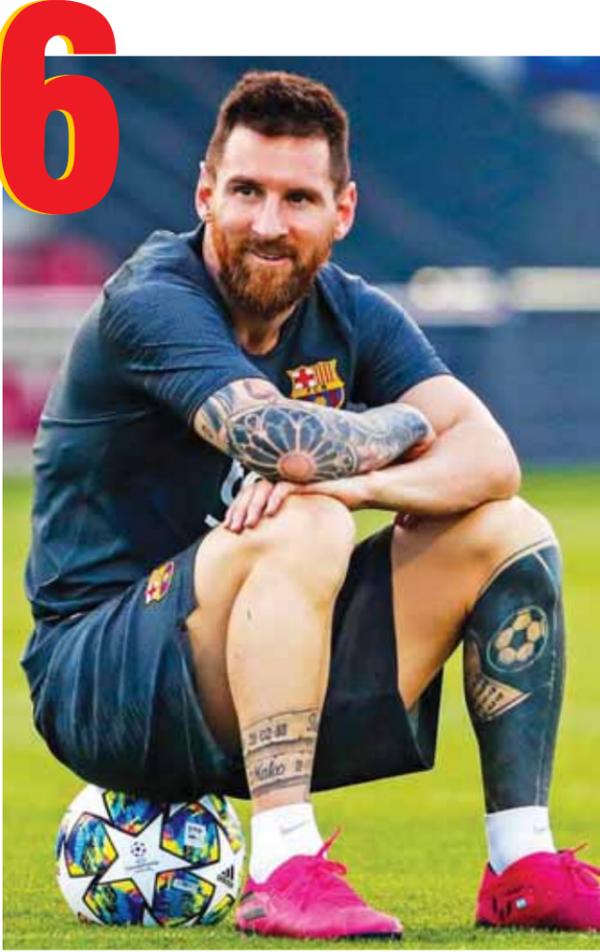
"There are many players who can score, they all have a fantastic finish," said Kolar.

"We know how strong they are, particularly Messi, his left foot is exceptional and I think you can't really get ready for that," Soucek hailed Barca's "three unbelievable forwards" Suarez, Messi and Griezmann.

"It's funny to think that we'll swap the pennants with Messi and play against all these players," he said.

Barcelona, who took a day off Sunday before resuming training on Monday, will miss Sergi Roberto, who hurt his left knee at Eibar. Gerard Pique is likely to return to the team following a ban.

Genk is braced for a possible reaction today from Liverpool, whose winning



Barcelona captain Lionel Messi watches his teammate train during practice session FCB/Twitter

## Slavia vs Barcelona

Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 1 NETWORK

Premier League start ended at Old Trafford. Liverpool opened its title defense with a 2-0 loss at Napoli and struggled before prevailing 4-3 over Salzburg.

Salzburg has tallied nine goals so far but the Austrian club faces a difficult challenge against Napoli, which is one of five teams yet to concede in the competition.

Antonio Conte's team already trails Barcelona and Dortmund by three points.

Leipzig hosts Zenit St Petersburg after seemingly forgetting how to win at home, where its last victory was against Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga on Aug. 25.

Lyon managed to win 2-0 in Leipzig despite its own crisis at home. Lyon hasn't won in eight games in the French league.

Lyon visits Benfica in the group's other game.

## Reus misses Inter trip

Inter vs Dortmund  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

AFP ■ MILAN

Borussia Dortmund flew to Italy without captain Marco Reus and striker Paco Alcacer for today's match at Inter Milan, but previously suspended England winger Jadon Sancho and injured goalkeeper Roman Burki were included.

The Bundesliga club said the 30-year-old playmaker Reus missed Tuesday's flight because he is "still in poor health" after scoring the winner in Saturday's 1-0 victory over Bundesliga leaders Moenchengladbach despite suffering with flu.

Alcacer, who like Reus has scored five league goals so far this season, is also out due to the persistent calf injury which has sidelined him since September 28.

However, Sancho, 19, has been included after being dropped for Saturday's game after returning late from England duty.

Burki is also back after limping out of the second-half of the Gladbach win with a knee injury.

The Germans top Group F ahead of Barcelona on goal difference after holding the Spanish giants to a goalless draw in Dortmund in their opening game and then winning 2-0 at bottom side Slavia Prague.

Inter, third in the table, drew at home to Slavia and lost 2-1 to Barca a fortnight ago at the Camp Nou in their two previous games.

Conte's side bank on Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku, who got off the mark in his first league match against Lecce and has since scored five goals in eight Serie A games since departing Old Trafford under a cloud last summer.



Tammy Abraham (9) celebrates with Mason Mount after scoring Chelsea/Twitter

## Next-gen stars

### Rising Chelsea players face acid test against youth kings Ajax

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Ajax vs Chelsea  
Live from 10:25pm IST  
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Chelsea's young guns will test their run of form at one of the homes of youth development today as they attempt to stop an Ajax team on course to replicate last season's thrilling run.

The Blues are on a five-match winning streak in all competitions after beating Newcastle United 1-0 at the weekend but come up against the Group H leaders in Amsterdam Ajax are averaging over three goals a game at home and abroad and are hungry for European success after semi-final heartache last season.

Fikayo Tomori, Ross Barkley, Mason Mount, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Tammy Abraham all started Saturday's win at Stamford Bridge, the first time since 2013 five English players made the London club's starting XI.

They second on three points in Group H after a wobbly opening two games in the Champions League, with a pair of matches coming up against on-fire Ajax that could decide their European destiny.

"These two games against Ajax are really big because they're such a strong team ... The movement of the team and the way they play football will be a

big test for us," coach Frank Lampard told the Chelsea website on Monday.

Ajax's remarkable form has led to rumours that coach Erik ten Hag is a potential Bayern Munich target, rumours that the 49-year-old refused to play down on Monday as Nico Kovac comes under fire in Germany.

Despite losing midfield dynamo Frenkie De Jong and defensive rock Matthijs de Ligt, they are top of the Eredivisie and unbeaten after scoring 31 times in their opening 10 games, three points ahead of PSV Eindhoven and Vitesse Arnhem.

In fact Erik ten Hag's side have hardly felt the effects of their departures, and are also top of Group H after beating both Lille and Valencia 3-0 with the same brand of thrilling football that captured Europe's imaginations last season.

However, although they reemerged as a European force thanks to their academy talent, their star turns this campaign are all outside discoveries, with Hakim Ziyech, David Neres and Dusan Tadic all in fine form and new signing Quincy Promes causing havoc from midfield.

# Blades burst Arsenal bubble

AFP ■ SHEFFIELD

Unai Emery claimed Arsenal were unlucky to suffer a shock 1-0 defeat at Sheffield United as Lys Mousset condemned the Gunners to their latest away-day flop on Monday.

Emery's side are without an away Premier League win since the opening weekend of the season after failing to rise to the challenge posed by fired up United at Bramall Lane.

French forward Mousset, making his first Premier League start for United, punished poor Arsenal defending in the first half to score his second goal since signing from Bournemouth.

That was enough to send Arsenal crashing to just their second defeat of the season, ending an eight-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

The north Londoners sit fifth in the league after a powder-puff performance that showed Emery's rebuilding job is still a work in progress.

But Emery insisted Arsenal deserved at least a draw and criticised the failure to give a penalty for a foul on Sokratis.

"We didn't deserve to lose. We can speak about two key moments, one is the goal and the other is a clear penalty with Sokratis. With VAR, the foul should have been reviewed, but we have to accept it," Emery said after Arsenal's winless run in the city of Sheffield extended to 26 years.

"We had more chances than them. If we scored one goal then we could have controlled better."

Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 away league matches and once again they wilted too easily in a hostile environment.

This was a signature win for the Blades after last season's promotion and they sit proudly in ninth place, just three points behind Arsenal.

Chris Wilder congratulates his boys after end of Premier League match against Arsenal PL/Twitter

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## Weather holds key in Hazare semis

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Vijay Hazare semifinals  
Live from 9:30am IST  
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK

Lokesh Rahul celebrates after scoring century against Kerala PTI/File Photo

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Lokesh Rahul celebrates after scoring century against Kerala PTI/File Photo

way with 17 wickets while leggie Shreyas Gopal (14 wickets) and fellow leg-spinner Pravin Dube have gone about the job rather well.

Chhattisgarh came through after rain washed out the quarter-final against the defending champion Mumbai on Monday on the basis of more wins in the league phase. However, they face a rather daunting task against the all-round Karnataka team, boasting of a strong batting line-up.

Ashtutosh Singh, captain Harpreet Singh and Amandeep Khare have been the key batsmen for Chhattisgarh but will be up against a strong Karnataka attack.

In the other semifinal, Tamil Nadu, lucky to come through against Punjab on the basis of having won more games in the league phase, faces Gujarat, a comfortable winner against Delhi.

Having lost to the Dinesh Karthik-led side in the league phase, Gujarat will be aiming for revenge and will be aware of the need to raise their game.

The experienced TN line-up that includes Murali Vijay, Abhinav Mukund, B Aparajith, Vijay Shankar and the captain Karthik himself can be expected to step up in a crunch game and the Gujarat bowling line-up led by left-arm pacer Rush Kalaria and veteran leggie Piyush Chawla face a stern test on the morrow.

Tamil Nadu will be hoping that the big guns get going and lay the platform for Karthik to finish things off with a flourish.

The TN bowlers—T Natarajan, K Vignesh (14 wkts), Vijay Shankar, R Sai Kishore and leggie M Ashwin (13 wkts)—have done the job for the skipper and would be expected to contain the Gujarat batsmen comprising skipper Parthiv Patel and the prolific Priyank Panchal among others.

# Ganguly set to take over as 39th BCCI president

PTI ■ MUMBAI

One of India's most decorated captains Sourav Ganguly will be taking over as the 39th president of the BCCI today at its Annual General Meeting (AGM), ending a tumultuous 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

Ganguly is the unanimous nomination for the post of BCCI president along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay as the secretary, Mahim Verma of Uttarakhand is the new vice-president.

Former BCCI president and current MoS finance Anurag Thakur's younger brother Arun Dhimal is the treasurer while Kerala's Jayesh George is the joint secretary.

However Ganguly will have a curtailed tenure of around nine months as he would need to demit office by the end of July, next year as per the provisions of new constitutions, which makes 'Cooling Off' period



Sourav Ganguly poses for photographs with N Srinivasan as he arrives to file nomination for the post of BCCI president at the board headquarters AP/File Photo

mandatory after six years in office.

Easily one of the most high profile names to assume office, Ganguly will make use of his experience gained as the secretary and later president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), which will come in handy.

He has set a few goals — primary being restructuring of first-class cricket as well as getting the administration back in shape along with getting India's position of reverence back in the corridors of International Cricket Council.

With Conflict of Interest rules being an impediment, Ganguly will also face the challenge of having quality cricketers on board as far as the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and national selection committee are concerned.

The 10-month is a short period and it also needs to be seen how the former India captain handles the disqualified old guards like N Srinivasan and

## It was nothing personal: Edulji on differences with Vinod Rai

MUMBAI

COA member Diana Edulji on Tuesday said there were serious differences with the Vinod Rai-led panel like there would be in a democratic organisation but there was nothing personal in any of their public showdowns.

COA, which ran Indian cricket for 33 months, will demit office today.

"It was a good experience and a long journey, didn't think that the journey would last so long, but I am happy

Niranjan Shah, whose children are now officially part of the BCCI. Ganguly's relation with IPL chairman Brijesh Patel, a Srinivasan loyalist will also be of interest.

Last but certainly not the least, his take on cricketing

with the end result that elections and office-bearers are coming back and BCCI will be run by them now," Edulji, a former India captain, told reporters here after the final COA meeting.

Edulji and former CAG Rai often disagreed publicly on key issues, most notably over the appointment of national coaches, both men and women.

However, Edulji said she had no regrets. PTI

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