

OPINION 8
COULD WE HAVE WON THE WAR?

WORLD 12
39 FOUND DEAD IN TRUCK CONTAINER NEAR LONDON

SPORT 15
MBAPPE, STERLING SCORE HAT-TRICK IN UCL



SALMAN IS BACK IN DABANGG 3 13 VIVACITY

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Centre OK's ownership rights in 1,797 illegal colonies

'Diwali gift' to benefit 50 lakh residents in Delhi; Sainik Farms among 69 affluent colonies left out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly election in Delhi, around 40-50 lakh people living in 1,797 unauthorised colonies in the national Capital will be given ownership rights. As per the Union Cabinet's decision on Wednesday to legalise these unauthorised colonies, the ownership right will be given after payment of regularisation charge based on carpet area/plot size. For colonies on private land, the regularisation charge will be half of the charge on Government land. The rights will be conferred on payment of nominal charge based on carpet area/plot size. For colonies on Government land, the charge will be 0.5 per cent for less than 100 sqm, 1 per cent for 100-250 sqm and 2.5 per cent for greater than 250 sqm, of the circle rate of highest category of locality of the residential area surrounding the unauthorised colony. Making the announcement after the Cabinet's decision, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Centre will bring

a Bill in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning November 18 to this effect. Puri called it the most "far-sighted, progressive, revolutionary step" for Delhi since Independence. The Minister termed the move as a "Diwali gift" to the poor residents. The Cabinet decision does not apply to 69 affluent colonies such as Sainik Farms, Mahendru Enclave and Anantram Dairy. The decision is politically significant as unauthorised colonies, which account for a sizeable vote base, have been a key issue in Delhi and has figured prominently in the manifesto of political parties in each election. The term of the Delhi Assembly ends in February. The proposed Bill is aimed at recognising general power of attorney (GPA), will, agreement to sell, purchase and possession documents. This will give a one-time relaxation to the residents of these colonies. The Bill will also provide for registration charge and stamp duty on last transaction and also address the issue of income tax liability on account of less than circle rate charges. Puri also slammed the Arvind Kejriwal Government, accusing it of trying to "delay

❖ Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri termed the move as a "Diwali gift" that will enable the residents of these colonies to register their properties, avail loans against it, and also pave the way for infrastructure development and civic amenities

❖ The Centre would move swiftly to execute the decision and bring in a legislation in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning November 18, said Puri

❖ Puri said the AAP dispensation had sought time till 2021 to fix the boundaries of these colonies

❖ The move comes ahead of the Assembly polls in the national Capital, scheduled for early next year

will have option to pay charge in three equal installments to be paid in a year. "Any person paying full amount in one installment will get the ownership rights immediately. Provisional rights will be given on payment of two installments, which will be converted to permanent rights after full and final payment. The late payment will attract simple interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum. Conveyance deed will be executed for residential purpose, irrespective of use," the statement said. As per the existing regulations of 2008, the process of regularisation was to be coordinated and supervised by the Delhi Government.

Any person paying full amount in one installment will get the ownership rights immediately. Provisional rights will be given on payment of two installments, which will be converted to permanent rights after full and final payment

HARDEEP SINGH PURI

The mapping will be based on a 2015 satellite imagery and the boundaries will be mapped on to that imagery. In three months, we will complete the marking of the boundaries. We will also launch a portal for people to apply by furnishing relevant details

SENIOR DDA OFFICIAL

RESIDENTS SAY

❖ This has been long due. We are happy over the fact that we can finally have full and authentic ownership of our houses

RESIDENT OF POCHAMPUR EXTENSION IN SOUTHWEST DELHI

❖ It is good the Government has taken this step but I hope it does not take years to be done, and is implemented soon. Generally such announcements are made as a 'token' promise before the elections

RESIDENT OF KAKROLA'S NAND VIHAR

Kejriwal hails Govt for nod to his proposal

CM asks Centre to speed up process

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Welcoming the Union Government's decision to regularise unauthorised colonies in the national Capital, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Centre should speed up the process. Soon after the announcement made by the Union Cabinet, Kejriwal said the road map for the regularisation of 1,797 colonies was based on a

proposal sent by the Delhi Government in July month. "The Centre has taken an important decision, it was a long pending decision and there should be no further delay," Kejriwal said. While the most challenging task before the Government is mapping of these colonies which will be most likely done by land owning agency — the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). However, Kejriwal has advised to consider the mapping work to be done by Geospatial Delhi Limited of Delhi Government.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the media in New Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

PURI BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE CM felicitates 11 for vacating lands



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday felicitated 11 persons for voluntarily vacating their properties for making Puri a world heritage city. In a programme held at the Loka Seva Bhawan here, Patnaik presented silver filigree idols of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra idols to the 11 persons. "I am very happy that you accepted my appeal and gave away your lands for Shreemandir security. People of Odisha will be indebted to you for this," Patnaik said. "Your sacrifice will add a new history in the service of Lord Jagannath. The future generations of Odisha will remember your sacrifice," he said. Patnaik pointed out that the State Government is offering a good package for the

Govt cautions depts on money parking in banks

In view of banks' unviable financial conditions

BHUBANESWAR: Raising concerns about the financial health of banks, the State Government has directed all the departments to take precaution while depositing Government funds in any bank. In a letter to all the departments, Finance Secretary AKK Meena said the departments, PSUs or other State agencies have to be very careful while keeping deposits in any bank and proper enquiry must be done about the financial health of the concerned bank for making any deposit. "It shall be the personal responsibility of the concerned authority for such deposit," the letter read. The Secretary further asked the departments to utilise the Government funds directly from treasury through Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) instead of parking the amount in any bank account. The letter also mentioned that withdrawal of money from treasury without sufficient grounds and depositing the same in bank account shall be construed as a financial irregularity. Worth mentioning, each depositor in a bank is insured up to Rs 1 lakh and not beyond that. The State Government has empanelled 17 PSU banks, eight private sector banks, one small finance bank, two regional rural banks and one co-operative bank for the purpose of handling business and deposits of State PSUs, State Level Autonomous Societies for the year 2019-20. **PNS**

Shivakumar not 'flight risk', Delhi HC grants bail

Sonia pays a visit to Karnataka Cong strongman in Tihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Karnataka Congress leader DK Shivakumar in a money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying he cannot tamper with the evidence or influence witnesses. Justice Suresh Kait said the Congress leader was "entitled" for grant of bail as no material has been shown to indicate that he was a flight risk. Earlier in the day, Congress president Sonia Gandhi met Shivakumar in Tihar Jail and assured him of all support from the party. Sonia was accompanied by Congress general secretary Ambika Soni and Congress MP DK Suresh, who is also the brother of Shivakumar. Sonia had met former Finance Minister P Chidambaram when he was lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with the INX Media case. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and ex-Chief Ministers HD Kumaraswamy and Siddaramaiah welcomed the High Court granting bail to the Congress leader. Kumaraswamy had met Shivakumar at Tihar Jail on Monday and said that the Congress leader was "bold" to fight "vengeance politics". Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy, both Vokkaliga strongmen, have been bitter political opponents in the old Mysuru region, until they came together for the formation of the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government, after 2018 Assembly polls.

Subhas Chopra appointed Delhi Cong president



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

It took more than three months for the Congress leadership to appoint a new president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee on Wednesday. The seat had fallen vacant after the death of three-time Delhi Chief Minister and two-term DPCC president Sheila Dikshit on July 20 this year. Subhash Chopra had earlier served as DPCC president for four years. Chopra, a three-time MLA from Kalkaji seat, had also served as the Speaker of the Delhi Assembly. Former BJP MP Kirti Azad has been made the chairman of Campaign Committee.

5T to pro-activate health services: Central team

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A CRM team of the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry led by Dr Himanshu Bhushan here Wednesday said that the Odisha Government is providing quality healthcare to people free of cost and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 5T initiative would certainly make the ongoing process proactive. The committee visited health facilities like DHH, SDHs, CHC and PHCs at different places in Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj districts and conducted studies. They too held discussion with doctors, paramedics, Anganwadi Workers and elected members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Besides, they inspected records and talked to patients, their attendants and common people. The inspected infrastructures, sanitation systems, free distribution of medicines under the Niramay scheme, free detection of diseases under the Nidaan scheme and free services of dialysis and chemotherapy. The team also expressed happiness over increase in institutional delivery of pregnant women, declined in infant mortality rate (IMR) and control in non-communicable diseases. They also stated that the State has taken remarkable step in implementation of Urban Health Mission. They suggested for an increase in human resources, training to health workers and awareness programmes.

Misleading facts presented before top court: HC Bar

SUSPENDS COUNSEL MISHRA FROM MEMBERSHIP

CUTTACK: Members of the Orissa High Court Bar Association on Wednesday decided that the association for the time being would not be an intervener in the matter which is currently being adjudicated by the Supreme Court pertaining to the functioning of the Orissa High Court against the backdrop of the ongoing cessation of work by the lawyers. After Tuesday's order by the Supreme Court suggesting possible deployment of paramilitary forces to ensure return of normalcy in the High Court, the Action-Taken Committee of the lawyers met here on Wednesday and expressed concern over the "misleading" facts presented to the Supreme Court by the High Court's counsel Siba Sankar Mishra. The High Court Bar Association also suspended Mishra from its membership for presenting "misinformation" on the lawyers' stir. "The 'cause of action' as presented to the Supreme Court by

Sanskar, suraksha needed in Puri shrine, says SC

MAKES DHADI DARSHAN MANDATORY FOR PILGRIMS

PURI: A Supreme Court Bench on Tuesday has observed that both Sanskar and Suraksha (reforms and safety) are needed for the Jagannath Temple in Puri. Supporting the Dhadi Darshan (visiting on a row) system for pilgrims already in execution in the temple by the administration, the bench made it compulsory in the shrine for darshan of the holy deities. Going against a system of donations to individuals in the temple, the bench said that it is wrong and must be made in most transparent manner. With some other observations, the bench also cleared that there should be no interference into rites and rituals of the temple and said the reforms are also necessary to be made in the recruitment process for servitors. Besides, during a hearing on the subject of 75 meter 'safety zone' towards heritage corridor surrounding the temple, the apex court received the status report from the Government, including proofs and testimonials from both sides, in the case. **PNS**

Heavy rain to continue for 3 more days

BHUBANESWAR: Heavy rains lashed parts of the State since Tuesday night due to a low pressure area over Bay of Bengal, throwing normal life of gear on Wednesday. To make matters worse, more downpours were forecast in the next three days. The low pressure area, formed over the west-central Bay of Bengal, is likely to intensify into a depression by Thursday night, the Regional Office of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) here said. Under its impact, light to moderate rain would lash most parts of the State till Saturday while many areas may receive heavy downpour. Heavy rains in Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada districts since Wednesday morning inundated several low-lying areas and disrupted vehicular movements. Also, the IMD has predicted that a squally weather condition with gusty surface winds of up to 50 kmph velocity is likely to prevail along and off the south Odisha coast, advising fishermen not to venture into the sea. **PNS**

Bijepur results today

BHUBANESWAR: Counting of votes in the by-election to the Bijepur Assembly constituency, which was held on October 21, will be undertaken on Thursday. The results are expected by early evening. While the ruling BJD is pretty confident of victory for its candidate Rita Sahu, the opposition BJP and the Congress also claim success for their nominees Sanat Gadia and Dilip Panda, respectively. There was an impressive polling of 78-98 per cent in the by-poll. **PNS**

Lecturer appointment: HE Dept gives merit a go by

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The method of short-listing and selection adopted by the Higher Education Department in a recent requisition for recruitment to 606 posts of Lecturers for degree colleges has disappointed job-seekers as it stifles competition and kills meritocracy. Instead of adopting a transparent method of recruitment based on objective written test and interview for lecturers in non-Government Colleges, the Higher Education Department has adopted career assessment as the selection method despite an advisory by OPSC and GA Department that it is faulty, cumbersome and an injustice to meritorious candidates. Further, the department is also contemplating to adopt

Further, the department is also contemplating to adopt interview as the only method of selection after protests against career assessment from various quarters which raises questions on the transparency and integrity of the whole recruitment process

interview as the only method of selection after protests against career assessment from various quarters which raises questions on the transparency and integrity of the whole recruit-

ment process. Time and again, the High Courts and the Supreme Court have frowned upon viva-voce being used as a sole method of recruitment.

Due to the faulty method of short-listing and selection in the previous recruitment held in 2018 for an advertisement in 2017, a very large number of candidates were denied a chance to compete for the advertised post. For example, out of 104 eligible candidates who had applied for 24 posts in English, only 23 candidates were called for viva-voce, making the viva-voce a mere formality. Further, out of those 23 candidates only 18 were recommended for appointment for the 24 advertised posts, thus depriving a large number of candidates of competing for the posts.

SEC notifies by-polls in 4 ZP zones

17 Sarpanches, 21 PS members, 303 WMs to be elected

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Election Commission (SEC) has issued a notification to conduct by-polls in four Zilla Parishad zones in three districts.

The zones are Chhatrapur in Ganjam district, Danagadi in Jajpur district and Pottangi

and Dasmantapur in Koraput district.

Voting will be done on November 27 from 7 am to 12 pm and the results will be declared the next day.

Aspirants can file nomination papers between October 31 and November 2. The final list of the candidates will be announced on November 7, informed the notification issued on Wednesday.

Bb-polls will be conducted to elect 17 Sarpanches, 21 Panchayat Samiti Members and 303 Ward Members, according to the notification.

Ornamental creepers to beautify city



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Non-flowering trees and under flyover spaces will be decorated with indigenous and other ornamental creepers to give the city a new look and better aesthetics.

This will be undertaken by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) owned parks and road-side spaces as well across the city.

The creepers that bloom not only serve practical pur-

poses (erosion control, weed suppression etc) in this role but also add great beauty to the landscape. Because they grow so quickly, creepers are ideal for fast and noticeable changes to landscape aesthetics.

Plantation will be carried out in 11 parks including 5 city-level parks and 6 colony level parks, in this initial stage. They will be implemented in other parks across the city later this year.

Creepers will also be planted on roadside trees, with special attention given to creepers which bloom in winter, as it is

the major tourist season and the Temple City attracts its major tourism footfall during the winter days.

Horticulture and landscape experts working for BDA and BMC have found that the non-flowering plants despite having dense and beautiful foliage could not attract gaze of the visitors to the parks and roadside landscapes but with an additional flowering creeper over them could enhance their potential a lot and would be smart, beautiful and full of greenery.

IPICOL MEET State seeks investment in food processing sector

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha Government on Wednesday invited potential investors to invest in the food processing sector in the State.

"The Government will assist all the investors and industrialists to set up units in the State," Industries and MSME Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said.

The Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) organised a session here to enlighten potential investors and current stakeholders on the investment opportunities in the food processing sector.

He said food processing is one of the most promising sectors in the State with a high potential for growth. With the country's agro and food processing sector expected to reach a size of \$530 billion by 2020, Odisha has been facilitating creation of an ideal business ecosystem to make the State a hub in the eastern region, the Minister said.

Odisha is endowed with natural resources, long coastline and favorable climatic conditions for production of a variety of agri-produce, fruits, vegetables and marine produce, he added.

The State's robust, dedicated and entrepreneur-friendly processing policy and guidelines, which make Odisha a favourable destination for investing in food processing sector, were highlighted in course of the session.

Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma said, "With availability of raw materials, 10 agro-climatic zones, agriculture resources, seafood, farming landscape and easy connectivity to the ASEAN region, Odisha has all the ingredients required for the food processing and seafood sector to flourish in the State. We are further providing several subsidies to encourage investors to choose Odisha."

Kutey Spl Secy to CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was on Wednesday appointed as the Special Secretary to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The 1997-batch officer, Dharendra Sambhaji Kutey is currently posted as Officer on Special

Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister. This is the first time that an IPS officer is appointed as a Special Secretary to the CM.



Houseboats at Chilika, Bhitarkanika soon

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To promote ecotourism, the State Government has decided to launch a houseboat project for Chilika and Bhitarkanika.

After attending a meeting of Tourism Advisory Committee here on Wednesday, Tourism Secretary Vishal Dev said a decision has been taken to purchase new boats for the project.

The department would also sign a memorandum with the Surfing Federation of India to execute the project, he informed.

A 'Buddhist Circuit Grand' would be constructed to promote the Buddhist sites in the State. Some of the projects would be completed before December this year, he said.



The department would carry out infrastructure development activities in 13 tourist destinations, including

Rambha and Chilika. Besides, new hotels and resorts would come up in these destinations, he added.

PNB ATM looted near Nandankanan

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) was found looted near the Nandankanan Zoological Park main gate on the outskirts of city on Wednesday.

It is suspected that taking advantage of the absence of security personnel, unidentified miscreants cut open the ATM with a gas cutter and looted cash on Tuesday night.

The CCTV cameras installed at the ATM kiosk were also found vandalised.

The loot came to light after some locals spotted the ransacked currency notes vending machine in the kiosk.

They immediately informed the police who rushed to the spot and initiated an investigation.

According to reports, looters dismantled the CCTV camera first and then broke open the ATM to loot all the cash stashed in it. While they succeeded in their attempt, the exact amount of cash looted by them was yet to be known.

Notably, taking advantage of absence of security personnel at the ATMs, the looters are finding them soft targets and have gone on a looting spree across the State. Though the police have asked the bankers to engage security personnel to guard the ATMs, it has not been done.

Pollution test centres to be listed in Google Maps

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

All vehicle pollution testing centres (PUCs), RTO offices and driving testing tracks in Odisha would be listed in Google Maps soon. A directive in this regard has been issued by the State Transport Commissioner.

"You are advised to issue instructions to all PUCs operating in your jurisdiction to add their centres in Google Maps so that vehicle owners can easily find the nearest PUC centre using Google Maps. After adding the location, the PUC centres should claim that location on Google Maps and mention the opening hours of business," the Transport Commissioner said in a letter to RTOs and other concerned officials.

You are advised to issue instructions to all PUCs operating in your jurisdiction to add their centres in Google Maps so that vehicle owners can easily find the nearest PUC centre using Google Maps. After adding the location, the PUC centres should claim that location on Google Maps and mention the opening hours of business

"Citizens find it difficult to locate our offices and driving testing tracks. Adding the location of RTO offices and driving testing tracks to Google Maps

will help the citizens to easily locate our office and track. Hence, you are instructed to add your office and driving testing track to Google Maps. You should also claim that location so that you can post replies," the letter added.

Pradhan takes steps for Russia-Odisha trade link

BHUBANESWAR: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is currently on a five-day visit to Russia, on Wednesday said he has initiated steps to establish direct trade links between Russia and Odisha.

"The Vladivostok Port in Russia and the Paradip Port in Odisha can have links. Crude oil and coking of Russia can be transported from the Vladivostok Port to Paradip Port directly and, thus, a direct trading link between Russia and

Odisha can be established," said Pradhan. Pradhan said this after visit-

ing the Devjada ship project and holding discussions with Rosneft CEO in Russia. **PNS**



UN Day hardly observed as organisation itself has lost relevance

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Today is the United Nations Day. The intergovernmental organisation came into existence on October 24, 1945 after 29 nations had ratified the Charter essentially for maintaining worldwide peace and security; Developing relations among nations; fostering cooperation between nations in order to solve economic, social, cultural or humanitarian problems and resolve all international issues of dispute.

On April 1, 1945, an Easter Sunday, the bloodiest Battle of Okinawa, last of all major World War II battles, had been fought. The US Navy's Fifth Fleet and more than 180,000 US Army and US Marine Corps troops descended on the Pacific island of Okinawa for a final push towards Japan. The invasion was part of 'Operation Iceberg', a complex plan to occupy the Ryukyu Islands, of which Okinawa was a part. Interestingly on this day, holed up in a bunker under his headquarters in Berlin, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. He first swallowed a cyanide capsule and then shot himself in the head. Soon after this, Germany

surrendered to the Allied forces unconditionally, ending Hitler's dreams of a '1,000-year' Reich.

The biggest war having been over, the 26 nations at war with the Axis powers congregated in Washington to sign the Declaration of the United Nations endorsing the Atlantic Charter pledging to use their resources against the Axis. At the Quebec Conference, a draft of declaration was prepared that for 'a general international organisation based on the principle sovereign equality of all nations'.

It was issued after a Foreign Ministers Conference in Moscow in October 1943. In November 1943, Roosevelt, while meeting Stalin in Tehran, proposed an international organisation comprising an assembly of all member states and a 10-member executive committee to discuss social and economic issues. The United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union and China would enforce peace as 'the four policemen'. Meanwhile a set of task-oriented organisations: the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the United Nations

Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the International Civil Aviation Organisation had been set up.

In August-September 1944, they drafted the charter of a post-war international organisation based on the principle of collective security. Voting procedures and the veto power of permanent members of the Security Council were finalised at the Yalta Conference in 1945 when Roosevelt and Stalin agreed that the veto would not prevent discussions by the Security Council. By June 1945, the UN had taken full shape. In addition to a General Assembly and a Security Council, the Charter provided for an Economic and Social Council, an International Court of Justice, a Trusteeship Council to oversee certain colonial territories and a Secretariat under the Secretary General. The first two pledges of the Charter read thus: to end 'the scourge of war' and to regain 'faith in fundamental human rights'.

In 1948, the UN proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including the right not to be enslaved, to free expression and the right to seek from other countries asylum from perse-



cution.

However, many of the rights expressed remain unrealised even today, particularly to education, equal pay for equal work and nationality.

Unfortunately, the UN General Assembly, though projected as a prominent stage, is virtually powerless today. Every autumn, the General Assembly sessions open creating the stage for Presidents and Prime Ministers to give speeches that can be soaring or clichéd; or they can deliver long, incoherent tirades such as the one by the late Libyan strongman Qaddafi in 2009. The event is colossally starchy, but critics contend that it is little more than a glorified gabfest. Hundreds of resolutions are introduced annually. But sadly nothing is legally binding.

Though in principle, all nations have equal voice, the genuine power resides elsewhere. The big, wealthy countries call all shots.

The Security Council has 15 members, but the big permanent five -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States resolve all contentious issues as suits them best. Hence, the so-called powerful Security Council is actually a paralysed body when it comes to integrity of decision making. However, by and large, the Council is the UN's most powerful arm as it can impose sanctions against erring nations. It had punished Iran and Libya heavily. All the same, it is the most anachronistic part of the UN. Its five permanent members are the victors of World War II. The other 10 weak members are elected for only two-year terms. Efforts to expand the permanent membership of the Council by including rising powers such as India, Japan and Germany have invariably been stymied. Any member of the permanent five can veto any measure. Each has unfailingly used this power to protect it and allies. Since 1990, the US has vetoed Council resolutions 16 times, mostly concerning Israeli-Palestinian relations; Russia 13 times,

including four times over Syria. Although the Charter allows the General Assembly to act if, because of a veto, international peace and security are threatened, it is rarely done.

The Security Council's job is to maintain international peace. But its ability to do so has been severely constrained in recent years, mainly due to bitter divisions between Russia and the West. Not surprisingly therefore, the Council has been feeble in the face of major conflicts, particularly those in which permanent members have a stake. Most recently, its starkest failure has been the handling of the conflict in Syria, with Russia backing the government of President Bashar al-Assad and the United States, Britain and France supporting some opposition groups. The Council has not only failed to halt the fighting but has also been unable to ensure the delivery of food aid and the safety of medical workers. Similarly North Korea, an ally of China, has repeatedly ignored UN prohibitions against conducting nuclear tests.

The UN Secretary General has a huge global reach, but his role is considered vague and fleeting because of lack of jurisdiction and discretionary

authority. The Charter, when keenly observed, appears vague in defining the duties of the Secretary General. He or she is expected to show no favouritism to any particular country, but the Secretary General turns puppet to wealthy, powerful members as his office is largely dependent on the funding and the good will of these nations. The Security Council, notably the permanent five, chooses the Secretary General, by secret ballot to serve a maximum of two five-year terms. This makes it rather difficult for the Secretary General to play his role independently as the P5 keeps watch to know if he or she is doing anything against their interests. Further, the Secretary General has no army to deploy. If the highest officeholder is made truly independent, he or she could summon warring parties to the peace table and have all issues resolved instantly.

The 10-year tenure of current Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has repeatedly revealed the limits of his authority. For example, Ban was persuaded in vain for two years in a row to chasten powerful countries whose military forces had killed and maimed children. Coincidentally, not a

single woman has become Secretary General since the beginning. All the eight have been men.

The UN's future looks bleak. No matter who takes over as Secretary General on January 1, he or she will inherit a body facing the unenviable task of demonstrating the UN's relevance in a world confronting challenges that were inconceivable 70 years ago.

Some questions to know if the UN will ever have influence over the member states:

- Can the Security Council take action against countries that flout international humanitarian law? And can the P5 members look beyond their own interests to find ways to end the 'scourge of war'?
- Can peacekeeping operations be repaired so the protection of civilians is ensured?
- Can the UN persuade countries to come up with new strategies to handle mass migration?

- Can the Secretary General persuade countries to keep promise if curbing carbon emissions and to help those suffering from the consequences of climate change?
- Can the UN get closer to achieving its founding mandate of making the world a better, more peaceful place?

SMITARANI DEATH

Cong gheraoes Jaipur SP office, seeks CBI probe

BJP QUESTIONS ONGOING POLICE INVESTIGATION

Members of the Mahila Congress on Wednesday staged a protest in front of the office of the Superintendent of Police, Jaipur at Panikoi, demanding a CBI probe into the mysterious death of Village Level Worker (VLW) Smitarani Biswal at a guesthouse on October 16.



senior leader Satya Prakash Nayak joined the protest, among others.

Hundreds party activists took out a rally from Panikoi Chhak to the SP Office and gheraoed the office. The activists alleged SP Charan Singh Meena is not taking steps to nab the culprits involved in the alleged murder of the VLW under the pressure of the Government. They demanded immediate transfer of the SP.

MLAs Suresh Routray and Mohammed Moquim and

"We want justice availed to family members of Smitarani Biswal. We will intensify our protest and launch a statewide protest in coming days if our demands are not met at the earliest," said State Mahila Congress vice-president Bandita Parida.

Adequate police personnel were deployed in the area to avoid any untoward incident

during the protest. In a similar development, a silent protest was staged by the Jaipur Panchayat Executive Officers' Association and the

Gram Rojgar Sevak Sangh demanding a judicial probe into the VLW's death.

Besides, the BJP too targeted the State Government and the police alleging the improper ongoing probe into the death of the VLW.

Addressing a Press meet, BJP vice-president Sami Mohanty and others alleged that police are only looking into the personal aspects while neglecting the real facts in the investigation.

Let there be no parking on service roads: B'swar DM

Chakraverthy takes review of road safety

BALESWAR: District Collector K Sudharshan Chakraverthy expressed displeasure during a review in a road safety meeting as some of the issues which were pointed out in the last meeting were not implemented satisfactorily.

In the previous meeting while he had stressed on the submission of accident report by the police, RTO and NHAI within 24 hours of an accident, the same was not complied with.

Chakraverthy further observed that illegal parking and encroachments were basic causes of accidents. He directed the department personnel to take steps for no parking at the service roads adjacent to the NH roads and over bridges and instead emphasized on creating a safe parking places in those place with signages and signboards.

He too expressed displeasure

over the tardy progress of work in the six-laning of the NH between Baleswar and Bhadrak while he asked to demolish the unused (abolished) toll gate constructions at Santoshpur and replacing the defunct CC cameras at the installed places. He too directed the NHAI to begin repair works for all the service roads connecting fly overs and NH by November 15.

He also emphasised on more preventive measures at the identified black spots. Chakraverthy further directed the department officials to undertake eviction on road stretch connecting bus stand and Remuna Golai.

Further, he directed the officials to initiate action against transporting goods in the passenger buses. The RTO and police were asked to enforce against the traffic rule violators, including offences under rash driving, irregular number plates and silencers. RTO Bikash Chaudhary, DSP Rajat Kumar Ray, the officials ofPWD, representatives ofNHAI and truck and bus associations attended the meeting.

Crackers worth over ₹5 cr seized in B'pur



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Gosaninuaagaon police have seized firecrackers worth over ₹5 crore kept illegally in 56 shops at the Balunkeswar cracker market in the city.

During raids in the last two days, the police shops one after another, evaluated cost of crackers and locked them in the presence of the magistrate. After raids, adequate police personnel have been deployed

in the bazaar.

While permission had not been given to sell firecrackers in the Balunkeswar cracker market, traders had procured the crackers illegally to sell them to retailers ahead of Diwali festival. Cracker retailers from Ganjam and other districts are dependent on this market. After police action, it is apprehended that common people might face difficulties in getting firecrackers for Diwali festival.

IN KEONJHAR

Bus passenger injured in arrow attack

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

A passenger of a bus was seriously injured in an arrow attack near Bali Hill under the Daitari police limits in tribals-dominated Keonjhar district on Tuesday evening.

Unidentified miscreants launched multiple arrows towards the bus in which the victim, identified as Uttam Mahanta, a worker at a mine at Daitari, and other workers were returning from work-place.

One of the arrows entered inside the bus through its window and penetrated Uttam's belly, leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to the Tata Hospital at Duburi, where doctors removed the arrow from his body safely.

Police have started an investigation into the incident.

Ganjam senior citizens seek office room

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Ganjam District Biju Patnaik Senior Citizens' Forum has submitted a memorandum to the Brahmputar Sub-Collector and Tehsildar demanding allotment of either a house or a plot free of premium in the name of forum at the earliest.

The forum specifically asked the officers to allocate the unused office of the SC and ST Development department on the backside of the Tehsil office in its name.

Members expressed unhappiness that higher authorities of the Revenue Department have not responded to letters of the Sub-Collector and the Tehsildar.

Among others, forum president Rash Bihari Dash, general secretary Simanchal Prasad Bisoyi, vice-president Suryakanta Patro, secretaries Basudev Lima and Bishmachariya Choudhury, treasurer Purna Chandra Moharana were in the team.

Abducted Baleswar scribe rescued from WB

THREE ARRESTED

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Putting at rest to the controversy over the mysterious kidnapping of a scribe of Oupada area, the district police after rescuing the kidnapped person from Egra area of West Bengal arrested three persons including the key accused.

Srikrushna Sahu was allegedly kidnapped by unknown miscreants on Sunday night, at around 8 pm when he was returning home in his scooty from local market.

The miscreants rounded up by police were identified as key conspirator Khagen Majhi of Egra under East Medinipur, Tapan Das and Manoj Parida of Mandarpur village under Remuna police station limits

According to police sources, involvement of at least 5 more had come to the fore during investigation, adding the incident is a fallout of business rivalry.

Khagen had engaged hired goons from Remuna and Panjibag area to execute the crime.

A source in police said, Sahu used to engage crop cutting machines in Egra area in rent. He had engaged a caretaker to utilize machine as well as to collect dues.

The caretaker had requested to arrange one second hand crop cutting machine for him and for which he had paid ₹5 lakh in advance to Sahu.

Yet, Sahu neither supplied him the second hand machine nor returned the money. For extracting money from Sahu, he contacted the criminals.

These criminals, belonging to Baleswar after hiring a Bolero had gone to Oupada on Sunday evening. Finding an opportunity, they forcibly kidnapped him and took to an unknown destination.

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/clear-dot.gif

Nilgiri SDPO Sudam Charan Sahu is investigating the case.

The police could get the lead after learning the number of the Bolero used for the crime. They could further learn that the miscreants changed to another vehicle from Basta and went to Bengal.

The Bolero vehicle used by the miscreants has been seized by te Opada police.

IN NAYAGARH

Awareness against insurance frauds held

PNS ■ BHAPUR (NAYAGARH)

An awareness programme against insurance frauds was organised for intending customers at the Nayagarh SP office here on Tuesday with an aim to sensitise them on 'dos and don'ts' for a better policy.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Kolkata branch Deputy Manager Ashutosh Singh attended as chief guest in the programme presided over by SP Sashi Bhushan Satpathy.

Discussions were held on laws against insurance fraud and their implementations. Another such programme was also organised wherein police officers were also sensitised about the laws based on insurance frauds.

DSPs, police station IICs and other police officials of the district attended.

The campaign titled 'The Moment of Truth' to help out customers seeking to have health insurance policy.

"Educating and empowering the consumer with relevant information helps them gain access to quality healthcare. But this intent has to be backed with the right execution," said Raghu Bhat, founder, Scarecrow M and C Saatchi.

IN SAMBALPUR

GRP cop hurt in attack by ganja peddlers

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

A Government Railway Police (GRP) Constable was injured when he was attacked by two youths with a sharp weapon at the Bamra railway station in the district on Wednesday.

The Constable was identified as Parsuram Bibhor.

Reports said that the two accused, who alighted from the Rajya Rani Express were questioned by Bibhor on suspicion.

But they stabbed Bibhor with a knife and tried to flee from the spot. But hearing the Constables scream the other police personnel at the station managed to nab one of the attackers, identified as Narayan Dakua.

But another miscreant managed to

Reports said the two accused, who alighted from the Rajya Rani Express were questioned by Bibhor on suspicion

give a slip to police. During Dakua's interrogation it was ascertained that the two youths were involved in ganja peddling. Later, Bibhor was rushed to the Govindpur Hospital.

History of Paradip by Prof Panda released

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

History of Paradip, written by late educationist and writer Dr Satyanada Panda, a former professor of Utkal University, was released on October 20 here.

Original history basing on firsthand filed research is need of the hour than being heavily dependent British period reference books, opined former Minister Dr Damodar Rout, speaking at the launch of the book.

He wished the book would help understand the region and growth around Paradip.

Calling the book monumental retelling of Odisha's maritime history, State Convener of INTACH Amiya



Bhushn Tripathy said writing of regional history must be encouraged to understand our culture better.

This is a pioneering study providing rare cultural and anthropological perspectives of the region, said noted historian Dr Nivedita Mohanty on the book which has been published by Dr Satyanada Panda Memorial Trust, formed by his well-wishers to carry

forward the legacy of the author.

Assistant Director, National Archives, Bhubaneswar, Dr Lalatendu Dash Mohapatra explained how socio-economic and political process evolved around the region and noted writer and author Anil Dhir, whose Amadeus Press publishing house has published the book, praised the book.

False case, assault: Cop gets 5-yr RI

PNS ■ JEYPORE

An Inspector of Police was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) by the Vigilance Court here for implicating a person in a false case and assaulting him at the police station in 2010.

The convict was identified as Nalini Kanta Mohapatra. He was working as Bissamcuttack police station IIC in Rayagada district.

Mohapatra had demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000 from one Radhakanta Das and threatened him to implicate him in a false case in 2010.

Later, the complainant had reported the matter to the anti-graft agency. Accordingly, a trap was laid and Mohapatra was caught red-handed while receiving the bribe money.

A case was registered against Mohapatra followed by the filing of charge-sheet.

180 kg ganja seized, 1 arrested in G'pati



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The Mohana police seized as much as 180 kg of ganja and arrested a person at Chariabandha village under Badasindhaba gram panchayat in Gajapati district early on Wednesday morning.

A team of police led by ASI Hemant Kumar Sethi came across one Thomas

Nayak, who was standing suspiciously with seven gunny bags, at a bush near Chariabandha.

When inspected, it was found that the gunny bags contained 180 kg of ganja worth over ₹9 lakh.

Accused Thomas Nayak, a resident of Bhaliaganda village, was forwarded to court after interrogation, said IIC Sujit Kumar Nayak.

IN BRIEF

RTO COUNTER OPENS AT JSPUR COLLECTORATE

Jagatsinghpur: An additional RTO counter was opened at the district Collectorate here on Monday. Collector SK Mohapatra inaugurated it. He said considering a heavy rush of people for obtaining driving licence in RTO office, the additional counter has been opened for facilitating people get learner licence.

JSPUR CULTURAL BODY MEET DISCUSSES ISSUES

Jagatsinghpur: A general body meeting of the Jagatsinghpur Sanskritika Parishad was held under chairmanship of district Collector-cum Parishad president Sangram Keshari Mohapatra on Monday. The organisation's financial status, office-bearers' elections and framework of next book fair in second week of January 2020 were discussed.

IN UNIFORM, FOREST STAFF CAUGHT ON CAMERA BOOZING

Bhawanipatna: A video featuring a Forest Ranger of the Forest Department consuming liquor while being in uniform in Kalahandi district has gone viral on social media. In the video, Ranger Asunanda Matia of he Madanpur Rampur Forest Range is seen boozing at a dhaba besides taking food.

VEDANTA ROLLS OUT JEEVIKA SAMRIDHII 2ND PHASE

Jharsuguda: The Vedanta Ltd, Jharsuguda rolled out the second phase of its land and water management livelihood project 'Jeevika Samridhii' for farmers of three villages, i.e. Gudigaon, Siriapalli and Kelendamal in Jharsuguda. Collector Saroj Kumar Samal launched the project in presence of Vedanta CEO CN Singh, Keldamal Panchayat Sarpanch Saudamini Naik, SEWA Secretary Sushil Kumar Das and Amar Jyoti Farmers Club president Jayakrushna Patel.

AAINAA INAUGURATED AT JSPL

Angul: Joining the Directorate of Factories and Boilers, the Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) has developed Advance Action in Industries to Abate Accidents (AAINAA) at its coal gasification plant here. Angul Factories and Boilers Deputy Director AK Naik inaugurated AAINAA recently and conducted a detailed inspection of the steel plant as part of the Central Inspection Coordination Group (CICG), Odisha activity.

NTPC KANIHA HOLDS MEDICAL CAMP

Talcher: The NTPC Talcher Kaniha organised a medical camp at the Dadaraghati Government High School under its CSR initiative recently. Dhenkanal MP Mahesh Sahoo, Parjang MLA Dr Nrusingha Sahu attended as guests and inaugurated the camp. The camp aided in providing medical relief and facilities to over 600 patients.

1 held for circulating girlfriend's intimate pictures, videos

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

A youth was arrested on Wednesday by the Joda police in the district for allegedly circulating intimate pictures and videos of his girlfriend.

The accused identified as Debasish Mohanta, a native of Nandipada village under the Champua PS in the district, allegedly posted some intimate pictures and videos of his former girlfriend on social media platforms.

Sources said Debasish was in a relationship with a victim from his school days. He had captured intimate pictures and videos on his mobile phone while they were in good terms. Later, livid with rage over their break up the accused allegedly circulated the photographs and videos on social media platforms.

Body of youth who jumped off Trisulia bridge recovered

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A body of a youth, who had jumped off the Trisulia bridge on river Kathjodi here on Tuesday evening, was recovered from the riverbank on Wednesday morning.

Some locals first spotted the body of the deceased identified as Debabrata Majhi of Gadhakana under the Mancheswar police station in Bhubaneswar and immediately called up police. A police team along with Fire Services personnel reached the spot and recovered the body.

On Tuesday evening, Debabrata had jumped into the river leaving his motorcycle and mobile phone on the bridge. Soon after, ODRAF

A police team along with Fire Services personnel reached the spot and recovered the body

and Fire Services personnel were pressed into service to search for him, but they failed to trace him.

Earlier this month, a man from Niali had jumped off the Kathajodi bridge in Cuttack over a domestic feud with his wife. His body was recovered almost after a week from river Devi near Rahamba under the Gobindpur police station in Cuttack district.

PYEA holds rally against Paradip pollution



PNS ■ PARADIP

Paradip is facing a grave problem of air pollution with iron, coal and gypsum dust circulating in air besides IOCL gas and other pollutants severely damaging the environment.

In this connection, the Paradip Youth Engineers' Association (PYEA) on Wednesday demonstrated against the growing pollution and took out a silence march to spread awareness from Atharbanki square to Gandhi Square.

The PYEA gave a memorandum to the Jagatsinghpur Collector through the Paradip ADM. The programme was led by PYEA president Laxmi Prasad Behera, vice president Samarpan Ojha, general secretary Saroj Kumar Das and coordinated by all members. It is to be noted that owing to a hue and cry by locals and environmentalists, certain massive pollution control measures were undertaken by the port authorities such as sprinkling of water in the coal and iron ore stacking yard, road sweeping by machines etc.

The PYEA alleged that agencies transporting gypsum dust, iron and coal in uncovered lorries are creating air pollution in a massive way.

NTCA team reviews habitation planning for 'Sundari'

BIJAY MISHRA ■ ANGUL

After inordinate delay to take a decision to rehabilitate the translocated furious tigress 'Sundari' at the Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Angul district, a three-member team of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) visited and reviewed about the proper habitation of the tigress on Tuesday.

'Sundari' who mauled two people to death last year has been confined in an enclosed forest area at Raigoda. The team comprising former Field Director of Kanha Tiger Reserve Dr Khageswar Nayak, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, NTCA KH Bhaskar and Deputy Director, NTCA VK Sharma has reviewed the proposal to increase the enclosed area to 25 hectares. The team also reviewed the tiger prey area. Earlier, the NTCA had



expressed strong displeasure over poaching and confinement of two tigers, Mahabir and Sundari who were translo-

cated from Madhya Pradesh to Satkosia Tiger Reserve. Mahabir that was shifted from Kanha National Park fell

victim to poachers' snare and was killed and Sundari, that was translocated from Bandhavgarh, has been kept in

a solitary confinement despite NTC advisories. These tigers were shifted under tiger augmentation project considering potential, connectivity and history of STR.

Earlier, NTCA IG had visited Satkosia Tiger Reserve on November 16 and 17 last year.

The NTCA has reiterated time and again to ensure adequate preparedness in field, habitat enrichment, community engagement, capacity-building, equipment to avoid and address any kind of conflict.

The NTCA had also reported that Sundari has been put through tremendous stress/trauma and needs to be conditioned before it is fit for release into the wild. The rehabilitation enclosure holding the tigress needs adequate wilderness enrichment and modification. Tiger augmentation process will have to

remain in abeyance before multiple issues flagged are sorted out, the NTCA report had said.

Capacity building of staff, community engagement, relocation of villages, prey augmentation and distribution assessment, vet care and capacity, real time monitoring, elephant squad, RRT, STF need to be seriously functional in desired manner, before an attempt to restart tiger augmentation process, presently kept in abeyance, the report had suggested.

In view of the earlier report of the NTCA, the visiting team has discussed in detail on the matters with the concerned officials of the State Government.

Meanwhile, the Citizens' Action Forum, in a letter to the Chief Minister urged to take immediate action against those officials responsible for the disaster of the Tiger Project.

Water Resources EE in vigilance net

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Vigilance officials on Wednesday raided office room and houses of Water Resources Executive Engineer (EE) Sarbeswar Senapati at multiple places in Baleswar and Bhubaneswar to detect assets, possessed by him, disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The Vigilance sleuths conducted simultaneous raids at Senapati's office and residence in Bhubaneswar, his house at Bhaskarganj in Baleswar, his parental house at Bahardha in the Remuna area of Baleswar and his in-laws' house at Ranipatna.

The Vigilance sleuths conducted simultaneous raids at Senapati's office and residence in Bhubaneswar, his house at Bhaskarganj in Baleswar, his parental house at Bahardha in the Remuna area of Baleswar and his in-laws' house at Ranipatna

raids were underway and calculation of the value of his movable and immovable properties was yet to be completed.

VIMSAR MEDICOS THRASHING YOUTHS Kin move OHRC demanding justice

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The father of one of the two youths, who was thrashed and forced to do sit-ups by the doctors and medicos of VIMSAR, on Wednesday, lodged a complaint with the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in Bhubaneswar.

Thana Sundar Behera, father of one of the victims, alleged that the assault by doctors, who also forced his son to do sit-ups, have brought humiliation for his family.

Behera expressed resentment alleging that despite concrete evidence, no action was taken against the accused medicos and Assistant Professor Suryakant Patjoshi, who are still moving scot-free.

Tularam Rout's son, who was also allegedly thrashed by the medicos, Behera demanded re-investigation of the case.

"The medical students who thrashed my son with iron rods are roaming free. But ironically, police have detained my son," said Rout.

Earlier, Health Minister Naba Das on Tuesday said that a senior official of the Health Department was probing the incident and action would be taken only after the submission of an investigation report.

Police have also issued notice to the VIMSAR authorities to submit the CCTV footages of the fateful. Range SP Himanshu Lal had assured quick and impartial investigation into the case, adding that evidence was being gathered and action would be taken as per law.

Women unprotected in State, alleges BJP

POLICE TO ACT STRONGER: MINISTER

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the revelations made in a report of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) that crimes against women are on the rise in Odisha, the BJP on Wednesday severely criticised the State Government for the situation.

"The BJD Government has failed to protect women despite being in power many years. Criminals with support of the ruling party leaders have committed crimes. Though many girls have been raped and killed, yet they have not got justice," alleged BJP spokesperson Golak Mohapatra.

Mohapatra said rape cases have risen in the State by 9.7 per cent in 2017 compared to 2016

According to NCRB report, cases of offence against women in Odisha had increased to 20,098 in 2017 from 17,837 in 2016. Odisha contributes 5.6 per cent of offences against women in the country. Disrobing of women cases have also risen by 11.6 per cent in the State in 2017. Odisha stands third in offences against women and fifth in sexual harassment cases. As many as 62.7% rape victims are under 18 years' age. In dowry and dowry-related killing cases, Odisha is in the sixth position.

Girl Changemakers take over Embassy, GPs

Championing girls' voice, power, leadership

The symbolic takeovers were organized in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to India, along with 22 Diplomatic Missions in



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Plan India's Girl Changemakers from 10 States in India stepped into the roles of Ambassadors and High Commissioners from 22 Diplomatic Missions to mark the International Day of the Girl Child (IDG) on Tuesday.

Girls in several districts of Odisha also took over important gram panchayat and Government positions. Every year, on October 11, girls from Plan-supported communities take over positions of power and significance, demonstrating their potential to lead the way into the future, championing girls' voice, power and leadership to achieve gender under the 'Girls Get Equal' campaign.

New Delhi including Australia, Belgium, Slovakia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway, Estonia, Finland, New Zealand, Germany, Israel, Poland, Slovenia, Mexico, Lithuania, Latvia, Ecuador, Sweden, Bulgaria, Argentina and Switzerland.

Apart from the Embassy takeovers, about 29 Plan India's Girl Changemakers from Odisha took over important Gram Panchayat positions in their respective cities. The agenda of the village takeovers was women empowerment through representation of people in sphere of local governance, along with facilitating participation of disadvantaged communities in local self-governance to ensure their development and welfare.

BSNL-MTNL merger, revival planned

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a huge boost to the Gaining Government telecom companies BSNL and MTNL, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved their merger and announced a revival package of ₹68,751 crore. The Government will also provide 4G spectrum to the merged unit, pay their GST and other dues, and offer an attractive VRS scheme to employees above 50 years.

"In case of BSNL and MTNL, the Government's view is clear. These are strategic assets of India. The entire Army network is maintained by BSNL," said Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, reiterating no privatisation of these two telecom companies.

Prasad said that MTNL will be merged with BSNL soon and will operate as a subsidiary of BSNL. The package includes raising of ₹15,000 crore sovereign bonds to meet the immediate capital requirement of both the companies, 4G spectrum allocation worth ₹20,140 crore, ₹29,937 crore for VRS covering 50 per cent of their employees, and ₹3,674

crore for goods and services tax that will be levied on allocation of radio waves.

"The VRS package approved by the Cabinet will give eligible employees 125 per cent of income that they would have earned by serving the company till the age of 60 years. With this decision, we have taken care of the interest of lakhs of employees of these PSUs," Prasad said. BSNL has around 1.68 lakh employees and MTNL around 22,000.

"The VRS is voluntary; nobody can be forced to opt for it," he said. The total debt on both the companies stood at ₹40,000 crore, of which half of the liability is on MTNL alone which operates in Delhi and Mumbai. Both the companies have been demanding spectrum to start 4G services to remain competitive in the market. Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said the spectrum will be allocated to both the companies administratively within a month.

"The spectrum allocation to BSNL worth ₹14,115 crore will be in lieu of equity shares and about ₹6,295 crore for MTNL in lieu of preferential shares," Prakash said.

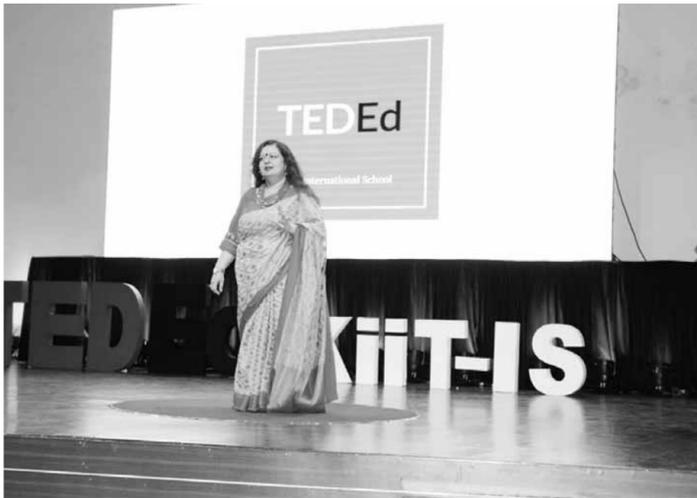
TED-Ed holds talk in KiiT School

On spirituality, modernity, art

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The first TED-Ed Talk by TED-Ed Club was organized in the KiiT International School on Wednesday.

The theme was 'Concoction of Spirituality, Modernity and Art'. Eminent speakers like senior member, Awakening India, Bramhakumari Society Sister Deepa, Head, Strategic Management, MICA College, Ahmedabad Dr Falguni Vasavada and eminent sand artist Padma Shree Sudarshan Patnaik delivered talks on spirituality, modernity and art



respectively.

Delivering talk on spirituality, Sister Deepa said India needs ignited minds to become world power.

Speaking on modernity,

Dr Falguni Vasavada said outer make up and beauty is not modernity. Modernity is internal make up and is about evolution.

Speaking on art, Patnaik

said art is a form of creativity. So one should have self confidence and should develop positivity. Positivity and self confidence can take you a new height, he told.



Puri Medical Square is waterlogged due to heavy rain on Wednesday

Ranjana Ganguly

Musa's successor killed, Qaeda wing in Valley wiped out

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Five months after eliminating Zakir Musa, chief of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind — a group affiliated with al-Qaeda — a joint team of security forces on Tuesday evening gunned down his successor Hamid Lehari in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

After the successful operation, which was conducted on receipt of specific intelligence input about the presence of three terrorists in the area, the security forces identified the prize catch on Wednesday morning.

Confirming the elimination of one of the top commanders in the Valley, the State police chief Dilbagh Singh at a Press conference announced, "The Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind terror outfit

has been wiped out with the elimination of Hamid Lehari."

He said, some elements who are overground workers are still there. They suddenly crop up and join terror ranks. But, as of now, the AGH has been wiped out from Kashmir," he added. 30-year-old Lehari was trapped by the security forces inside a house as they timely launched a cordon and search operation in the area without wasting precious time.

Addressing a Press conference in Srinagar, State police chief Dilbagh Singh said, "All the killed terrorists as per police records were part of the Zakir Musa group and were wanted by police for their complicity in a series of terror crimes, including attacks on security establishments and civilian atrocities."

Corrigendum

IOC has rejected *The Pioneer's* report: "Bangladeshis residing within Paradip IOLC boundary walls" published on October 16. It said "being a Central Government PSU, we always abide by the law of the land. We would like to convey that the report was misleading". The inadvertent error is regretted.

IN BRIEF

ACCIDENT ON CITY FLYOVER; TRUCK DRIVER KILLED
Bhubaneswar: A speeding truck hit a stationary container truck on the flyover near the Saheed Nagar police station here late on Tuesday night, killing the driver of the truck and injuring another person. The deceased was identified as Mallappa Kuri of Karnataka. The injured one was admitted to the Capital Hospital here. Police seized the two vehicles.

TELE ACTRESS HARASSED BY BIKE-BORNE YOUTHS IN CITY
Bhubaneswar: Two bike-borne youths harassed an Odia tele actress who was returning home along with some of her colleagues by a car in the Nayapalli area here late on Tuesday night. The actress later lodged a police complaint accusing the two youths of harassing her while coming back from her shooting schedule.

ETSY PROMOTES CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Bhubaneswar: The Etsy, the global marketplace for unique, handmade and creative goods, hosted 'TheEtsyCollective' here to promote micro-entrepreneurship and spirit of artisans in the city. TheEtsyCollective is an interactive and informative session which brings together people who share a common passion for craft and creativity.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)
Application No. 5250 of 2019
In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 And
In the matter of Disputes between M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. and
Mr. Nabin Pradhan
Arising under Loan Agreement No. XVFPBGH0002023766
Dated 24.06.2017.

M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited,
'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Parys, Chennai - 600 001.
Represented by its Authorized Signatory
Applicant

vs.

Mr. Nabin Pradhan
S/o. Pancham Pradhan
AT - Nailipani, PO - Bhainsadarha, PS - Jharabandh, Bargarh, Odisha - 768 042. Respondent

To
Mr. Nabin Pradhan
S/o. Pancham Pradhan
AT - Nailipani, PO - Bhainsadarha, PS - Jharabandh, Bargarh, Odisha - 768 042.

The above application is posted on 18.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M. before the Hon'ble Master, High Court, Madras for your appearance. Please take notice and appear on that date either in person or through your counsel failing which you will be set ex-parte and the matter will be decided in your absence.

M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR
Counsel for Applicant

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
e-procurement Notice No. 02 /2018-19 Dt : 01.02.2019

1.	Type of work	: Check Dams
2.	Total number of Packages	: 5 no. works
3.	Estimated Cost of Individual Packages	: Varies from Rs 30.70 Lakh. to 38.59 Lakh
4.	Bid Identification No.	: EE-DD-BER-NO. 01 /2019-20 & EE-DD-BER-NO. 05 /2019-20
5.	Period of completion	: 06 (Six) working Calendar
6.	Availability of Tender On - Line	: 25.10.2019, 10.00 Hours to 05.11.2019, 17.00 Hours.
7.	Date of Opening	: 06.11.2019 at 11.30 hours in the O/O the Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha.
8.	Procurement Officer	: Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Drainage Division
Berhampur

32092/11/0001/1920

CBI books Rawat, others in 2016 horse trading case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday booked former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat, his then Cabinet colleague Harak Singh Rawat (now in the Cabinet headed by current CM Trivendra Singh Rawat) and CEO of Noida-based television news channel Samachar Plus, Umesh Kumar and unknown others for alleged attempts of horse trading and threatening dissident Congress MLAs in 2016. The alleged bribery bid was caught on tape by Kumar through his mobile phone. The FIR follows a Preliminary Enquiry registered by the agency on April 25, 2016 when the then Government

under President's Rule referred the horse trading allegations for a CBI probe.

The agency had sent the video of the conversation between the accused persons on March 23, 2016 to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Gandhinagar in Gujarat for examination. The FSL opined that there is no addition/deletion/insertion/tampering/morphing in the video files indicating that the recordings are genuine.

The video purportedly showed the Congress leader discussing money and office positions in the Government to win back the support of disgruntled MLAs who had crossed over to the BJP so that



he could get back to power. The editor of the news channel had allegedly arranged a meeting with Harish Rawat in the VIP lounge of Dehradun Airport on March 23, 2016 and recorded the conversation between him and Harish Rawat by using his mobile phone. Kumar met Harish Rawat to convey the demands of Harak Singh Rawat including the post of Deputy CM, two departments and cash.

The CBI has slapped Indian Penal Code Section relating to criminal conspiracy and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act including bribery.

Recently, the Uttarakhand High Court allowed the CBI to go ahead with its investigation in the case and lodge an FIR against Rawat after the agency submitted a report in a sealed cover on the findings of the Preliminary Enquiry (PE). The CBI has slapped

Indian Penal Code section relating to criminal conspiracy and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act including bribery.

During the PE, the CBI had questioned Harish Rawat and Umesh Kumar. The PE revealed that after passing of the Finance Bill on March 18, 2016 in the Uttarakhand Assembly, dissident MLAs of the Congress along with members from BJP left Dehradun by a chartered flight and shifted to Gurgaon. Umesh Kumar met Harak Singh Rawat, one of the dissident MLAs. "During this meeting, they entered into a criminal conspiracy for the purpose of demanding gratification from Harish Rawat in

lieu of his support to the Congress Government. In pursuance of the criminal conspiracy, Harak Singh Rawat asked Umesh Kumar to meet Harish Rawat, then Chief Minister, Uttarakhand and convey his demand for the post of Deputy CM, two departments and cash," reads the complaint filed by Deputy SP of CBI RL Yadav on October 1 this year. The complaint is now part of the FIR.

SC stays proceedings against U'khand scribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to the Uttarakhand TV journalist Umesh Kumar, the Supreme Court has stayed the criminal proceedings in three cases lodged against him and others by the State police after the channel headed by him last year conducted a sting operation allegedly exposing corruption at the highest level.

The cases of extortion, cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy and other offences under the Indian Penal Code were lodged against Umesh Kumar Sharma and others this year. One of the cases dates back to 2007.

Eye to polls: Nitish bats for Delhi Statehood, prohibition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday batted for full statehood for Delhi and also prohibition — an issue close to his heart — in the city as his party Janata Dal (United) geared up for contesting the Assembly polls here due early next year.

Addressing workers of the JD(U), a BJP ally, Kumar also reiterated his demand for special status for Bihar, which the Modi Government had earlier rejected.

"We have always been in favour of full statehood for Delhi. Like we want special status for Bihar, we have always wanted statehood for Delhi," Kumar said. He also demanded that prohibition be implemented in Delhi as his Government had done so in Bihar.

"Prohibition is a very important thing and it should be implemented in the entire country. Why should it not be implemented in Delhi? Alcohol is



such a bad thing that we banned it (sale and consumption) in 2016. We implemented prohibition on the request of women. There has been a decline in domestic fight and law and order has also improved," he said.

The JD(U)'s alliance with the BJP has remained confined to Bihar and it has been fighting polls on its own outside the State. The party is eyeing migrant voters from Poorvanchal and

Bihar to make an impact in the city where the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, BJP and the Congress are key contenders. If people from Bihar stop working even for a day, Delhi will come to a standstill, Kumar said.

"Delhi is the national Capital and it belongs to the entire country. People from various other cities reside here. People from Bihar reside here in

large numbers and they have a huge role to play here. Earlier, they were made fun of but now they say with pride that they are from Bihar," he said.

Kumar urged his party workers to talk to people about how development work has been undertaken in Bihar and how the State has progressed under his Government. "We have improved law and order situation in Bihar and brought peace and harmony in the State. We have worked for women's empowerment in Bihar," Kumar told party workers. On a day when the Union cabinet approved a proposal to grant ownership rights to people living in unauthorised colonies in Delhi, Kumar urged party workers to start a campaign for regularisation of unauthorised colonies. He also talked about launching a campaign for clean drinking water for Delhiites, just like his Government is running a campaign 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal' in Bihar.

Life 'normal' in J&K, Ladakh, says fact-finding team in report to MoS PMO Jitendra Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rejecting reports of clampdown in Jammu & Kashmir, a group of intellectuals and academicians in their report on the State said things were normal in the three regions of the State but suggested confidence-building measures to ensure equitable development of all regions and people. "Overall Kashmir is going through intense churning. Kashmiris across the board seek healing from a corrupt, oppressive, social and political culture that has emerged in Kashmir for the past 70 years and more intensely in the last 30 years," said the report submitted by the group to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. It said the team could feel the



freedom in the air. "People of Jammu region have welcomed the historic decision of the Indian Parliament on 5th and 6th August 2019 for setting aside of Articles 370, 35-A (of the Constitution) and all related provisions. Particularly the victims of Article 35-A are jubilant as they see a normal life for themselves henceforth. They feel that they have become like any other citizen of the state and the country. For these sections

of the society, independence was achieved on 5th August 2019," the report said.

However, it would be the responsibility of the state and the Centre to provide a healing touch to the already wronged sections of society, it said.

Founded in 2015, the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA) is a group of professional women and entrepreneurs, mediapersons and academicians committed to social justice and nation-building.

Members of the team include Monika Arora, advocate, Supreme Court; Sonali Chitalkar, Assistant Professor, Miranda House (Delhi University); Ritu Mathur, Assistant Professor, Zakir Husain College (Delhi University); and Poonam Bachheti, educationist.

Mopa Airport: SC refuses to set up bench to hear Goa Govt's plea for construction to resume

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to set up a special bench to urgently hear the pending petition of the Goa Government seeking resumption of construction of a greenfield airport at Mopa in the State.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was told by Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the State Government, that the construction of the airport has been stalled for the last ten



months and the petition of the State Government is pending before the apex court.

"We are not in a position to constitute a special bench now. Mr attorney, our present situation does not permit us to do this," the bench, which also comprised justices S A Bobde and S A Nazeer, said. One of the lawyers appear-

ing for the firm, GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL), said that a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud has already heard this petition partly and the matter needs to be concluded at the earliest.

GGIAL had won the bid for the airport under the build-own-operate and transfer (BOOT) scheme.

The bench asked the lawyers to request the presiding judge (Justice Chandrachud) "to release the matter".



BJP working president JP Nadda welcomes former Congress leader Ammar Rizvi as he joins the party, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Wednesday

Merkel on 3-day visit to India from Oct 31

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will pay a three-day visit to India beginning October 31 with an aim to further broadbase strategic ties in an array of key areas including defence and security.

Official sources said Merkel and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in their wide-ranging talks, will particularly focus on giving a new momentum to the bilateral ties by significantly scaling up cooperation in several sectors.

During her visit from October 31 to November 2,

Merkel will also meet top executives of major Indian companies which are active in Germany.

The two sides are likely to explore ways to further ramping up ties in areas of defence, security, renewable energy, high technology, skill development, railways, education, water and waste management and urban development, sources said. Modi and Merkel are also expected to deliberate on key regional and global issues including the situation in Afghanistan, West Asia and Korean peninsula.

In June, Modi and Merkel

met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japanese city of Osaka and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in areas like artificial intelligence and cyber security.

India and Germany have been strategic partners since 2001. Both the countries have a mechanism of intergovernmental consultations at the level of head of Governments which allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of fresh areas of engagement. India is among a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism.

All is well along India-China border: ITBP chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ITBP chief SS Deswal on Wednesday said India and China have very good understanding, and well understood and agreed mechanisms to resolve all issues arising at the border. Both sides patrol disputed pockets along the Line of Actual Control and the ITBP has got trained 200 men and officers in Mandarin (Chinese) language to facilitate better communication with the Chinese troops on the LAC.

The ITBP, guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, has "enhanced" its

capacity to reach up to the farthest border point and added 25 border out posts in the past five years to ensure effective preparedness and patrolling on the frontier, he said.

Addressing reporters on the eve of the 58th Raising Day of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Deswal said the "status quo" at the 3,488-km LAC between India and China is maintained and that the paramilitary force is making efforts to have "better capacity" than the neighbour.

Asked about the number of incidents of transgressions or incursions by the Chinese PLA troops in the recent past, Deswal refused to give absolute numbers but said the Indian side is "as aggressive" as the Chinese.

"We are continuously increasing border posts, we have increased patrolling and in the last five years we have created 25 new border out posts or BOPs," Deswal said, adding each BOP was a "company level strength", implying hundred troops.

GOVT OK'S FULL CADRE REVIEW THAT GUARDS LAC

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday approved a full cadre review, resulting in creation of over 3,000 new posts, and creation of two operational commands for the ITBP that guards the LAC with China. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the cadre review exercise of the force has been conducted after 18 years, the last one was done in 2001. The review, for Group 'A' general duty (executive) cadre and non-general duty officials, will create over 3,000 new posts, including 60 in the top command, and will also

allow it to raise two commands along the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China guarded by the paramilitary. The decision comes on the eve of the ITBP's 58th Raising Day on Thursday. The two commands, western to be based at Chandigarh and eastern at Guwahati, will be headed by Additional Director General (ADG)-rank officers and will have several frontiers under them that will oversee troops and battalion deployments along the China frontier, stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. PNS

Congress announces new dates for nationwide stir against Modi Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to stem the discontent within the beleaguered party due to the non-conduct of the scheduled nationwide 10-day mass protest this month against the Modi Government on economic issues, the Congress on Wednesday announced new dates for the protest.

A day after *The Pioneer* reported how tongues are wagging within the Congress circles as the protest slated to be held between October 15 and 25 at all levels did not take off, party general secretary KC Venugopal claimed the programme had to be postponed because of the just concluded Assembly elections.

The protests will now be carried out between November 5th and November 15th, he

said. Questions were being raised over why the Congress protests failed to take off even as the exit polls have predicted yet another poll debacle for the party in Haryana and Maharashtra.

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

AICC insiders even 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.

Govt asks Mother Dairy, other outlets to cut tomato rate by ₹3/kg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To provide relief to people of the National Capital from high tomato prices, the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs on Wednesday directed Kendriya Bhandar, Mother Dairy and National Cooperative outlets to reduce the prices by 3 per kg from Thursday.

The Ministry has also directed cooperative Nafed to provide milled-tur dal at ₹82 per kg and Tur dal at ₹80-85 per kg at 'no-profit no-loss' basis through Safal, Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF outlets in the national Capital region. Mother Dairy, Kendriya Bhandar and cooperative NCCF were also asked to sell tur dal at ₹80-85 per kg through their retail outlets.

An official of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said that the decisions were taken after the review of the prices of key commodities at a high-level meeting, chaired by Consumer Affairs Secretary Avinash K Srivastava.



In case of pulses, the official said Nafed has been asked to provide milled-tur dal at ₹82 per kg to the Delhi government. These agencies will sell the buffer stock of pulses created by the Government. Tur dal rates in the national Capital have crossed ₹100 per kg, though the Government data shows ₹97/kg on Wednesday. Besides, the Ministry has also prepared a list of wholesale suppliers of pulses so that they could keep an eye on hoardings. There were intelligence reports that there is no shortage of pulses in the country and several wholesale suppliers have stopped the supply

to disrupt the retail supply. This has led to increase of pulses rate across the country.

In case of tomato, Mother Dairy has been directed to reduce the rates of all three varieties by ₹2-3 per kg from October 24, the official said.

The official further said the Centre has decided to boost the supply of hybrid variety of tomato in Delhi in the next few days. Hybrids have a longer shelf life and are of better quality. It was informed in the meeting that transportation of tomatoes from Andhra Pradesh was not feasible.

Tomato prices have shot up to ₹60-80 per kg in the national capital and some other parts of the country due to rains in key growing state of Maharashtra. In the case of onion, prices have started lowering at some places. Even Lasalgaon onion suppliers have urged the Centre to lift curb on export as the supply has been improved in the past few days.

National protocol for snow leopard count in place

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday launched a national protocol for enumeration of the snow leopard, an elusive predator found in high-altitudes, and exhorted the 12 range nations to aim towards doubling the population of the mystic cats whose number is around 7,000 world over.

Faced with habitat loss, prey reduction and poaching, there are just 700 snow leopards left in India, mainly spotted in Himalayan regions of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Addressing the inaugural session of the fourth steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLPE) programme here, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday said that a national protocol on Snow leopard population assessment in India has been finalized.

"Once we get a total count of the snow leopards, each of the countries will then strive to double the population of this endangered wild animal, which is immensely critical for



our ecosystem," he said on the occasion of the International Snow Leopard Day on Wednesday.

Every year, October 23 is celebrated to protect and conserve the snow leopards and preserve the beautiful wildlife of the Himalayas.

The Minister said, India will have a separate programme on snow leopards to include green pathways in the Himalayan region.

As many as 12 range countries, including China, Russia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Mongolia,

Pakistan, Krgyzstan, Nepal, Bhutan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are participating in the two-day steering committee meeting being organized to assess the efforts being made to conserve the animal's habitat and curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

The Snow Leopard is fighting a battle of survival with only 7,500 of them estimated to have been left in the mountain ranges of Central Asia and South Asia, where they are facing rising pressure due to habitat loss. Known to be among the top predators in the Himalayan ecosystem, the animal is listed among the 'vulnerable species' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

India is believed to have the third highest population of snow leopards, after China and Mongolia, however, an exact count is not yet available.

Union Environment Secretary CK Mishra said that the protocol has been developed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Nature Conservation Foundation, in discussion with the five Himalayan

States. With the guidance of the SPAI protocol the snow leopard range states in India will be able to estimate distribution and population of snow leopards and prey using uniform methodology, such that estimates from the different States are comparable and a national level estimate may be achieved.

"This protocol will inspire other range countries of snow leopard across Asia to develop their country specific protocols," said Mishra.

In 2017, at the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation Forum in Bishkek, the range country governments formally endorsed a plan to develop a global snow leopard population assessment. The ambitious initiative, called PAWS (Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopards), aims to produce a robust estimate of the threatened cat's population status within the next 5 years.

It is being overseen by the Steering Committee of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLPE), which is comprised of the Environment Ministers of all twelve snow leopard range states.

'Kamlesh stabbed 15 times, shot once'

CM seeks fast-track trial of accused, grants ₹15L to Tiwari's wife

Lucknow: The body of Hindu outfit leader Kamlesh Tiwari, who was killed last week, had 15 stab wounds and a bullet injury below his chin, according to a post-mortem report.

Tiwari, 45, was shot once on his face and the bullet was found stuck below his chin. He also had multiple injuries on his face and neck, according to the autopsy report.

In order to serve justice in the shortest possible time, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday asked officials to seek trial by a fast-track court of the main suspects in Kamlesh Tiwari murder case.

Ashfaq Sheikh (34) and Moinuddin Pathan (27), the two men who allegedly killed him, were arrested by the Gujarat anti-terror squad (ATS) on Tuesday evening.

Adityanath on Wednesday announced immediate financial

help of ₹15 lakh to Kamlesh Tiwari's wife and sanctioned a house for the family in Sitapur district's tehsil Mehmoodabad, an official said.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrest of the two men, Tiwari's family called for capital punishment.

"I am very happy with the arrest of the killers. Now, they should be hanged," victim's mother Kusum Tiwari told reporters.

The Chief Minister directed officials that the main accused should be tried in a fast-track court, a UP Government statement said.

Tiwari, 45, was found murdered at his home in Naka Hindola area of Lucknow last Friday.

According to experts, it appears that the assailants first fired at Tiwari. They apparently tried to fire a second bullet but

it got stuck in the pistol.

Tiwari was then repeatedly stabbed with a knife and another pointed object, the post-mortem report indicated.

There were two knife wounds on the right side of the victim's chest, seven wounds caused by some pointed object on its left side, a cut on the throat 6 cm below the chin, a deep wound mark on the neck, two wound marks on the left shoulder, a wound mark on the back and another on the right shoulder.

The police have already recovered the pistol and the knife allegedly used by the two men arrested Tuesday by the Gujarat ATS near Shamlaji on the State's border with Rajasthan.

Preliminary interrogation revealed that they committed the crime "in retribution to the purported statements by Tiwari," an

ATS release said in Ahmedabad.

Sheikh, a resident of the Limbayat area in Surat, used to work as a medical representative. Pathan, a resident of Umarwada, was employed as a food delivery boy.

"After committing the crime, the duo went to Nepal and then started their journey back to Gujarat after reaching Shahjahanpur (in Uttar Pradesh)."

"Since they ran out of cash, the accused duo contacted their family members and acquaintances for more money. Based on technical and physical surveillance, they were eventually traced today evening," the release said on Tuesday.

Six men, including three from Surat and one from Nagpur in Maharashtra, have already been taken into custody in connection with the murder case.

The Surat link came to light after the UP police found a box of sweets, bearing the logo of "Dharti Sweets" located in the Udhna area of the diamond city, at Tiwari's home.

In a joint operation earlier, the UP police and the Gujarat ATS had arrested three other suspects in Surat. They were identified as Mohsin Shaikh, Faizan and Rashid Pathan.

A local court late on Tuesday night remanded the three men, alleged to be conspirators in the murder, to police and later judicial custody for a total of 14 days.

The UP ATS produced them at the home of Incharge Chief Judicial Magistrate Sudesh Kumar after flying them in from Surat on transit remand.

Meanwhile, a team of the Uttar Pradesh police landed in Surat on Tuesday to further probe the killing. **PTI**

It seems our stars are not good: BSY on rain fury

Bengaluru: As rains pounded the regions battered by flood havoc two months back, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa wondered on Wednesday whether the stars are to be blamed for nature's fury again.

"There was downpour last time. It seems our stars are not good," he said.

"Once again the Rain God (Varuna) is furious and is pounding many districts, submerging many villages. Deaths have taken place and vehicles have been swept away," he told reporters.

The heavy downpour in August this year in Karnataka led to floods in 22 districts, leading to the deaths of 84 people in rain related incidents.

About 5.5 lakh acres of land were inundated, while crops in about 2.3 lakh acres was completely ruined.



About 1.5 lakh houses were destroyed in August's flood and heavy rains.

Yediyurappa said he was holding discussions with the district authorities and video conferencing with them on providing relief to the rain affected people. The Chief Minister said whatever support was extended to the flood victims two months ago would be provided to the affected people this time also.

Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Gadag, Hubballi-Dharwad, parts of Mysuru, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru bore the brunt of heavy downpour once again.

Landslips were reported in many places while vehicular movement was hit in several parts of the state.

At Gokak, the administration toiled hard to remove a huge rock in the Mallikarjuna Hills which rolled down and stopped just before it hit a major settlement of homes. Had it rolled its entire course, it could have severely damaged several houses, officials said. **PTI**

BJP MLA demands removal of lesson on Tipu Sultan, says he is not freedom fighter

Bengaluru: Madikeri BJP MLA Appachu Ranjan on Wednesday demanded that the lesson on Tipu Sultan, the controversial 18th century ruler of erstwhile Mysore kingdom, be removed from textbooks as it carries wrong information.

"The lesson on Tipu Sultan contains wrong information. It should be removed. I have written to Education Minister Suresh Kumar that he (Tipu Sultan) is not a freedom fighter," Ranjan told PTI on Wednesday.

He said Tipu Sultan had a "history of plundering and expanding his kingdom" and run his administration in Persian language.

"Hence, he is not a freedom fighter," he added.

"I came to Bengaluru to personally hand over the letter to the minister, but he is in Belagavi.

Once he comes here, I will give it to him with documents and other proof, substantiating my claim," the MLA said. Ranjan alleged that Tipu Sultan had converted more than 20,000 Christians and 10,000 Kodagu residents. **PTI**

Nun moves National, State Women's panels, NHRC against Bishop

Kottayam: A nun, who filed a rape case against Bishop Franco Mulakkal, has approached the National and State Women's Commissions besides the National Human Rights Commission, accusing the priest and his supporters of "harassing" her through various online platforms.

Acting swiftly, the Kerala Women's Commission registered a case on the basis of the complaint and directed the cyber wing of the Kerala police to investigate the matter.

The commission observed that the nun's complaint was "very serious" in nature and directed the State police chief and the cyber wing of Kerala police to submit a report in 10 days.

Chairperson of the Kerala Women's Commission M C Josephine said no woman should be harassed through social media and directed police to take strong action against the culprits.

In her complaint, the nun alleged the Bishop and his supporters were humiliating and defaming her and her fellow nuns who are witness in the case through social media and

youtube channels.

"From the time the sexual assault was reported, I have been subjected to extreme humiliation and intimidations in various forms," the nun said in her complaint to the National Human Rights Commission.

She further alleged that from the time the sexual assault FIR was registered, she and her fellow nuns have been "subjected to the vilest forms of character assassination."

"Attempts have been made through church authorities and various church social media organisations to spread rumours against me and my companion sisters who are also key witnesses in the case.

False statements, imputations and fabricated stories tarnishing our reputation and character are being systematically spread through the YouTube channel, and we believe Bishop Franco and his group are behind this agenda," she claimed.

The nun pointed out that even after registering a case against the said channel, several videos were being circulated publishing her photograph and revealing her identity. **PTI**

TN POLICE LAUDED BY CHINA FOR PROVIDING GOOD SECURITY DURING XI JINPING'S VISIT

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Wednesday said the State police force has come in for praise from Chinese authorities for providing good security during Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent visit here.

The Chinese authorities were "amazed" at the security arrangements put in during Jinping's visit, he said.

The Chinese leader had visited Chennai on October 11 and 12 to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their second informal summit at the coastal town of Mamallapuram, located about 50 km from here.

Palaniswami said both Modi and Chinese authorities had appreciated the state police force for the security arrangements provided then. **PTI**

IMD PREDICTS HEAVY RAIN IN TN FROM OCT 25

No effective mechanism for flood control

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Though Tamil Nadu is being battered by heavy downpour of northeast monsoon in the last quarter of every year since 2015, the State Government has failed to put in place an effective flood mitigation system, according to former bureaucrats who are specialised in town planning.

The Indian Meteorological Department has forecast heavy rain in the State from October 25 as part of the northeast monsoon. But there is no fool-proof storm water drains in Chennai or other major cities, if reports appearing in Tamil news channels and local media are any indication.

The 2015 flood crippled Chennai and surrounding

areas and claimed more than 200 lives. Absence of storm water drain was cited as one of the reasons for the flood which ravaged the metropolis for almost three weeks. "Even now, the general public are in the dark about storm water drains. They cannot distinguish between storm water drain and sewage drainage," said Prof S Vincent, former head of Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology. He had submitted an action plan to the Chennai Corporation in 2009 itself to fortify the storm water drains in the city. He had scanned the entire drain length with GPS and had pointed out the missing links as well as the regions where the storm water drains and sewage drains were mixed up. "It seems no concrete

action has been taken," said Dr Vincent.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami convened a meeting of all government officials to prepare an action plan to counter any kind of floods which may pose threat to the city. The 2015 flood had caused the city Rs 26,000 crore according to officials in the State Secretariat. But a recent report by the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change has come out with a report in which it is mentioned that coastal cities like Chennai and Mumbai loss \$6 billion per year because of this recurring floods.

The Tamil Nadu Government said in a release on Tuesday that it has positioned nearly 10,000 first

responders across the State and steps have been taken to store the excess water. "The Government has kept ready 121 multi-purpose halls, 4768 schools, 105 colleges, 2394 marriage halls and community centers to accommodate the victims of the flood," said the release.

Chennai becomes the most unwelcome of all places once rain lashes out across the city. The roads get water logged and traffic comes to a grinding halt. Deaths due to electrocution are galore in the metropolis as Tamil Nadu Generation and Power Distribution Corporation's live wires fall into pools of water. For the next few months, Chennai turns into a forbidden land, according to KA Johnny, writer and commentator.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative officer/Const./Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender under Two Tender System for work under noted work:-

Mode of Tender:	E-Tender (Two Packet)
Tender Notice No:	74-W/4/1425/WA/MB Dated 22.10.2019
Full name of work:	Civil Engineering work like Earth work in filling and cutting in embankment, Supplying and spreading of blanketing material, mechanical compaction, construction of minor bridge, duty hut, trolley refuges, between Km 40.00 to 60.00 Km, construction of high level platform, station buildings, staff quarters, S&T Rooms including electrical works, fencing at Maigal Ganj, Neri, Mohali Station or any other station as per requirement in connection with Doubling of Roza-Sitapur section of Moradabad division.
Approx. Cost:	Rs. 3531.77 lakhs
Completion period:	08 (Eight) Months
Earliest money amount:	Rs. 19,15,900.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website:	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 24.10.2019 to 19.11.2019 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders:	19.11.2019 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 30.10.2019 to 19.11.2019.
Date and time of opening of tender:	19.11.2019 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on.

Tender Notice No: 74-W/4/1425/WA/MB Dated 22.10.2019 3405/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Sarfaesi Cell, 2 Nd Floor, Videocon Towers, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below mentioned dates.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Himanshu Gupta / Vandna Rani / LBGHZ0002313993	Flat No. B-1-1801, 18th Floor Of Building Proposed To Be Named As B-1 Situated At Jkg Palm Court, Plot No Gh 1D, Sector 16-C, Greater Noida West, Up. Admeasuring An Area Of 1765 Sq Ft/ 18-10-2019	April 20, 2018 Rs. 58,60,110/-	Delhi Ncr
2.	Manoj Kumar Sharma/ Rachna/ LBKOD0002375543	Apartment No. B2-1801, 18th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Admeasuring An Area Of 1765 Sq Ft/ 18-10-2019	Nov 30, 2017 Rs. 55,37,023/-	Delhi Ncr
3.	Vijay Grover/ Reena Grover / LBDEL0002371601	Flat No. Gh-1-1302, 13th Floor, Jkg Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Admeasuring An Area Of 1765 Sq Ft/ 18-10-2019	Nov 30, 2017 Rs. 52,62,754/-	Delhi Ncr
4.	Vijay Grover/ Reena Grover/ LBDEL0002365295	Flat No. B1-1301, 13th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Admeasuring An Area Of 1765 Sq Ft/ 18-10-2019/	Nov 30, 2017 Rs. 52,79,657/-	Delhi Ncr
5.	Neera Sharma/ Ankur Mohan/ LBGUR0002313998	B2-1304, 13th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Admeasuring An Area Of 1635 Sq Ft/ 18-10-2019	Aug 31, 2017 Rs. 52,22,308/-	Delhi Ncr
6.	Sandeep Kumar A Upadhyay / Shipil Upadhyay / LBDEL0002275165	Apartment No. B-2/ 1704, 17th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Admeasuring An Area Of 1635 Sq Ft/ 18-10-2019	March 31, 2018 Rs. 52,25,188/-	Delhi Ncr
7.	Sanjiv Lamba/ Madhu/ LBDEL0002935333	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, Tower A2, JKG Palm Court, Plot No.gh-1d Sector-16 C, Greater Noida, G B Nagar, Noida. Admeasuring An Area Of 1185 Sq Ft./ 18-10-2019	Nov 30, 2017 Rs. 40,37,528/-	Delhi Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 24-10-2019 Place: Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Danve denies making cow slaughter remarks after his video goes viral

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Raosaheb Danve landed in trouble on Wednesday after a video — in which he is reportedly telling a Muslim gathering that no one would stop them from undertaking slaughter of cow progeny — went viral on social media.

Campaigning for his son Santosh Danve who is contesting the State Assembly polls on a BJP ticket from Bhokardan in Jalgaon district in Maharashtra's Marathwada region, Danve is heard as telling a Muslim gathering: "For the first time when ban on the slaughter of cow progeny was imposed and that too at the time of Bakri-Id, some people from here came to me and told me they were not being allowed to slaughter the animal as a sacrifice during the festival. I told them: As long as I will stop you from slaughtering."

The video is of part of the speech that Danve purportedly delivered at the Muslim-dominated area of Katora Bazar in Bhokardan on October 19, the last day of campaigning for the State Assembly polls held on October 21.

Danve is also heard saying: "there is illegal business of rice and sandalwood here (in Bhokardan). Should I stop it? I can stop it in just one day".

After the video went viral, Danve in a statement clarified that the video had been "doctored" and he had not made any statement relating to cow slaughter. "I would like to clarify that I have made no such comment regarding cow slaughter and the video that is being shared online is manipulated to convey a wrong message in the society," the minister said in his statement.

Meanwhile, one Nitesh Oza lodged a complaint with the police at Sangli in western Maharashtra against Danve. In his complaint, Danve alleged that Danve had hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community and demanded that a FIR be registered against the minister for his purported remarks.

In a related development, NCP's Mumbai unit president

and party's state spokesperson Nawab Malik demanded that Danve be arrested for advising in the people to break the law.

"Danve is playing the religious sentiments of the people by advising and encouraging the people to break the law against cow slaughter. Hence, the police should register an FIR and arrest him," Malik said.

"On one hand, Muslim community members are being targeted and mob lynched in the name of cow slaughter. On the other, a minister is telling Muslim community members to undertake cow slaughter. If we have such a Minister in our midst, we can realise what is happening in the country," the NCP spokesperson said.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that two man **Name: (1) Abdul @ Kamal, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, (2) Raju S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown**, have been missing/ kidnapped since **06.10.2019** from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 37-A, dated 06.10.2019** has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped man are as under: **Name: Abdul @ Kamal, Age: 28 years, Height: 5' 6", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Blue colour t-shirt, black colour lower & hawai chappal in feet. Name: Raju, Age: 24 years, Height: 5' 2", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White colour t-shirt, black colour cappery & hawai chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the persons but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about these persons kindly inform to the following.**

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/3382/RD/19

SHO P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27061294, 8750870329

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Pushpa D/o Heera Lal R/o A-1 Ambika Enclave, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 30.09.2019. In this regard, a case **DD No. 23-A dated 02.10.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**. The description of the missing girl is as under.

Age: 19 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Wearing: Red colour suit golden colour salwar and hawai chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/2795/OD/19

Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-25946700

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown**, was found dead at Jaal in Haiderpur water treatment plant, Sec-13, Rohini, Delhi in the area of P. S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi on **17.10.2019** at 08:46 am. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 08-A, dated 17.10.2019** at P. S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under: **Age: approx 35 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'9", I.D. Mark: Tattoo mark "Manik" back side of Neck. Wearing: White & navy blue colour t-shirt, black colour jeans, black colour belt & sports shoes in feet. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.**

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

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 45-50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Gender : Male, Face : Long, Built : Thin, Wearing: Grey Shirt** was found dead body in the Jurisdiction of PS Mahendra Park, Delhi on 20.09.2019 at 10:26. In this regard, **FIR/DD No. 20-A dated 20.09.2019** has been lodged at PS Mahendra Park, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S., Mahendra Park, Delhi Ph. : 011-27632501

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of boy namely **Bunty, S/o Unknown, R/o Vega Bond, Y-Block, Pillanji Village, New Delhi, Age: 18 years, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black, Height: 5'5", ID Mark: Black mole on head, was wearing Dark Blue T-Shirt and Grey Pant**, was found near Jain Mandir, Y-Block, Pillanji Village, Fruit Mandi, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi at 16:01 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 11A, dated 16.10.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi**. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-24671281, 26882346

No torture in Kathua probe, says J&K DGP

'Court order on FIR against SIT will be followed'

Srinagar: Defending the team that probed the Kathua rape and murder case last year, Jammu & Kashmir police chief Dilbag Singh on Wednesday said no witnesses were tortured and the court's directive of an FIR against the investigating police officials would be followed.



Jangotha, who was subsequently acquitted.

The court directed that an FIR be registered against then SSP RK Jalla (now retired), ASP Peerzada Naveed, Deputy Superintendents of Police Shetmbari Sharma and Nissar Hussain and Sub-Inspectors Urfan Wani and Kewal Kishore. It also asked the SSP (Jammu) to give a compliance report by the next date of hearing on November 11.

Sources in the police force said an application quashing the lower court's order would be moved before the Jammu & Kashmir High Court soon.

The Kathua rape and murder case ended with the conviction of six people, including the main accused Sanji Ram and dismissed Special Police Officers Deepak Khajuria and Parvesh Kumar who were sentenced to life imprisonment. Three dismissed policemen Anand Dutta, Tilak Raj, and Surender Verma were sentenced to five years in jail. PTI

there is an aim, motivation and the Court's direction came and we will see. We investigate thousands of cases. We have more than 17,000 cases registered every year.

"It does not mean that we pick up people and torture them. So there are cases, high-profile cases, where people resort to this kind of actions and reactions. We will certainly take action as per law and there is nothing to worry about," he said.

The Jammu court was hearing an application from Sachin Sharma, Neeraj Sharma and Sahil Sharma, friends of one of the accused, Vishal

The police chief's comments came a day after a Jammu court directed police to register an FIR against six members of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which probed the case of the rape and murder of an eight-year-old in Kathua, for allegedly torturing and coercing witnesses to give false statements.

The court order is being examined and all necessary action will be taken, Singh told reporters during a briefing about an encounter in which three terrorists were killed in Tral, south Kashmir.

He also made it clear that every FIR is not necessarily based on facts. "Sometimes

POST ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

J&K all set for first-ever BDC polls amid boycott by Congress, NC, PDP

Jammu: The maiden Jammu & Kashmir Block Development Council (BDC) polls on Thursday will see 1,065 candidates in the fray across 310 polling stations, with Congress, NC and PDP boycotting the first electoral exercise after abrogation of the special status.

There are 26,629 electors — 8,313 women and 18,316 men — for the polls to elect chairpersons of BDCs, officials said.

They said adequate security arrangements have been made at the polling stations, and for panchees and sarpanches, who will vote in the BDC elections.

There are 316 blocks in the state, but the election will be held in 310 as two are without elected panchees and sarpanches, and four blocks reserved for women have no women candidates, the officials said. Ballot boxes will be used in the election. They said 1,092 nominations, including 853 Independents, were found eligible after scrutiny and withdrawal. Twenty-seven candidates were elected chairpersons in various BDCs unopposed, leaving 1,065 in the fray, the officials said.

The highest number of candidates are in north Kashmir's Kupwara district (101) and the lowest in south Kashmir's Shopian (4). Congress, CPI(M), National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) are not taking part in the elections which are being held on party basis.

The Congress has announced its decision to boycott the elections citing "indifferent attitude" of the state administration and continued detention of its leaders in Kashmir.

There are 90 candidates in Baramulla, 82 in Jammu, 76 in Rajouri, 74 in Doda, 72 in Kathua, 58 each in Udhampur and Budgam, 44 in Kishtwar, 43 in Ramban and 39 in Reasi, the officials said.

Leh and Kargil districts together account for 74 candidates, 38 from Kargil and 36 from Leh. Five candidates are in the fray from Srinagar district.

There would be one polling station for one BDC, and accordingly, 310 polling stations have been set up in the state, one in each block where elections are to be held, the officials said. PTI

BJP making mockery of democracy: J&K Cong

Jammu: On the eve of the maiden Block Development Council (BDC) elections in Jammu & Kashmir, the state unit of Congress on Wednesday accused the BJP of making a "mockery of democracy" by "forcing" the main opposition parties to stay away from the electoral exercise.

The Congress along with the main regional parties — the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party — have boycotted the BDC elections citing indifferent attitude of the state administration and continued detention of the party leaders in the valley.

"Holding of elections to BDCs at this juncture and forcing the major opposition parties to stay away from the election is betrayal with the electorate and mockery of democracy," Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

He said this is the first such election in the history of the State and the country when only the ruling party is in the contest. "The Government went ahead with the BDC election that too on party basis without caring for the basic democratic, rich traditions and fundamental essence for elections in the country. The entire opposition leaders were detained for more than two months (in Jammu) and still most of opposition leaders in Kashmir are not permitted to move out," he said. Despite holding the elections on party basis, no prior consultation was held with the political parties, he said, adding no attempt was made to make the atmosphere conducive for the elections by setting the Opposition leaders free. The Congress leader said the Govt has arbitrarily forced these elections on the people against all basic norms of democracy by creating such an atmosphere and conditions for mainstream opposition parties so that they can stay away from the election process. "Such kind of farce exercise has not added value to the democratic system besides it has deprived the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the full benefits of 73rd Amendments when the entire constitution of India stands applied to the state in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370," he said. PTI

KILLINGS OF 4 IAF PERSONNEL

Yasin Malik appears in court through video conferencing

PNS ■ JAMMU

Yasin Malik, who had escaped judicial scrutiny in the case related to the killing of four IAF personnel in 1990, appeared through video conferencing, after a long gap of 29 years, in a TADA court in Jammu on Wednesday.

Four IAF personnel, including a squadron leader, Ravi Khanna, were killed in the gruesome attack led by Yasin Malik on January 25, 1990 in Rawalpora area while 22 other personnel were injured. Malik is currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail in connection with terror funding case through the Pak High Commission.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled to take place on November 5th. Out of seven accused in the case, five were produced in the court and Yasin Malik appeared via video conferencing. The seventh accused, Showkat Bakshi, currently lodged in a Srinagar jail, remained absent. The Judge directed that his appearance is must in the next hearing. PTI

Two Hizbul terrorists arrested in Kishtwar

PTI ■ JAMMU

Two underground workers (OGWs) of Hizbul Mujahideen, including the brother of top Hizbul terrorist Jehangir Saroori, were arrested by the police in Jammu & Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

As part of the ongoing operation against terrorists and their supporters in the state,

police raided a place in Kishtwar hills and arrested the two OGWs on Tuesday night, they said.

They have been identified as Abdul Kareem, brother of Hizbul terrorist Amin Bhat alias Jehangir Saroori, and Danish Naseer of Dacchan belt, they said.

12 terrorists and their supporters have already been arrested as part of the operation. PTI

BJP can't form Govt without our help: Raut

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid a prediction by an exit poll that the ruling BJP would win 143 seats — just two seats short of a majority in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, its ally Shiv Sena on Wednesday went to town, saying that it would bag more than 100 seats and that its senior alliance partner BJP would not be able to form the next Government in the State, without its support.

A day ahead of the counting of votes in the State Assembly polls, Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut said: "The Shiv Sena will win more than 100 seats (out of the total 288 seats in the State). Even if it wins more number of seats than us, the BJP will not be able to form a Government in the State without the Shiv Sena's support."

"The BJP had won 122 seats in the 2014 Assembly polls. It is but natural that the BJP wants to win more number of seats than it had bagged last time. Being in the seat of power, it (BJP) has additional wherewithal that gives it additional advantage," Raut said, while speaking to a leading Marathi news channel.

Raut said that both the BJP and Shiv Sena had no alternative to each other and the to saffron parties would form the next Government in the State. "The question is

which of the two parties (Congress and NCP) would emerge as the principal Opposition party," he said.

Reiterating that a Shiv Sena man would occupy the post of the Chief Minister in the State, Raut said: "Our party president Uddhav Thackeray has already said that a Sena's man will be the next Chief Minister of the state. We have full confidence in his (Uddhav's) leadership and strategy. We all will try our best to achieve his objective."

Given that the BJP is expected to have an upper hand in terms of numbers in the new Assembly, Raut's remarks are being seen as mere political posturing than anything else.

In the various exit polls — results of which came out on the evening of October 21, the pollsters have predicted that the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance would win anywhere from 166 seats to 243 seats in the Assembly polls. The two exit polls have given individual winning tallies of the saffron alliance partners have said that while the BJP would win anywhere from 130 to 140 on its own strength, the Shiv Sena would win anywhere from 70 to 113 seats.

In the 2014 polls, the BJP and Shiv Sena — which had contested separately — had on 122 and 63 seats respectively. PTI

JK Govt procures 1.34L apple boxes from fruit growers in south Kashmir

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir administration has procured around 1.34 lakh boxes of apple from fruit growers in south Kashmir under the Marketing Intervention Scheme (MIS), officials said.

As many as 1,34,000 apple boxes have been procured from Fruit Mandi Batengoo in Anantnag district and Rs 2.50 crores have been paid to fruit growers under recently launched MIS under the department of Horticulture, they said.

The basic objective of MIS is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in case of glut in production and fall in prices.

Officials said the department of Horticulture has also distributed 19 irrigation pumps and 20 tubewells worth Rs 3.23 lakh to the orchardists and emphasis is being laid on high-density plantation.

Out of 66,335 hectare land under cultivation, 38,756.75 hectares are under Kharif crops and 26,279 hectares are under Rabi crop, officials said at a meeting chaired by Advisor to Governor Farooq Khan on Tuesday.

Besides, 24,036.97 hectares have been brought under paddy cultivation, 10,676 hectares under maize, 1,678 hectares under pulses and 1,454 hectares have been brought under oil seeds production in the district, they said. PTI

Normal life remains affected in J&K, main markets shut, public transport off roads

Srinagar: Normal life remained affected in Kashmir for the 80th consecutive day on Wednesday with main markets shut and public transport off the roads, officials said.

Some shops opened for a few hours early in the morning in some areas, including in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk in the city here, but downed their shutters around 11 am, they said.

The officials said main markets and other business establishments were however shut. Private transport was plying and the number of vehicles was higher than Sunday, leading to traffic jams at various spots in the city, they said.

Auto-rickshaws and a few inter-district cabs were also seen plying in some areas of the Valley, they added.

However, the other modes of public transport were off the roads. There was huge rush of private vehicles in some areas of the city, including commercial hub of Lal Chowk and Jehangir Chowk, causing massive traffic jams in some areas, prompting authorities to press in more police personnel to regulate the movement of the vehicles, the officials said.

Internet services — across all platforms — continued to be snapped in the Valley, they said.

Schools and colleges were open, but students stayed away as parents continued to keep their wards at home due to apprehensions about their safety, the officials said. While landline and postpaid mobile phone services have been restored across the Valley, all internet services continue to

remain suspended since August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and divide the state into two union territories. Most of the top level and second rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders, including two former Chief Ministers — Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti,

have been either detained or placed under house arrest.

Another former Chief Minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah has been arrested under the controversial Public Safety Act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the Chief Minister. PTI

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Office of Executive Engineer M-II West Zone
B-Block, Shanker Garden, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 07_EE_M_WZ_II_WZ_2019-2020 Dated: 18.10.2019

The Executive Engineer Maint WZ II SDMC, B Block, Shanker Garden, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 invites on behalf of the Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation sealed percentage rates tenders from the approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD General Wing online on portal <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> as per following schedule:

S.No. : 1, Estimate Amt.: Rs. 98,17,000/-, **Tender Amt.:** Rs. 89,37,655/-, **E.M.:** Rs. 1,96,400/-, **Time of Comp. of Rates:** 03 Months, **Validity of Rates:** 05 Months, **Tender Cost:** Rs. 1,000/-, **H/A:** XL-VIII-S. **S.No. : 2, Estimate Amt.:** Rs. 97,02,000/-, **Tender Amt.:** Rs. 88,23,080/-, **E.M.:** Rs. 1,94,040/-, **Time of Comp. of Rates:** 03 Months, **Validity of Rates:** 05 Months, **Tender Cost:** Rs. 1,000/-, **H/A:** XL-VIII-S. **S.No. : 3, Estimate Amt.:** Rs. 1,90,64,000/-, **Tender Amt.:** Rs. 1,74,33,348/-, **E.M.:** Rs. 3,81,300/-, **Time of Comp. of Rates:** 05 Months, **Validity of Rates:** 05 Months, **Tender Cost:** Rs. 1,000/-, **H/A:** XL-VIII-S. **S.No. : 4, Estimate Amt.:** Rs. 1,17,38,000/-, **Tender Amt.:** Rs. 1,09,84,664/-, **E.M.:** Rs. 2,34,800/-, **Time of Comp. of Rates:** 04 Months, **Validity of Rates:** 05 Months, **Tender Cost:** Rs. 1,000/-, **H/A:** (MSPY) XL-VIII-S-D.

Bidding documents with name of work & detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER>. Start date of sale of Tender Documents: 28.10.2019 upto 14.00 PM, Last Date of Bid Submission: 13.11.2019 upto 11.00 AM, Opening of Financial Bid: 13.11.2019 at 13.00 PM. All detail of Revisions, Clarifications, Corrigendum and Addendum, Time Extension etc. if any in respect of above tender(s) will be uploaded on SDMC website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> only and will not be published in newspaper(s) separately. Bidder should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated in respect of the tender(s).

R.O. No. 90/DPI/South/2019-20 Executive Engineer (M-II)WZ

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Altaf @ Aftab Alam** S/o Mohd. Yaseen R/o H.No. 50-A, B-Block, Bank Colony, Rajeev Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 148/19 u/s 420/120-B/34 IPC P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Altaf @ Aftab Alam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Altaf @ Aftab Alam** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Altaf @ Aftab Alam** accused of FIR No. 148/19 u/s 420/120-B/34 IPC is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.11.2019**.

By Order: **Sh. Jitendra Singh**
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate-01,
(Central Distt.) Room No. 366, 3rd Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/6667/CD/19

Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5 feet 5 inch, **Complexion:** Whitish, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black & White, **Identity Marks:** S Kumar Write on Right hand **Wearing:** Green Color Shirt, Yellow Color T-shirt, and Cream colour pant. He was Found Hanging with a Tree at 5742/81, Reghar Pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi. He was Admitted in LHMC Hospital During Treatment Doctor declared he dead on dated 20.10.2019.

In this regard a DD No. 08-A dated 20.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25725652, 25751048

DP/6681/CD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Dr. Mohitosh Roy, S/o** Sh. Manoranjan Roy, R/o H.No. 125, J.P. Colony, Sec-07, R.K. Puram, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1048/15 u/s 419 IPC & 27 DMC Act** has been registered at **P.S. R.K. Puram, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Dr. Mohitosh Roy** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Dr. Mohitosh Roy** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Dr. Mohitosh Roy** accused of case **FIR No. 1048/15 u/s 419 IPC & 27 DMC Act, P.S. R.K. Puram, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **16.12.2019**.

By Order
Sh. Manoj Kumar, Metropolitan Magistrate-08,
Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi

DP/7112/SW/19-(Court Matter)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, Northern Railways, Kashmir gate, Delhi-110006 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Expression of Interest for the following work. **Name of work and location:** Notice for Expression of Interest for "Providing proven methodology for analyzing bridge structure for various stresses generated due to continuation of long welded rails over Railway Bridge at Rohatk".

Pre application meeting: 07.11.19 in the office of Dy. CE/C/Tiak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 at 11:30 hours **Date & Time for submission of Expression of Interest and opening of tender:** Expression of Interest may be submitted up to 11:30hrs on 28.11.2019 in the office of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Northern Railway, Tiak Bridge, New Delhi-110002. **Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Documents:** The detailed Notice for Expression of Interest is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in from 23.10.2019 to 29.11.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above Expression of Interest are given in document.

Tender Notice No. Dy.CE-C-TKJ-ROK-EOI Dated: 23.10.2019 3394/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my client Mr. John Thomas, Mrs. Tina Ravi, Mrs. Seena Chatterjee & Ms. Diana Thomas are the legal heirs of Late Annamma Thomas and they are selling the Flat No. F-1, Front side, First Floor, built on Plot No. B-86, DLF Dishaad Ext-II, Village: Bhurupa, Ghaziabad to Ms. Hilda Ann Jose.

Any person having any right or interest in respect of the said property are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned on below mentioned address with copies of all documents on basis of which claims are made, failing which any suchright, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Clients.

C.K. JHA (Advocate)
F-524, Markandooma Courts,
Delhi-110032 (M) - 9811295674

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

NIT No. 52/(S-1) (2019-20)

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost/ Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Desilting of deep and silted up sewer lines manholes of Vasant Kunj Institutional area, Vasant Kunj Phase-2 against deficiency charges deposited by D.D.A under EE(South)-I.(Re-invited)	Item Rate/ 65800/-	2019_DJB_182778_1 23.10.2019	13.11.2019 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
Adv. No. J.S.V. 473/2019-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a male namedly **Sourabh Kulshretha, S/o: Om Swaroop, R/o: C-1/100, Ramesh Enclave, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **04.10.2019** from the area of **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 26-A dated 11.10.2019** has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped male but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing/kidnapped male is as under:

Name: Sourabh Kulshretha, Age: 39 Years, Height: 5', Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Pant & Shirt and Shoes in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped male please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

DP/3383/RD/19

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(M-II) KPZ
SHAKTI NAGAR EXTN., DELHI-110052

NIT No. EE(M-II) KPZ/TC/2019-20/47 DATED: 18.10.19

Date of start for sale of Tender Document : 18.10.19 upto 18:01 PM
Last date of download of Tender Document : 08.11.19 upto 12:00 PM
Last date of Bid Submission : 08.11.19 upto 12:15 PM
Opening of Financial Bid : 08.11.19 at 12:30 PM

S. No.	Name of work	Head of A/c	Tender Amount	Est. Amount	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender
1.	Imp./Stg. of adjoining lanes near in E and F-Block Model Town by pdg. bituminous in C-77N/KPZ. F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-S(d) XL-VIII-S(d) ₹35,70,638 ₹38,60,900 ₹71450/- ₹500/-					
2.	Imp./Stg. of adjoining road of main road Model Town-II to Princess Road in B and F-Block Model Town by pdg. bituminous concrete in Ward No. 77N/KPZ. F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-S(d) XL-VIII-S(d) ₹52,08,812 ₹56,32,300 ₹104200/- ₹1000/-					

Note1 : From S. No. 1 to 2 for above mentioned each work Time of completion is 3 Months and Rates hold good for 6 Months.

Note2 : This tender are also available on the website <http://mcdetenders.com> for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. EE(M-II)/KPZ has the right to cancel any or all tenders without any reasons.

R.O. No. 128/DPI/North/2019-20 Executive Engineer (M-II) KPZ

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

O.A. No.1320/18 Date: 17.09.2019
UCO BANK Applicant
Versus
CHANDANI GARG & ORS. Respondent

To, DEFENDANT
1. CHANDNI GARG
2. YOGENDRA PRATAP
Both at: D-901, Shubhkamna Apartment, F-31, Sector-50, Noida City Centre, Noida, U.P.-201301.
No.1 Also at: C/o. Info Edge India Ltd.,
B-5, Sect.-132, Noida, U.P.-201304
No.2 Also at: B-39, G.F., Sect-64, Noida, U.P.-201301.

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.67,68,200/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Only)** against you and whereas 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.** Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SEAL OF COURT
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

Criminal lapses

The recently released NCRB report is neither updated nor inclusive of controversial crimes



Systematic and reliable data are important for citizens to gauge where we stand as a nation, both at home and the world. Usually, the ones awaited with much expectation concern the state of the economy and the quality of governance. But it is the database on crime that we should be worried about, considering it measures the state of society and is a reactive assessment of the many other benchmarks we might want to tom-tom. This is why the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which has been collating the crime

database for three decades now, is significant. Bearing the government's stamp of credibility, it has been considered bonafide and reflective of the former's intent to strengthen correctives. But the panel, which has been enriching policy-makers, civil society organisations and the media alike with credible insights, allowing them to analyse the country's social map, has faltered on several counts in recent years. The most alarming lapse is that ever since its first publication in 1954, the report had a data gap of two consecutive years — 2017 and 2018. With the police and security agencies working with 2016 figures, no predictive or preventive models could be worked upon. Also with changes in social dynamics, it was difficult to establish comparative profiles to spot a trend. So when the data was finally released after a delay of an extra year, it was surprising that the authorities had done the listing for 2017 and skipped 2018 completely. Which means that the NCRB database is still not updated. What is also incomprehensible is the panel's selective approach while releasing data for sub-categories. As much as the inclusion of certain new chapters is welcome, it is baffling that data related to controversial events like mob lynchings, murders by men in power, killings ordered by khap panchayats and murders committed for religious reasons among others, did not make it to the final document. This, when the Government had itself cited the collection and correction of errors for these sub-categories as the reason for the delay in the release of NCRB data. This then raises serious doubts about the Government's will to deal with mob violence. In the case of lynching, for example, it has shown utter disrespect to the Supreme Court's directive to frame specific laws on the subject. How then can we expect it to come clear on facts, the absence of which allows the Government to live in continued denial of lynching as a serious matter of concern? In yet another instance, farm suicide statistics were not published even for 2016. When most crimes go under-reported in this country, the lack of exact data can only complicate matters and goad unscrupulous offenders to operate outside the law. This oversight can even lead to needless stereotyping of perceptions.

The available data is also not encouraging and the Government must introspect on certain spirals, like that of violence against women, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. There has been a 77 per cent rise in fake currency after demonetisation. Overall violent crimes marginally improved in 2017 compared to 2016. While 4.29 lakh cases of violence were reported in 2016, 4.27 were registered in 2017. Delhi, despite taking significant strides in making the city safe, has not been able to rid itself of the unwanted appellation as the crime capital of India. On an average, 1,050 police cases per lakh population were registered in 2017 even as the national average stood at 238. This makes it clear enough that it needs to double its efforts in securing its streets. The fact that eastern States like Odisha, West Bengal and Assam, which already held the dubious distinction of recording all kinds of heinous crimes, have recorded a higher number of murders is equally worrisome. Particularly Bengal is now high on the crime index, closer to Uttar Pradesh, usually perceived as the wild west. The crux of the problem is that multiple agencies record data for the NCRB, each in its own way. Worse still, as the latest report has shown, even when data has been collected, it is difficult to be extracted. The NCRB's method of calculating data itself has come under the scanner as it relies on old census data. Its methodology to compute crime rates has not been consistent across years. And for all talk of digital interventions, the crime records are yet to be available at the click of a button. The Government must understand that concealment or manipulation of data has no upside, only downsides, which will ultimately lead to the erosion of public trust.

Needlessly undemocratic

Should digital platforms have their users uniquely linked to their identities with the Government?



It is a matter of serious conjecture whether technology, particularly the internet, has been good or bad for democracy. There is little doubt that the internet, especially social media, has opened up a floodgate of opinions. Traditional gatekeepers and voices have been swamped under the tsunami enabled by platforms like Twitter. At a level, it is not bad that the thought control, which the powers that be sought to maintain on the public, was through the media. This marked the end of access journalism and allowed the public at large to question the dominant media narrative. However, it also allowed stupid, silly and often downright dangerous ideas to gain prominence. It further gave oxygen to conspiracy theories that had long been buried under the sand. And worst, the rise of social media led to the rise of hate speech and abuse online. The challenge Governments and courts across the world are facing is how to cut the negative elements of social media and the internet without attacking the fundamentals of free speech. One must understand that across the world, freedom of expression does not include the right to abuse and spread lies. India is no exception, which is why the Supreme Court is hearing a petition to link online identities with a Government-approved offline identity. This is exactly what happens in China where every online persona has an identifiable individual behind it. However, free speech advocates have argued that doing so will ruin the essence of the internet. That said, one must not forget that unlike the US, the Indian Constitution does not guarantee absolute freedom of speech. There is another problem: Will the linkage of offline identities to online profiles violate the right to privacy that the top court itself guaranteed a few months ago?

The fact is that for an overwhelming majority of people in India, this will make little or no difference. Most people have little to hide. Besides, the Government already verifies mobile phones and bank accounts through Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. Some, however, are deeply upset with the idea that the Government is considering this, even though they themselves recognise that there has been a proliferation of hate speech and fake information online, let alone the constant barrage of abuse that women face on the internet. But the longer one studies the problem, there appears to be no middle path. It will be an interesting case for the judges of the apex court to consider and one that will be closely monitored across the world not just by judicial systems but also by tech companies.

Virat Kohli is the most important man in Indian cricket, we will listen to him. Mutual respect will be there, opinions will be there.

CLAUDE ARPI

Wing Commander Jag Mohan (Jaggi) Nath of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is the first of six Indian officers to have twice been awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), India's second highest war-time military decoration. For 11 years, the 90-year-old Wing Commander had the privilege to fly the famous Canberras, out of which, for eight years, he worked for the top-secret 106 Squadron. He received his first MVC for his role in reconnaissance missions over the Aksai Chin and Tibet between 1960 and 1962.

Even during the Sino-Indian War (October-November 1962), he regularly flew over Tibet. The MVC citation says: "[He] fulfilled a number of hazardous operations involving flying over difficult mountain terrain, both by day and night, in adverse weather conditions and in complete disregard of his personal safety."

His missions proved immensely useful to learn about the Chinese military build-up on the Tibetan plateau in the years preceding the 1962 war but unfortunately, the political leadership refused to believe the hard evidence gathered during his sorties and draw logical conclusions from the information gathered.

Nath's conclusions were that in 1962, China had no Air Force worth the name on the Tibetan plateau. The fate of the Sino-Indian war could have been totally different had India used its own Air Force but the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and VK Krishna Menon, the Defence Minister, chose to ignore the findings of the daring aviator.

In an interview, the Wing Commander told this writer: "If we had sent a few airplanes into Tibet, we could have wiped the Chinese out and everything could have been different in the 1962 war. The political leadership did not believe me that China had no Air Force. Can you imagine what would have happened if we had used the IAF at that time? The Chinese would have never dared to do anything." It is one of the greatest tragedies of India's modern history.

The Wing Commander remembered: "The job of the 106 Squadron was to survey these areas." He recalled his first reconnaissance flight with 106 Squadron over the Aksai Chin: "My Commanding Officer [later Air Marshal] Randhir Singh was on leave at that time, I was alone. I was briefed by the Western Air Command to go, find out from where the Chinese have come and take photographs."

One day, at the end of 1960, Air-Vice Marshal DAR Nanda, then IAF's Deputy Chief, told him: "You go and take pictures and I will send an escort with you." Another Canberra escorted Nath to protect him while he was taking pictures of Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) at the edge of the Aksai Chin in Ladakh.

Could we have won the war?

Had the Nehru Government paid heed to Wing Commander Nath's learnings about Chinese military build-up on the Tibetan plateau, there would have been no scar on India's psyche



Nearly 60 years after the events, he is still very emotional: "I kept going down and suddenly, I saw the Chinese there. I took photographs of the Chinese soldiers all over the place. I could have taken their portraits. They were all around." After he returned to Delhi, he went straight to the office of Krishna Menon with Nanda and in his words: "Krishna Menon did not ask anything, he just said 'Did you see the Chinese soldiers?' I answered 'Yes Sir, I saw them.' That's alright, you can go." Nath knew that Menon later passed the information to Nehru. No reaction either.

On September 8, 1962, the Dhola Post in the Tawang sector was surrounded by some 600 Chinese soldiers; the Indian Army responded aggressively. Six weeks later, Mao's Liberation Army massively attacked the 7 Infantry Brigade headquartered on the Namkha chu (river). The debacle which followed is well known. What is not known is the extent of knowledge the IAF had about the People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s deployment and the absence of the Chinese Air Force in Tibet.

On October 11, 1962, a note by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing was given to the Embassy of India in China. It brings more light on the reconnaissance work done by the 106 Squadron before (and during) the war.

“NATH'S CONCLUSIONS WERE THAT IN 1962, CHINA HAD NO AIR FORCE WORTH THE NAME ON THE TIBETAN PLATEAU. THE FATE OF THE SINO-INDIAN WAR COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT HAD INDIA USED ITS OWN AIR FORCE BUT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND VK KRISHNA MENON CHOSE TO IGNORE HIS FINDINGS”

The Chinese note says: "In the night of October 10, 1962, an Indian aircraft intruded into China's air space over the suburbs of Lhasa at 20.15 hours for reconnaissance and then flew northward along the Qinghai-Tibet (Qinghai-Tibet) highway to Damshune [Damchung] where it made reconnaissance circlings over a Chinese airfield and then flew away in the direction of India."

Damchung, north of Lhasa, was the only airport used by the Chinese in Tibet at that time; it had no air defence.

The note from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued: "The deep intrusion of Indian aircraft into China for flagrant reconnaissance over the capital city of, and an airfield in Tibet, was obviously an action coordinated with the current military attacks by the aggressive Indian troops in the eastern sector of the Sino Indian border. The Chinese Government... warns the Indian side that it must give serious thought to the grave consequences of such increasingly frantic activities of aggression."

What to conclude? China had no Air Force able to counter the Indian reconnaissance flights and no air defence able to shoot down the planes. Had India extensively used its Air Force, what could have been different? We would have probably won the 1962 war.

One can also imagine that casualties would have been less on the Indian side and more on the Chinese. Further, the number of Indian PoWs, who suffered for seven months in Tibet, would have been far less. The Line of Actual Control would have remained where it was in September 1959 and the border dispute with China would not be as acute as today. The Shaksgam Valley would not have been offered to China by Pakistan in 1963. There would have been no scar on India's psyche as there is today.

The fate of the Tibetan people would have certainly been different. In China, Mao Zedong would have lost his job and perhaps no Cultural Revolution would have taken place three years later. As a result, China would have been completely different today.

In 1965, Pakistan would perhaps have thought twice before venturing into Operation Gibraltar to create insurgency against Indian rule in Jammu & Kashmir, ultimately resulting in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965. Three years later, India learnt its lesson that the Air Force can be useful...and by that time, there was a more decisive Chief of Air Staff (Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh). It is when Nath was awarded his second MVC. But sadly, history can't be rewritten.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations)

SOUNDBITE

Virat Kohli is the most important man in Indian cricket, we will listen to him. Mutual respect will be there, opinions will be there.



BCCI chief
—Sourav Ganguly

Great scripts are the ones that make great movies. Research about the subject matter of the film is important to understand the nuances of the role.



Actor
—Kalki Koechlin

The UN is saying a firm no to hatred of any kind and will continue to focus on real problems of people at this time of turbo-charged change.



UN Secretary-General
—Antonio Guterres

We may argue, we may agree, or we may not agree. But we cannot deny the essential prevalence of multiplicity of opinion.



Former president
—Pranab Mukherjee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tough times ahead

Sir — Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Amit Shah seems to have a hand on the pulse of the voters. His prediction — that his party will win hands down in Maharashtra — seems to be as good as that of four out of six pollsters, who are giving the saffron combine more than 200 seats. If the exit polls are anything to go by, though they are known to be wrong in the past, Devendra Fadnavis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handpicked Chief Minister, is due for a second coming. Fadnavis had already set the record of becoming the first Chief Minister in Maharashtra to complete a full five-year term in nearly 50 years.

That said, if the results indeed reflect the exit polls, the more significant takeaway is for the Opposition. Rarely in recent Indian democratic history has the electoral contest been as one-sided as it is now. A strong Opposition party at the Centre can certainly change the way politics is being played out in the national theatre. The BJP could have faced a tougher Opposition headed by a strong national party. And the Congress, too, could

The UN, its role and challenges

The United Nations (UN) charter came into existence in 1945 and since 1948, the UN day is celebrated by all member states on October 24. After the world was ravaged by World War-II, the necessity of a robust and widely-accepted peace-keeping body was felt by global leaders. It is from here that the UN grew from strength to strength to encompass 193 nations today. India became a member of this body in 1945 and its bid for a permanent membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC) is gradually gathering momentum with four of the five members in our support. Promotion of peace and cooperation along with prevention of war are the key functions of the body. Issues related to climate change, refugees and migrants, doing justice to member nations, upholding democratic principles, tackling global health crises, prevention of violence against children and women rank high on its agenda.

However, the world body is not immune to criticism. The main grouse against it is that it is facing the worst liquidity crunch in its history, according to its Secretary General António Guterres. The US is responsible for a significant portion of the UN's bud-



get — in 2017, it contributed more than \$10 billion to the UN, roughly one-fifth of the organisation's entire budget. With the Trump Administration considering a cut in its contribution, the UN is faced with a tricky situation. As many as 64 countries owe approximately 10,000 thousand dollars to the UN until October 4. India, thankfully, has paid all its dues.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Learn from Assam

Sir — In a landmark decision that will bring great changes in the social milieu, the Assam Cabinet has decided to deny Government jobs to people with more than two

children. It may be recalled that in September 2017, the Assam Assembly had passed the "Population and Women Empowerment policy of Assam," which specified that candidates with two children would be eligible for Government employ-

ment and the existing Government staff were to strictly follow the two-child family norm. Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was pushing for the population policy to be adopted, recently said, "While the State's population rose by 46 lakh from 2.66 crore in 2001 to 3.12 crore in 2011, a preliminary analysis has shown that it has increased by one crore in 16 years between 2001 and 2017. This increase is not only alarming but also unacceptable."

The alarming increase in population was due to the early marriage in communities living in char (riverine), tea gardens and tribal areas. Girls in these areas marry between 14 and 16 years, while boys have been found to be marrying between 16 and 20 years. Thus, the reason for the alarming increase in population being early marriage, the Government must strictly implement existing rules to forestall early marriage among people. Taking a cue from Assam, the Central Government, too, can implement this idea.

TK Nandanam
Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Hurdles in Ayushman Bharat

There are questions that don't have to be answered now in detail but clarifying a vision is important to stakeholders who are going to make investments



RAJEEV AHUJA

Former Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya considers Ayushman Bharat (AB) to be one of the major successes of the Narendra Modi Government. Obviously, he has in mind only one of the AB pillars, that is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) which entitles free hospitalisation benefits of up to ₹5 lakh every year to nearly 11 crore vulnerable households. PMJAY has been able to treat nearly 50 lakh people at an average cost of ₹17,000 per treatment in its first year. The other pillar of AB relates to Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) aimed at providing comprehensive primary care and serving as a platform for integrated delivery of various services. The Government plans to develop 150,000 HWCs across the country by 2023. This pillar hasn't met with the similar success as the PMJAY. Till now, the Government has been able to develop 20,000 HWCs and aims to have at least 40,000 HWCs functional by the end of this fiscal year. However, not much is known or discussed about their performance.

Both the components of the AB are at an early stage of implementation but the PMJAY is moving faster and has greater political traction. But it's the HWCs that are considered a high priority by some experts, so much so that they call them the foundation on which the PMJAY stands. Regardless of how AB is conceptualised, both the pillars need a few years before one can start talking about their "success" as it not only depends on numbers but also sustainability. Both are still evolving and will undergo significant technical refinements over the years. With the PMJAY, it is easy to show "quick wins" as the Government is giving free entitlements to the needy and offering a scope for additional revenue to hospitals. But the real success of the programme lies in getting it stabilised. A year of implementation has given rise to various distortions which need to be addressed as the programme advances. Following are the four key distortions:

First, higher income States like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka have benefited disproportionately more than the poorer States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The reasons for this distortion are not difficult to understand as the poorer States have lower levels of awareness and they also have fewer hospital beds in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. As per a National Health Authority (NHA) survey, only 10-15 per cent of the population is aware of the programme in Bihar while in Tamil Nadu awareness is as high as 80 per cent. Getting the message out to beneficiaries is easy but increasing the number of hospital beds is hard. The Government is yet to announce an incentive package for private hospitals to boost availability of beds in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Most big corporate hospitals have been empanelled under PMJAY. This is surprising, given that these hospitals are designed to serve the creamy layers of society and high-paying international medical tourists. They are not suited for providing "affordable" care which is the focus of PMJAY as these rates wouldn't be profitable even if they are assured of a higher number of patients. PMJAY rates are appropriate for hospitals with low-cost structures. It's no wonder that big hospitals have been complaining about the reimbursement rates. Given that more than 50 per cent of PMJAY empanelled hospitals are private, they have a strong bargaining power and sooner or later they will assert it. They will either ask for a hike in reimbursement rates or opt out or abuse the system, all of which would be detrimental.

Third, instances of fraud and corruption are a distortion too. Despite heavy reliance on technology in controlling them, such instances have surfaced in the first year itself. The NHA has confirmed over 1,200 cases of fraud that forced it to take action against 340 hospitals. Any scheme that suffers from leakages loses credibility and eventually loses Government support, too. Although, the NHA's graded response includes levying penalty, de-empanelling hospitals, naming and shaming the fraudsters, it needs to prevent it through better use of technology as well as higher deterrence by hiking penalties.

Last but not the least, an overarching vision and goal of the programme is yet to be defined. Further, from a policy perspective a few important questions remain unanswered. For example, will the informal economy (non-poor) households be brought under the fold of PMJAY? Will it be integrated with other public health insurance programmes in the spirit of one country, one programme? Just like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, will there be a governance structure comprising the Centre and States, that will oversee this programme? These and related questions don't have to be answered now in detail but clarifying a vision is important to stakeholders who are going to make investments. Both pillars of AB have their respective trajectories, are in their infancy and will take a few years to mature. How well this journey is negotiated by the decision-makers and those implementing it on the ground will define their success.

(The writer is a development economist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

INSTEAD OF THE SIX-YEAR CLAUSE, IF PEOPLE ARE COMING HERE, THEY SHOULD SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT AND CAN BE GIVEN CITIZENSHIP POST VERIFICATION.

— WEST BENGAL BJP GENERAL SECRETARY SAYANTAN BASU



BOTH THE NRC AND CAB SHOULD BE SCRAPPED. WHY DOES A PERSON NEED TO PROVE HIS IDENTITY AFTER 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE?

—TMC SECRETARY GENERAL PARTHA CHATTERJEE

End food wastage, feed millions

India produces enough food to meet the needs of its entire population, yet it is unable to provide nourishment to starving women and children due to criminal wastefulness



MOJIN QAZI

India is booming but its children are starving. Here is a remarkable tolerance of inequity and human suffering. Despite the spectacular strides made in economic growth and the technological boom, the country still continues to struggle to attain freedom from hunger. It is bearing witness to a triple burden of malnutrition — the co-existence of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overnutrition.

India has slipped from 95th rank in 2010 to 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), with the increase in prevalence of wasting (low weight for height) among children under five contributing the most to the country's poor performance. Over a longer-term horizon, the fall in the country's rank is sharper: From 83rd out of 113 countries in 2000 to 102nd out of 117 now. India is the lowest ranked South Asian country, even behind Pakistan, which is ranked 94th.

India accounts for more than three out of 10 stunted children globally, largely owing to a lack of good quality food, poor care and feeding practices, inadequate water, sanitation and health services. Other than increased susceptibility, the chronic impact of long-term malnutrition in human and economic terms is well-known. Undernourishment is highly damaging to children and overshadows their childhood, impairs their mental and physical development and damages the country's economic prospects.

Malnutrition threatens a child's physical as well as mental well-being for many years to come. For many children, chronic malnutrition begins in the womb, with 20 per cent having a low birth weight. As 90 per cent of our brain develops in the first two years of birth, the quality of nutrition during this stage determines the long-term physical health, learning ability and future productivity. Undernourishment can lower a child's IQ, increase the risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases and reduce productivity.

Proper sanitation facilities are essential to prevent child infections on account of related ailments like diarrhoea and pneumonia, which impair nutrient absorption. Fortification of staple food vehicles such as flour, salt, oil and milk is now being seen as a crucial component for tackling food and nutrition security as well as child malnutrition. Since several staple foods produced, procured and consumed in the organised sector are not easily amenable to fortification, the Government must mandate the use of fortifiable commodities in all its food-based schemes, including the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in schools, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the Public Distribution System (PDS).

The full impact of the various interventions can be amplified if we adopt a multi-sectoral and integrated approach looking at maternal and infant health, water and sanitation, poverty alleviation, and behavioural change communications as inter-related challenges.

No country has ever succeeded in reducing poverty without having the active engagement of the Government in creating the proper conditions and opportunities for individuals to rise from poverty. As author Pallavi Aiyar has written in her excellent book *Smoke and Mirrors: An Experience of China*, "if born rich, it is better to be Indian, if born poor, it is better to be Chinese."

Studies have shown that malnutrition and

INDIA NEEDS TO MOBILISE LARGE-SCALE INVESTMENTS IN COLD STORAGE METHODS, REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT AND OTHER LOGISTICS TO MODERNISE ITS FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN. APART FROM THIS, A STRONG WILL BY THE POLITICAL CLASS AND AN IMAGINATIVE THINKING ON THE PART OF POLICY-MAKERS ARE NEEDED



hunger impede children's ability to grasp even basic skills and they fail to develop to their full cognitive potential. Even though India has a host of schemes to fight hunger, structural deficiencies have left a large number of poor in the country at a risk of malnourishment.

There is also growing evidence of the benefits to mother and infant if breastfeeding is initiated within one hour of birth. This ensures skin-to-skin contact, which is important in preventing hypothermia and establishing the bond between the mother and baby. It also reduces a mother's risk of post-partum haemorrhage, one of the leading causes of maternal mortality.

Contemporary research has confirmed the crucial importance of nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. The nutrition provided in the period between conception and the child's second birthday is critical for its optimum cognitive and physical development. Breastfed infants are more likely to have better physical and mental health, well into adulthood.

Much less investment is required to maintain adequate nourishment for children than is required to repair broken children. A package of basic measures — including programmes to encourage mothers to exclusively breast-feed their children for up to six months, fortifying basic foods with essential vitamins and minerals and increased cash transfers targeted at the poorest families — can turn the tide.

Fortification of staple food vehicles such as flour, salt, oil, and milk is now being seen as a crucial component for tackling food and nutrition security as well as child malnutrition. Since several staple foods produced, procured and consumed in the organised sector are not easily amenable to fortification, the Government must mandate the use of fortifiable commodities in all its food-based schemes, including the MDMS, the

ICDS and the PDS.

The tragedy is that India produces enough food to meet the needs of its entire population and has at its disposal arable land that has the potential to produce food surplus for export. Yet, it is unable to feed millions of its people, especially women and children. As you trudge through the mire of any Government-run food auction yard or wholesale food market, you will find piles of supposedly fresh produce lying everywhere, rotting in the sun and competing with mangy dogs and scampering mice for attention. A lack of education on post-harvest practices often results in poor quality control and food being damaged during handling. One of the major ways of enhancing food security in India is by simply controlling wastage and through better processing and recycling.

Imagine a land mass greater than China. Now imagine that land is only used to produce food. Then suppose all the crops and produce from those 2.5 billion acres are not eaten and left to rot. Imagine all of that — and you get an idea of the amount of food the world wastes every year. It is almost a third of the world's total food supply.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was set up in 1964 to offer impetus to price support systems, encourage nationwide distribution and maintain sufficient buffer of staples like wheat and rice but its performance has been woefully inadequate, in comparison to the needs of the country. Around one per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) gets shaved off annually in the form of food waste. The FCI has neither the warehouse capacity nor the manpower to manage this humongous stockpile of foodgrains.

Every year, the Government purchases millions of tonnes of grain from the farmers to ensure that they get a good price for their produce, for numerous food subsidy programmes and to main-

tain an emergency buffer. The cruel truth, however, is that most of the produce is left out in the open, vulnerable to rain and attacks by rodents or stored in makeshift spaces, covered by tarpaulin sheets, thus increasing the chances of spoilage. Several countries are now using metal grain silos to guard against fungus attacks on the grain stock.

Added to the wastage of food, there is a depletion of precious resources involved in its production. According to the United Nations, India is estimated to use more than 230 cubic kilometres of fresh water annually, for producing food items that will be ultimately wasted. To put this into context, this amount of water is enough to provide drinking water to 100 million people every year. Besides this, nearly 300 million barrels of oil used in the process are also wasted.

Reforming the faltering PDS which supplies subsidised grain to the poor and modernising other areas, such as computerisation of outlets and satellite control over the movement of transport vehicles can go a long way in plugging the leakages of foodgrains for the poor.

In recent years, numerous initiatives and interventions have been undertaken by the Government and local and international actors to target food loss and wastage across the agricultural value chain. The Government is seeking to streamline and modernise agricultural value chains, through reformation of the PDS to reduce the waste associated with the distribution and storage of grain.

India needs to mobilise large-scale investments in cold storage methods, refrigerated transport and other modern logistics to modernise its food supply chain. Apart from this a strong will by the political class to act and an imaginative thinking on the part of the policy-makers are needed.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women.)

Innovation can break stranglehold of plastic

Fundamentally, companies need to re-imagine their business models based on the recognition that we cannot continue to produce disposable packaging that is used for seconds but pollutes our planet for generations



KOTA SRIRAJ

Every environmentally-conscious Indian is aware of the threat that plastics pose to natural habitats. Our streets, mountains, lakes, oceans, rivers and even sewers are clogged with this non-degradable material that does not get recycled fast enough, even as more and more of it continues to be pushed into the environment. Though we are well aware of its detrimental effects, yet it is still the most favoured "go to" item for consumers and manufacturers alike.

Quite clearly, environmental concerns take a back seat over convenience and bottom lines. What else can explain the fact that despite the numerous bans initiated against its use over the years, plastic continues

to pervade every aspect of our lives? Though the recent effort of the Government to end single-use plastic is one more welcome step, whether it will succeed in its objective of dissuading the common man from it is anybody's guess. Yet, if the Government's ambitious plan of doing away with single-use plastic works, it may actually pave the way for much larger restrictions on the use of all types of plastic.

This weaning away is vital as the scale of plastic proliferation and the harm that it does to the environment, especially to the marine ecology is mind-numbing. The equivalent of a truckload of plastic enters the ocean every single minute. Once in the marine environment, plastic breaks into smaller and smaller pieces and according to studies, there are an estimated 50 trillion plastic particles in our oceans today. These are often ingested by marine animals, who, then die horribly painful deaths because, of it. In response to growing public concern over conventional plastics, many companies are



swapping single-use plastics derived from fossil fuels with bio-based plastics that are made from renewable resources like corn, potatoes, rice, soy, sugarcane, wheat, and vegetable oil instead of non-renewable petroleum-based resources. Bio-based plastics are made by creating plastic polymers from these materials, through either chemical or biological processes.

Though these are often erroneously promoted as biodegradable

or compostable, the fact is that these plastics are as difficult to biodegrade or recycle as conventional plastic.

One again, corporate profitability is taking the lead over environmental responsibility and concerns. The Government, too, seems to be at sea when it comes to pinning down the exact sources of plastic proliferation. Due to this ambiguity, even the incidence of the recently-banned single-use plastic is now steadily creeping up.

The plastic pollution crisis will only be resolved when companies that profit from single-use plastic declare a state of "peak plastic" and commit to urgent reductions in the amount of single-use disposable packaging units they sell. An obvious first step is immediately eliminating unnecessary and excessive packaging, such as coffee capsules. Firms will also need to adopt a publicly available, comprehensive plan to invest in new ways to bring products to consumers in reusable and refillable packaging that is durable, affordable and more responsibly produced. Many diverse reuse and refill options exist currently and with innovation, more could be developed. Fundamentally, companies also need to reimagine their business models based on the recognition that we cannot continue to produce disposable packaging that is used for seconds but pollutes our planet for generations.

India must script a re-use revolution that will eventually transcend borders and set international bench-

marks in reducing, reusing and recycling. As a priority, the Government must first call for the reduction of units sold in single-use packaging and at the same time encourage investment in solutions focussed on reusing, refilling and so on, that are not dependent on disposables.

Ultimately companies need to rethink how products are delivered to the consumer and this is what the Government must facilitate. In transitioning from throwaway plastic, India must visualise replacing virgin plastic with non-toxic, recycled and recyclable plastic only has a limited role in addressing the plastic over-production problem. However, there is no silver bullet, one-size-fits-all option for new reusable or refillable packaging that will be applicable to every company, product or geography. Therefore, it is pertinent that fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) firms and retailers urgently prioritise investment into the delivery of reuse and refill options.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



HOPE TRUDEAU LEARNS A LESSON

The voting in national polls did not demonstrate any immediate threat to Canadian unity from the grievances of the Prairie Provinces or nationalism in Quebec, both of which are permanent features of the political landscape. Nor did it demonstrate a turn away from the admirably liberal, inclusive and humane policies that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau brought to office in 2015. Let us hope that Trudeau returns to office chastened and wiser.

(The NYT editor)

Govt eases rules for setting up petrol pumps

Allows non-oil cos in business

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the biggest reform in fuel retailing sector in almost two decades, the Government on Wednesday relaxed norms for setting up petrol pumps, allowing non-oil companies to venture into the business - a move that could help private and foreign firms to enter the world's fastest-growing market.

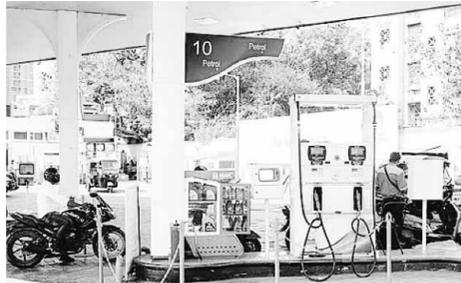
At present, to obtain a fuel retailing license in India, a company needs to invest ₹2,000 crore in either hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals.

Companies with a net worth of ₹250 crore will be allowed to sell petrol and diesel

subject to condition that they install facilities for marketing of at least one new generation alternate fuel such as CNG, LNG, biofuels or electric vehicle charging within three years of start of operations, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said here.

The retailers will necessarily have to set up 5 per cent of the total outlets in rural areas within five years, he said while briefing reporters on the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The new policy will bring in more investment and give a fillip to 'Ease of Doing Business'. It will boost direct and indirect employment in the sector. Setting up of more retail outlets (ROs) will result in better competition and better services for consumers," he



said.

The Government had last set fuel marketing conditions in 2002 and the review now is based on the recommendation of a high-level expert committee.

The move will facilitate entry of global giants such as Total SA of France, Saudi Arabia's Aramco, BP Plc of UK and Trafigura's downstream

arm Puma Energy.

Total in partnership with Adani Group had in November 2018 applied for a license to retail petrol and diesel through 1,500 outlets. BP too has formed a partnership with Reliance Industries to set up petrol pumps, but is yet to make a formal application.

While Puma Energy had applied for a retail license,

Aramco was in talks to enter the sector.

State-owned oil marketing companies — Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) — currently own most of 65,554 petrol pumps in the country.

Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy — formerly Essar Oil — and Royal Dutch Shell are the private players in the market but with limited presence. Reliance, which operates the world's largest oil refining complex, has less than 1,400 outlets.

Nayara has 5,344 while Shell has just 160 pumps.

BP plc of UK had a couple of years back secured a license to set up 3,500 pumps but hasn't yet started doing so. It is now venturing into the business with Reliance with plans to scale up Reliance's present network strength to 5,500.

"The entities seeking market authorization for petrol and diesel are allowed to apply for retail and bulk authorization separately or both," an official statement issued on CCEA decision said.

The companies have been given flexibility in setting up a joint venture or subsidiary for market authorization.

"In addition to conventional fuels, the authorized entities are required to install facilities for marketing at least one new generation alternate fuel, like CNG, LNG, biofuels, electric charging, etc.

At their proposed retail outlets within 3 years of operationalization of the said outlet," it said.

"An individual may be allowed to obtain a dealership of more than one marketing company in case of open dealerships of PSU oil marketing companies but at different sites.

BUSINESS CORNER

AMITABH BANERJEE NOMINATED AS IFRC MD

New Delhi: Industry veteran Amitabh Banerjee is being nominated as the Managing Director at Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), the dedicated financing arm of the Indian Railways for mobilising funds from domestic as well as overseas



Capital Markets. Amitabh Banerjee, an IRAS Cadre officer of 1988 Civil Services Exam Batch has been appointed as Managing Director on the IRFC Board on 12th October, 2019. He has a Masters in Commerce and is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI). He was a rank holder (13th position in All India Merit List) in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination (10+2). He was a recipient of National Talent Search Scholarship (NTS) for 5 years (1980 - 1985). Banerjee has been working in the capacity of Director Finance, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) since October 2013 before joining the board of IRFC. He also served at different capacities in organisations like Director Finance in Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC) for 3 years (September 2010 to October 2013), General Manager (Finance) in Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) for more than 5 years, where he was handling inter-alia International financing (IDA Loan from JICA), Compilation and Finalisation of Accounts and Preparation of Budgetary Estimates.

Markets resume upward trend

IT, finance stocks sparkle

Mumbai: Equity indices found firmer ground on Wednesday, led by IT, finance and auto stocks, as investors tracked corporate results amid mixed cues from global markets.

After swinging over 330 points in a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 94.99 points, or 0.24 per cent, higher at 39,058.83. It hit an intra-day high of 39,196.67 and a low of 38,866.08.

The broader NSE Nifty too advanced 15.75 points, or 0.14 per cent, to settle at

11,604.10.

HCL Tech was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.93 per cent, ahead of its quarterly results.

Maruti Suzuki, SBI, HDFC and Hero MotoCorp gained up to 2.55 per cent.

Infosys rebounded 1.16 per cent after a massive sell-off in the previous session following a whistleblower complaint.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Vedanta, ONGC, RIL, Kotak Bank and Yes Bank shed up to 3.59 per cent.

"Markets largely remained positive throughout the day led by selective buying in large caps namely in banking and IT stocks. Auto and consumer stocks witnessed some resurgence on expectation that the

worst-case scenario is factored in the stock prices.

"Due to corporate tax cut, Q2 earnings growth is better, however market will review the outlook for revenue growth to assess any potential for re-rating," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE auto, IT, consumer durables, power, FMCG, teck and finance indices rose up to 1.18 per cent.

On the other hand, BSE telecom, oil and gas, energy, realty, industrials, capital goods and metal indices tumbled up to 3.04 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap index ended marginally lower, while BSE smallcap index advanced 0.25 per cent.

Global equities were cautious after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson lost the crucial Brexit bill timetable vote on Tuesday, leaving in doubt his vow to exit the European Union by the end of the month.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong Tokyo and Seoul ended mixed. Markets in Europe were also trading on a choppy note in their respective early deals.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated marginally to 70.92 against the US dollar intra-day.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.85 per cent to USD 59.19 per barrel.

Govt hikes MSP for wheat by ₹85/qtl; pulses up to ₹325/qtl

New Delhi: The Government on Wednesday hiked the minimum support price for wheat by ₹85 to ₹1,925 a quintal and for pulses by up to ₹325 per quintal.

A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The MSP is the rate at which the Government buys grains from farmers.

"In a move to increase farmers' income, the Cabinet has increased the MSP of rabi (winter-sown) crops for the current year," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters after the meeting.

The CCEA has approved ₹85 per quintal hike in wheat



MSP to ₹1,925 per quintal for the 2019-20 rabi crop, up from ₹1,840 per quintal last year.

Barley MSP has also been increased by ₹85 to ₹1,525 per quintal from ₹1,440 per quintal last year.

to ₹4,875 per quintal for this year from ₹4,620 per quintal last year.

Among oilseeds, rapeseed/mustard MSP has been increased by ₹225 to ₹4,425 per quintal for 2019-20 rabi crop from ₹4,200 per quintal during 2018-19.

The minimum support price for safflower has been hiked by ₹270 to ₹5,215 per quintal from ₹4,945 per quintal last year.

The MSP for rabi crops announced for this year is in line with the recommendation of the Government's farm price advisory body CACP.

Wheat is the main rabi crop, sowing of which will begin next month.

The crop will be marketed from next April onwards.

Infosys recovers lost ground; rises over 1%

New Delhi: Shares of Infosys on Wednesday bounced back, rising over 1 per cent, after a massive sell-off in the previous session on concerns over a whistleblower complaint against the company's top executives.

The scrip closed the day at ₹650.75, up 1.16 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 2 per cent to ₹656.40.

On the National Stock Exchange, it rose 1 per cent to close at ₹650.35.

Shares of Infosys on Tuesday plummeted nearly 17 per cent, marking their worst intraday fall since April 2013,

wiping ₹53,451 crore off its market valuation.

A complaint by a group that calls itself 'Ethical Employees' of Infosys has alleged CEO Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy were indulging in "unethical practices" to boost short-term revenue and profits.

The IT services giant on Tuesday said it is investigating the anonymous whistleblowers' claims. Meanwhile, leading exchange BSE on Wednesday asked Infosys to explain why it did not make a disclosure about the whistleblower complaint.

Sebi starts probe against Infosys over whistleblower charges

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi has begun its probe into alleged non-disclosure of price-sensitive information by Infosys' management and also corporate governance lapses in the wake of serious allegations levelled by a whistleblower, while it is also examining possible insider trading in the company's securities.

Sources said the regulator has already asked the stock exchanges to collate trading data of Infosys' shares as well as about derivative positions.

Rupee inches up 3 paise to 70.91 versus USD

Mumbai: The Indian rupee rose 3 paise to close at 70.91 against the US dollar on Wednesday amid lack of triggers and geopolitical uncertainties.

Easing crude oil prices propped up the local unit, though fresh capital outflows capped the gains, forex traders said.

Trading in emerging market currencies was subdued after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson lost the crucial Brexit bill timetable vote. Besides, markets are also awaiting fresh cues on the potential US-China trade deal, they added. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the rupee opened lower at 71.01 then fell to 71.03 against the greenback.

Gold gains ₹177 on stronger rupee, firm global trends

New Delhi: Gold prices on Wednesday rose ₹177 to ₹38,932 per 10 gram in the national capital on stronger rupee and firm global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

Silver also gained ₹290 to ₹46,560 per kg. In the previous trade, it had closed at ₹46,270 per kg. Gold closed at ₹38,755 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday.

"Spot gold for 24 Karat in Delhi was trading higher by ₹177 on stronger rupee and firm global prices," HDFC Securities, senior analyst — commodities, Tapan Patel said.

The ongoing festival demand may keep gold prices firm with rise in jewellery consumption, he added.

In the international market, gold was trading up at USD 1,493 per ounce, while silver was also trading in the green at USD 17.57 an ounce.

Jio tops 4G download speed chart in Sep: Trai data

New Delhi: Telecom operator Reliance Jio recorded over 2.5 times higher average data download speed of 21 megabit per second in September 2019, compared to its closest competitor Bharti Airtel, according to data released by the sector regulator Trai.

Bharti Airtel network recorded average download speed of 8.3 mbps in September. It was followed by Vodafone with 6.9 mbps and Idea Cellular with 6.4 mbps download speed.

Both Vodafone and Idea Cellular have merged their businesses but their network integration is still on.

Overlook political expediencies, prioritise spends: L&T to Govt

Mumbai: The Government should overlook political expediencies, instead prioritise its spending to meet the needs of a struggling economy, engineering major Larsen & Toubro said on Wednesday.

The Government is delaying payments, leading to pressure on working capital, the management of the engineering major said, adding it cannot "afford" such a situation.

"The Government has to prioritise allocation of funds to projects and contractors and also its vendors. It is very important that the Government spend is not confined to political ends, but diverted towards economic ends," chief financial officer R Shankar Raman told reporters while announcing the second quarter numbers. He was replying to a specific question on what can be done to revive the tottering growth.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
 4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001
 O.A. No. 1319/18 Date: 17.09.2019
 UCO BANK Applicant
 Versus
 YOGENDRA PRATAP & ORS Respondent
To, DEFENDANT
 1. YOGENDRA PRATAP
 2. CHANDNI GARG
Both at:
 D-901, Shubhkamna Apartment, F-31, Sector-50, Noida City Centre, Noida, U.P.-201301.
No.1 Also at: B-36, G.F., Sect-64, Noida, U.P.-201301.
No.2 Also at: C/o. Info Edge India Ltd., B-8, Sect.-132, Noida, U.P.-201304
3. M/S. SUPERCITY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.,
 6, Bharti Colony, F.F. Preet Vihar, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092.
 Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.32,35,235/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five Only) against you and whereas 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. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
 BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
 SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

SEARCH FOR MISSING

 General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Manshi D/o Sh. Dalip Kumar, R/o H.No. 482, Nai Basti, Kishan Ganj, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi, Age: 18 yrs., Height: 5 ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Grey Colour Kurta, White Colour Salwar, Red Colour Jacket and Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since 16.12.2018 from her house. In this regard a case DD No. 39-A dated 20.12.2018 has been lodged at PS. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned
 Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
 SHO DP/9508/N/18. PS. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi Ph. No. 011-23651692, 8750870133

SEARCH FOR MISSING

 General Public is hereby informed that one man namely: **Parveen, S/o: Ved Parkash, R/o: H.No.-67, Block B, Gali No.-2, Aanandpur Dhan, Karala, Delhi, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5', Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Pant, Brown Shirt, Black Shoes in Foot** has been missing since 01.09.2019 from the area of PS Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 69-A, dated 11.09.2019 has been lodged at PS. Kanjhawala, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform the undersigned.
 Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in SHO
 E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph. No. 011-24368639
 Fax: 011-24368639 PS. Kanjhawala, Delhi.
 DP/3394/RD/19 Ph.: 011-25952485, 25951486

SEARCH FOR MISSING

 General public is hereby informed one boy namely **Raj Yadav, S/o Lalit Yadav, R/o A-54, Shani Bazar Road Prem Nagar II, Delhi, Age: 21 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing Black colour Shirt & Pant,** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 66-A, Dated 17.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about him please inform undersigned.
 Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO
 E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph. No. 011-24368639
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
 DP/3384/RD/19 Ph.: 011-25489080

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY
 General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Anjarul S/o Jahid R/o Mukti Ashram, Keshav Nagar, Delhi Aged - 14 Years** has been reported missing since 28.09.2019 vide FIR No. 422/19 Dated 10.10.2019 registered at Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: Blue coloured t-shirt, blue coloured jeans pant and slipper in feet.
 Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in Sd/-
 Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
 FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27811415
 DP/705/ON/19 Mob.: 7065036327

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
 General public is hereby informed that a boy named **Bir Bhan, S/o Munshi Lal, R/o H.No. A-106, Raja Vihar, Samaipur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 19.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 61-A dated 20.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/ kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/ kidnapped boy is as under:
Name: Bir Bhan, Gender: Male, Age: 19 years Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue & Green colour shirt, black colour pant and black colour sandal in his feet.
 If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/ Samaipur Badli, Delhi.
 E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. 011-27854757, 27854799
 DP/700/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

 General public is hereby informed that a Boy namely **Nikhil @ Nikki S/o Sita Ram, R/o Village Madhopur, PS. Dandhla, Distt. Vaishali, Bihar, Age: 12 yrs., Height : 4'6", Complexion : Shallow, Face : Oval, Wearing : T-Shirt and Grey Colour Pant,** has been missing / kidnapped since 22.09.2019 from the area of PS. Budh Vihar. In this regard a case DD No. 95-A dated 22.09.2019 has been lodged at PS. Budh Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped boy please inform undersigned.
 Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
 DP/3396/RD/19. PS. Budh Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27052772, 27052773

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

 General public is here by informed that one girl namely: **Elima, D/o Puttan R/o H.No. 22, Chhajju Ram Colony, Kamruddin Nagar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi Age: 21 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Black Suit, Grey Salwar, Black Dupatta & Hawai Chappal in feet** has been missing / kidnapped since 19.09.2019 from the area of PS. Nihal Vihar. In this regard a DD No. 32-A dated 21.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.
 E-Mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/2801/OD/19

IMF: India's GDP growth to rebound to 7% next fiscal

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sees Indian economic growth rebounding to around 7 per cent in the next financial year, supported by measures like monetary policy stimulus and corporate income tax cuts.

"We see the Indian economy rebounding from our projected 6.1 per cent growth this fiscal year to something like 7 per cent in the next fiscal year (2020). We see the factors that will support growth, including monetary policy stimulus, working their way through the pipeline," Jonathan Ostry, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Department at the IMF, told reporters.

The recent tax cuts, Government's progress in addressing lingering weaknesses in the financial sector and measures to support growth sectors as seen as factors underpinning growth in the near term, Ostry said. Talking about the slowdown in Indian economy in recent quarters, he said: "indeed (it) took many of us by surprise, including the IMF."

"There wasn't a single cause for the slowdown... there were many different causes at work including corporate and regulatory environmental uncertainties, the stresses in the

Recent tax cuts, Government's progress in addressing lingering weaknesses in the financial sector and measures to support growth sectors as seen as factors underpinning growth in the near term

non-bank financial sector, (and) stresses in the rural sector, among others," he said.

Asked about the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which India is reportedly cautious to sign as the multi-lateral trade pact negotiations are widely expected to be concluded in the coming months, he underlined the importance of having services included in the free-trade partnership agreement.

Much greater attention to integration type issues is essential to sustain growth in south Asia, he said, adding "This needs to include not only goods trade, but more importantly services trade — which could provide a substantial engine of growth for India and other south Asian economies going forward," said Ostry.

There is a need to take steps to invigorate the deliberation process and structural reforms more generally because

India has a potential enormous demographic dividend over the next couple of decades through which about 150 million people will be entering the workforce, he pointed out.

"We consider services as an important source of growth and productivity to enhance investments in the period ahead," he underlined.

India's success in the service sector has been especially remarkable as its share of the world's information and communication technologies service exports almost tripled in a decade, from 6.3 per cent in 2000 to 17.8 per cent in 2010, recording the largest increase globally for the sector, according to the IMF report.

"This performance was strongly associated with an emphasis on tertiary education and a low degree of regulation of the sector," said the regional economic outlook 'Asia and Pacific — Caught in Prolonged Uncertainty: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia, released here on Wednesday.

Asked for comments about the reported relocation of US companies out of China amidst the trade tension with the United States, Ostry said a key concern in this trade tension has been the undermining of the global supply chains and global technology chains.

Investments via P-notes fall for fourth month in a row

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dropping for the fourth consecutive month, investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital market stood at ₹76,611 crore at the end of September.

P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly after going through a due diligence process.

Investments through P-notes have been continuously declining since June, according to the latest data from markets regulator Sebi. The total value of P-note investments in the Indian markets — equity, debt, and derivatives — declined to ₹76,611 crore till September-end, from ₹79,088 crore at August-end, showed the data.

At the end of July, the Indian capital market saw a total inflow of ₹81,082 crore via P-notes, a fall as compared to ₹81,913 crore till June-end. The investment had stood at ₹82,619 in May.

In July, the board of Sebi had approved a proposal to rationalise the framework for issuance of P-notes — an instrument once very popular with foreign investors.

HCL Tech Q2 net profit up 6.9 pc to ₹2,711 cr, announces bonus shares

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT major HCL Technologies on Wednesday posted a 6.9 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,711 crore for the September 2019 quarter, and raised its revenue growth forecast to 17 per cent for 2019-20.

The company, which had registered a net profit of ₹2,534 crore in the year-ago period as per the Indian Accounting Standards (IndAS), has also announced a bonus share offer.

Its revenue from operations grew 18 per cent to ₹17,527 crore in the quarter under review, from ₹14,860 crore in the year-ago period.

The company has raised its revenue growth outlook to 15-17 per cent for 2019-20 from its previous forecast of 14-16 per cent topline growth in constant currency terms. HCL Technologies' board has declared a dividend of ₹2 per share. It has also announced a bonus share offer under which one bonus share will be given for every share held. The proposal is subject to approval of shareholders and regulatory nodes.

"HCLites have delivered yet another outstanding quarter with a 20.5 per cent year-on-year growth, translating to a more than 14 per cent industry leading organic growth. Our sharp focus on pricing and cost levers over the last 6 months

have helped deliver a solid EBIT (earnings before interest and tax) of 20 per cent," said C Vijayakumar, president and chief executive officer, HCL Technologies. In dollar terms, the net profit grew 5.5 per cent to USD 376.2 million for the September 2019 quarter, while revenue surged by 18.4 per cent to USD 2.48 billion as compared to the year-ago period, as per the US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

INDIAN BANK NET PROFIT RISES OVER TWO-FOLD

Indian Bank on Wednesday reported over a two-fold rise in net profit at ₹358.56 crore for the September quarter. The state-owned lender had posted a net profit of ₹150.1 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income increased to ₹6,045.32 crore for the September quarter, from ₹5,129.16 crore in the same period last year, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

Asset quality remained stable with the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) marginally rising 7.20 per cent of the advances as on end-September 2019, as against 7.16 per cent by September 2018. However, net NPAs declined to 3.54 per cent of the advances at the end of second quarter of this fiscal, from 4.23 per cent in the year-ago period. The bank's

provisioning for bad loans and contingencies declined to ₹909.36 crore for the quarter under review, from ₹1,004.3 crore in second quarter of 2018-19. Provision for bad loans too declined to ₹720.90 crore for the July-September quarter, from ₹752.47 crore in the year-ago period.

JSW STEEL NET PROFIT JUMPS OVER 21 PC

JSW Steel on Wednesday reported a 21.51 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,536 crore for the quarter ended September 30. The domestic steel major had clocked a consolidated net profit of ₹2,087 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year, JSW Steel said in a BSE filing.

The company's total income dropped to ₹17,728 crore, compared with ₹21,608 crore in the year-ago period. However, its total expenses during the quarter fell to ₹17,025 crore, against ₹18,583 crore a year ago.

HDFC LIFE INSURANCE Q2 PROFIT UP 7PC

HDFC Life Insurance Company on Wednesday posted 7.5 per cent rise in standalone net profit to ₹308.69 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The company's net profit in the year-ago period stood at ₹286.98 crore.

Total income of the insurance firm rose to ₹8,661.56 crore from ₹7,902.10 in the same quarter a year ago, HDFC Life said in a regulatory filing. The asset under the management of insurance firm rose to ₹1.3 lakh crore.

"We have delivered strong performance across all key metrics and have continued to sustain our profitability. Despite a challenging macro-environment, we have grown by 35 per cent on individual weighted received premium, compared to industry growth of 11 per cent," HDFC Life Insurance Managing Director Vibha Padalkar said.

MUTHOOT CAPITAL Q2 PROFIT DROPS BY 35PC

Non-banking financial company Muthoot Capital Services has reported 34.6 per cent decline in standalone net profit to ₹14.02 crore for the second quarter ended September. The company had profit of ₹21.42 crore in July-September quarter of 2018-19. Muthoot Capital Services said in a statement. However, the total income rose to ₹145.02 crore for the second quarter this fiscal as against ₹132.14 crore in the year-ago quarter. The company disbursed two-wheeler loans amounting to ₹463.2 crore and had a total disbursement of ₹487.8 crore during the quarter, it said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11596.20	11651.60	11554.40	11604.10	15.75
HCLTECH	1070.00	1103.95	1068.00	1102.00	37.55
EIGHERMOT	19976.00	20740.90	19779.00	20480.00	501.15
INFY	630.00	656.65	615.10	650.35	14.80
MARUTI	7201.05	7472.00	7200.00	7415.20	158.95
JSWSTEEL	218.60	224.80	215.75	224.35	4.65
TITAN	1331.95	1366.35	1327.05	1356.00	26.55
SBIN	270.75	277.80	268.65	275.35	4.85
BRITANNIA	3260.00	3344.50	3253.00	3300.00	51.95
TCS	2060.00	2083.85	2052.50	2082.00	30.60
HDFC	2116.00	2148.00	2104.70	2144.20	29.30
HEROMOTOCO	2670.05	2738.00	2634.00	2707.00	32.35
BAJAJ-AUTO	3122.40	3237.35	3095.00	3159.00	36.70
ICICIBANK	452.00	459.00	448.20	456.35	5.20
TECHM	717.65	734.40	716.35	725.50	7.85
HINDUNILVR	2119.45	2137.45	2098.00	2136.90	19.95
BAJAJFINSV	8173.00	8276.60	8021.00	8076.10	67.25
ITC	250.40	251.95	249.05	250.75	1.85
POWERGRID	205.00	207.00	202.30	206.30	1.25
AXISBANK	718.00	730.00	710.05	716.40	3.65
HDFCBANK	1246.85	1249.75	1233.00	1245.00	5.70
TATAMOTORS	130.45	133.80	127.25	132.30	0.55
TATASTEEL	352.00	358.75	349.25	355.85	1.35
WIPRO	252.80	255.55	250.05	254.90	0.95
BAIFINANCE	4089.95	4110.00	3968.00	4047.00	12.85
DREDDY	2806.80	2841.95	2755.05	2818.95	8.20
NTPC	120.25	121.70	120.25	121.10	0.20
UPL	598.30	600.90	591.10	597.85	0.85
INFRACEL	258.60	260.70	252.40	259.15	0.35
ULTRACEMCO	4275.85	4299.00	4212.00	4251.15	1.85
SUNPHARMA	405.60	411.35	403.00	405.00	0.10
COALINDIA	209.40	211.70	206.55	208.70	-0.10
CIPAL	456.65	456.80	448.10	453.30	-0.60
NESTLEIND	15091.00	15125.85	14916.25	14983.00	-37.00
HINDALCO	185.10	187.60	184.00	185.20	-0.55
ASIANPAINT	1762.40	1800.00	1762.00	1771.20	-9.00
GAIL	123.90	129.90	128.10	128.70	-0.80
INDUSINDBK	1339.00	1347.95	1309.65	1332.50	-8.50
M&M	596.90	599.65	587.15	591.55	-4.25
LT	1445.00	1448.90	1418.60	1431.40	-11.15
KOTAKBANK	1630.00	1638.70	1603.30	1615.90	-17.90
RELIANCE	1416.30	1425.95	1383.15	1394.00	-20.15
IOC	145.45	147.55	144.10	144.30	-2.15
BPCL	531.50	536.80	524.60	526.00	-8.10
YESBANK	51.80	53.90	49.20	51.00	-0.80
ONGC	144.25	144.95	141.25	142.00	-2.25
GRASIM	755.00	755.00	735.30	741.00	-15.05
VEDL	149.00	150.00	145.50	145.90	-3.25
ZEE	253.00	253.30	240.05	242.00	-8.45
BHARTIARTL	373.50	378.00	355.00	360.40	-13.70
ADANIPORTS	418.00	419.00	395.00	395.10	-25.65

BSE 500

SCRIP	Open	High	Low	LTP	IRB	74.00	85.65	71.65	80.95	GICRE	262.05	271.35	243.00	246.80	OBOROILITY	527.00	527.00	492.00	494.15	TEAMLEASE	3049.15	3049.45	2978.00	3002.00
INFY	637.30	656.40	615.10	650.75	PIIND	1319.10	1332.20	1319.10	1332.20	CASTROLIND	165.00	135.40	133.10	134.10	WABAG	195.45	203.50	194.00	195.60	ALLCARGO	99.10	101.00	98.55	99.35
YESBANK	51.90	53.50	49.20	51.25	INDIACEM	79.00	83.60	79.00	82.70	GMRINFRA	19.10	19.80	18.65	19.75	CHENNPETRO	165.00	165.20	157.00	158.20	ORIENTCEM	83.00	83.00	79.20	79.45
RBLBANK	258.25	270.65	230.55	259.25	BANKINDIA	64.85	66.70	63.65	66.35	GLENMARK	300.00	301.70	293.00	298.40	PGHL	4374.85	4424.60	4340.05	4346.00	TINDIA	372.00	373.30	364.50	364.50
BULHSGFIN	217.10	224.80	201.50	206.20	INDIANB	127.05	148.50	126.40	142.90	PRESTIGE	292.60	326.25	292.60	309.50	RELAXO	526.40	540.00	513.30	529.20	CARBORUNIV	297.80	306.90	295.85	305.15
ADANIPORTS	419.90	419.90	395.10	396.25	GRAPHITE	314.75	316.40	293.05	295.15	BANDHANBANK	563.90	566.40	551.00	555.90	KANSAINER	525.50	539.30	523.00	539.30	KRBL	232.00	232.00	222.85	229.30
MARUTI	7222.00	7468.00	7211.00	7439.50	APOLLOTYRE	184.85	185.30	181.50	183.40	MUTHOOTFIN	689.60	696.35	682.10	683.45	CHAMBLFERT	157.50	161.50	156.40	160.00	ISL	34.75	34.90	34.10	34.25
ICICIBANK	453.40	459.75	448.20	455.65	SPICEJET	116.50	119.00	115.30	115.65	CANFINHOME	392.25	398.50	387.00	388.25	EIDPARRY	161.05	172.00	159.00	164.65	GOFOILUB	878.00	889.00	860.00	885.00
RELIANCE	1417.00	1425.50	1383.40	1392.85	BERGEPAGE	480.00	491.75	475.00	487.00	MARICO	396.00	396.00	390.00	393.70	PARAGMILK	157.70	160.25	156.00	157.60	GDMCLTD	58.60	59.90	57.55	58.15
BAIFINANCE	4080.00	4105.45	3968.00	4046.00	WHIRLPOOL	246.60	2204.00	2138.35	2153.00	INFIBEAM	43.00	44.00	42.45	43.65	CRISIL	1379.50	1400.05	1345.00	1394.05	SJVN	25.60	25.60	24.70	24.90
TATAMOTORS	130.15	133.85	127.35	132.65	LICHSFIN	374.95	376.20	369.95	375.10	SWANENERGY	107.70	107.70	103.75	105.75	JISLALPHA	10.85	11.40	10.50	11.40	EVEAREADY	42.50	43.45	41.25	43.45
AXISBANK	713.10	730.00	710.70	714.80	L&TFH	87.00	88.60	85.60	87.65	GAIL	130.00	130.00	128.10	128.45	AIANTPHARM	1003.55	1017.45	999.85	1003.95	SOBHA	445.00	445.00	432.75	438.25
JUBLFOOD	1466.00	1558.65	1463.40	1550.00	ADANIEN	178.00	178.45	172.45	176.30	DIVISLAB	1742.05	1751.65	1726.95	1734.95	SOUTHBANK	10.42	10.45	10.29	10.35	IOB	9.85	9.90	9.71	9.80
SBIN	270.95	277.70	268.80	275.50	LTTTS	1494.85	1517.25	1477.50	1500.60	IGL	372.10	372.10	364.40	365.90	JINDALSA	87.90	88.05	86.55	86.95	FINCABLES	40.40	40.40	37.90	37.60
FORTIS	138.85	139.50	135.90	137.35	COALINDIA	210.00	211.65	206.65	208.50	INDHOTEL	151.50	155.00	150.00	150.55	TIMKEN	796.00	797.45	785.00	788.30	ITDCEM	42.95	42.95	40.55	41.70

39 found dead in truck container near London

Driver arrested

PTI ■ LONDON

In an appalling tragedy, 39 people were found dead on Wednesday near London in a container truck, which came from Bulgaria, and police have arrested the driver of the vehicle for questioning.

Essex Police said they were called by the local ambulance service on Wednesday early morning after the discovery at Waterglade Industrial Park at Eastern Avenue in Grays area of Essex, south-east England.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "appalled by this tragic incident" and UK home secretary Priti Patel expressed shock at the discovery in Twitter statements.

While there is no confirmation of the nationalities of the victims, officials said the truck came from Bulgaria and entered the UK via Holyhead port in



Police attend the scene after a truck was found to contain 39 dead bodies inside the truck in Thurrock, South England, on Wednesday

Wales on Saturday.

According to Essex Police, early indications are that 38 adults and one teenager have died, with no information of any survivors.

Essex Police Chief

Superintendent Andrew Mariner said officers were trying to identify victims as their enquiries remain ongoing after the arrest of the 25-year-old driver from Northern Ireland.

He said: "This is a tragic incident where a large number of people have lost their lives. Our enquiries are ongoing to establish what has happened. We are in the process of identifying the victims, however I anticipate that this could be a lengthy process. "We have arrested the lorry driver in connection with the incident who remains in police custody as our enquiries continue," he said.

A police cordon remains in place at the industrial estate where the discovery was made.

"I am receiving regular updates and the Home Office will work closely with Essex Police as we establish exactly what has happened. My thoughts are with all those who lost their lives and their loved ones," British premier Johnson said.

HK Govt withdraws bill that sparked protests

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong authorities on Wednesday withdrew an unpopular extradition bill that sparked months of chaotic protests that have since morphed into a campaign for greater democratic change.

Secretary for Security John

Lee told the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's legislature that the Government suspended the bill because it had resulted in "conflicts in society."

In order to clearly spell out the Government's position, "I formally announce the withdrawal of the bill" Lee told lawmakers. Pro-democracy law-

makers immediately tried to question him, but he refused to respond.

There are no signs that the withdrawal of the bill will dampen the protests, now in their fifth month.

The rallies have snowballed into the city's biggest political crisis in decades, expanding to demands for universal suffrage and an investigation into allegations of police abuses, most recently including the spraying of a mosque and bystanders with high-pressure blue-dyed water from an urban assault vehicle.

The long-expected scrapping of the bill was overshadowed by the drama surrounding the release from a Hong Kong prison of the murder suspect at the heart of the extradition case controversy.

Chan Tong-kai, who completed a separate sentence for money laundering, told reporters after his release Wednesday that he wished to turn himself in to authorities in Taiwan, where he's wanted for killing his pregnant girlfriend, Poon Hiu-wing.

Taiwan announced Tuesday that it was willing to send a delegation to bring Chan back to the self-ruled island for trial, but Hong Kong rejected the offer, saying the suspect should be allowed to fly unaccompanied to turn himself in.

The controversy is rooted in the unwillingness of Hong Kong to recognise the legitimacy of the legal bodies in Taiwan, which communist leaders in Beijing consider a breakaway province.

China rejects report of replacing HK leader Lam

Beijing: China on Wednesday rejected a media report that it is drawing up a plan to remove Hong Kong's beleaguered Chief Executive Carrie Lam, describing it as a "political rumour with ulterior motives".

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying rejected the report by London-based *Financial Times*, which claimed that China plans to replace Lam with an interim chief executive.

"It was a political rumour with ulterior motives behind it,"

Hua told the media here when asked for her reaction to the FT report.

It was not clear yet whether China is playing down the report as Lam's resignation is a prime demand of the pro-democracy protesters. Beijing had also declined to permit Lam to withdraw the controversial extradition bill, which sparked the protests. The bill was withdrawn on Wednesday by the Hong Kong government in the local legislature in big win for the protestors. PTI

Esper arrives in Baghdad to discuss US troop deployments

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Defense Secretary Mark Esper arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday, as chaos swirled along the Turkey-Syria border and Iraqi leaders chafed over reports the US may want to increase the number of troops based in Iraq at least temporarily.

Esper has said that under the current plan, all US troops leaving Syria will go to western Iraq and the military would continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State group to prevent its resurgence in the region. He later added that the troops would be there temporarily until they are able to go home, but no time period has been set. He said on Wednesday that the US has no plans to leave those troops in Iraq "interminably."

Iraq's military, however, said on Tuesday that US troops leaving Syria and heading to neighboring Iraq do not have permission to stay in the country, even as

the American forces continue to pull out of northern Syria after Turkey's invasion of the border region. Esper said Wednesday he plans to talk with Iraqi leaders about the matter.

Meanwhile, Russia and Turkey reached an agreement on Tuesday that would deploy their forces across nearly its entire northeastern border to fill the void left by President Donald Trump's abrupt withdrawal of US forces. It was unclear on Wednesday what that means for US forces.

Trump ordered the bulk of the approximately 1,000 US troops in Syria to withdraw after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made it clear in a phone call that his forces were about to invade Syria to push back Kurdish forces that Turkey considers terrorists.

The pullout largely abandons the Kurdish allies who have fought the Islamic State group alongside US troops for several years.

Iran welcomes Turkey-Russia deal on Syria

Tehran: Iran's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday welcomed a recent deal between Turkey and Russia aimed at keeping Kurdish forces away from Syria's border with Turkey.

"Iran welcomes any measure that would honour territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Syria," Xinhua quoted the Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying in a statement.

Iran regards the deal as a "positive step to restore stability and tranquility to the region," he said.

"We hope that this agreement would address Turkey's security concerns as well as Syria's territorial integrity and national sovereignty," he added.

On Tuesday, Russian and Turkish presidents agreed their forces to jointly patrol parts of northern borders of Syria.

Under the deal, Russian military police and Syrian border guards will also facilitate the withdrawal of Syrian Kurdish forces from the Turkish border. IANS

Vikram lander not found in NASA's latest images

New Delhi: US Space agency NASA has once again failed to trace Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander on the lunar surface.

A NASA spacecraft clicked photos of the landing site of Vikram earlier this month, but couldn't capture the lander.

A NASA scientist said the spacecraft failed to trace Vikram because of two reasons — one, Vikram is located outside the area the US agency photographed, second, because it's lying in a shadowed part of the moon.

On July 22, the ₹978-crore Chandrayaan-2 was launched into space by India's heavy lift rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (GSLV Mk III) in a text book style.

The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft comprised three segments — the Orbiter (weighing 2,379 kg, eight payloads), Vikram (1,471 kg, four payloads) and Pragyan (27 kg, two payloads).

After five earth-bound orbit raising activities, Chandrayaan-2 was inserted into the lunar orbit. On September 2, Vikram separated from the orbiter. It made a historic landing attempt on September 7.

According to NASA, Vikram attempted a landing on a small patch of lunar highland smooth plains between Simpelius N and Manzinus C craters.

This event was India's first attempt at a soft landing on the moon. IANS

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all General Public that M/s. Surinder Kumar & Co. have changed its Registered Office address from F-47C, MIG Flats, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 to J-1, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015.
Shashi Bhushan Kohli (Partner)

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE
The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-VI, I&FC Department, Govt. of Delhi, Bharat Nagar Office Complex, Delhi-110052, invites on behalf of the President documents before the closing of the approved and eligible contractors registered with I&FC Department and contractor who are registered with other Deptt. and got their registration verified from I&FC Deptt. upto 3.00 PM, on 31.10.2019 for the following:-
1. Name of Work:- Construction of boundary wall in available encroachment free land for water body bearing khasra No. 108 in village Garhi Bakhtawarpur in Distt. North. Head of Account:- 4515-Plan DVDB Works. Estimate Cost:- Rs. 1,72,42,971.00. Earnest Money:- Rs. 3,44,850.00. Time Allowed:- 06 Months (Five years free maintenance period). Last Date & Time of Submission of Bids Through E-Procurement Solution:- 31.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM. Time & Date of Opening of Tender:- 31.10.2019 at 3:10 PM. Tender ID No. 2019/JFC/182184.1.
Note:- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
The tenderer shall have to scan zerox copy of the mode of Earnest Money Deposit this office and other relevant documents as required in NIT and then upload the same scanned copies, duly signed by him owning responsibility for their correctness / authenticity in support of their eligibility, along with the tender at web site: Attested copy of relevant documents and Earnest money in physical form as stated above should be deposited in the office of EE, CD-VI, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of Delhi, Office Complex, Bharat Nagar, Delhi-110052 before the last date & time for submission of price bids in the form of treasury challan / deposit at call receipt of schedule bank / fixed deposit receipt of schedule bank / demand draft of a schedule bank issued in favour of Executive Engineer-CD-VI, I&FC Deptt. failure to furnish the original mode of Earnest money and all relevant documents before the closing of the tender will entail rejection of tender. Details of above mention work can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> upto 15.00 Mts. on 31.10.2019. No manual tender shall be accepted only tender submitted through E-procurement portal shall be considered.
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-VI, I&FC Deptt.
DIP/Shabdharth/0869/19-20

EU debates Brexit delay as Johnson eyes election

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

European leaders were deciding whether to postpone Brexit and for how long Wednesday, while Prime Minister Boris Johnson's eyes turned towards a snap general election.

In tense parliamentary votes on Tuesday, Johnson won preliminary backing for the divorce deal he agreed with the EU, which would have seen Britain leave the bloc on October 31.

But, in a fresh twist to the divorce saga, MPs also rejected his bid to curtail parliamentary scrutiny of the bill and rush it through in a matter of days. European Council President Donald Tusk has recommended that EU's 27 other member states grant a

flexible extension until January 31, 2020 — to be cut short if Britain ratifies the deal before then.

But the decision on how long a prolongation will last will fall to member state leaders, many of whom would prefer a shorter delay to keep the pressure on Westminster to approve the deal quickly.

Ireland's prime minister, Leo Varadkar, told Tusk in a call that he supports the January 31 date, but German and, especially, French officials are talking in terms of a much shorter timeline.

"If it's a question of pushing back the date by two or three weeks, to give MPs in London a chance to ratify, then it's not really a problem," German foreign minister Heiko Maas told RTL television.

GLOBE TROTTER

GREECE: MIGRANT CHILD KILLED IN BOAT COLLISION
Thessaloniki (Greece): A Greek coast guard patrol boat collided with a dinghy carrying migrants to the island of Kos from Turkey on Wednesday, leaving a child dead and another person missing, authorities said.

42 STUDENTS HURT: NEPAL SCHOOL VERANDA CAVES IN
Kathmandu: At least 42 students were injured when a veranda of a school collapsed in the outskirts of Kathmandu on Wednesday, police said.

HRW URGES CHILE TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS
Washington: Human Rights Watch on Tuesday urged the government of Chile to respect human rights while containing protests that have already left 15 people dead.

ELEPHANTS DYING OF THIRST IN ZIMBABWE

Harare: A big relief operation is underway at one of Zimbabwe's best-known game parks where elephants are starving to death because of drought. Almost all water pans in the Mana Pools National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, have dried up, reported Efe news. Dave McFarland, a safari operator and coordinator of the new "Feed Mana" operation said: "We saw four calves that never made it (in the last 10 days)."

PAK TO TAKE PART IN AF PEACE TALKS IN MOSCOW

Islamabad: Pakistan on Wednesday said it will take part in the four-party dialogue on the Afghan peace process to be held in Moscow next month, which will try to revive the stalled negotiations.

TUNISIA PREZ SWORN IN AFTER UPSTAIR POLL WIN

Tunis: Tunisia's new President Kais Saied took the oath of office on Wednesday after his surprise election victory over champions of the political establishment.

KAVYAM

"KAVYAM"-AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 and also notification no. NO. PF-27/15922 dated 05.07.2019 & Memo No. Misc-2307/8/26/2017-2TCP dated 09.07.2018 (details available at the Department website, ie. tcp.haryana.gov.in).

1.	Project Approvals	Coloniser/Developer: Agrante Realty Ltd License No/ Year: 101/2017 Building Plan Approved on 06.07.2018
2.	Location	Sector 108, Gurugram, Haryana
3.	Provisions	Project Area : 5 acres comprising a total 723 no. of apartments. Community Facilities : One Community Hall of 2000 sqft and One Anganwadi-cum-Creche of 2000 sqft.
4.	Apartment Details	Category 1 : 73 no. of apartments of 512.50 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 130.30 sqft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. Category 2 : 1 no. of apartments of 512.50 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 130.30 sqft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. Category 3 : 269 no. of apartments of 488.30 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 79.73 sqft (approx.) with a two wheeler parking.
5.	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)	Category 1 & 2: Rs. 21.00 lakhs/ apartment; Category 3: Rs. 19.93 lakhs/ apartment. The above rate is an all-inclusive cost of apartment as per rates prescribed under the policy notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (details available at the Department website, ie. tcp.haryana.gov.in) and subsequent amendments as applicable. • Statutory & government taxes are as applicable.
6.	Payment Terms	i. With application: Booking amount, i.e., 5% of cost of flat. ii. On allotment: Additional 20% of cost of flat. iii. Balance 75% of the amount in six equal monthly instalments over three year period. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall invite interest as provided in rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority. Rules, 2017
7.	Broad Specifications of the Apartment	2BHK + 3 Balconies 2BHK + 2 Balconies (Detailed specifications are provided, in application form)
8.	Applications Timelines	i. Applications can be procured from: 704, DLF Tower-B, Jasola, and New Delhi by paying an application fee of Rs 1000/- starting from 24.10.2019 & also from the website of www.kavyamhomes.com . ii. In continuation of advertisement dated 03.07.2019, it is to inform to the general public that date for submission of booking application form has now been extended till date 23.11.2019 iii. All Applicants who have already applied and the prospective applicant are also directed to submit an affidavit declaring "weather applicant is or not identified beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and relevant documents

Eligibility:-
1. Any person can apply but person which includes his/her spouse or his/her dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban Areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given first preference in allotment of flats.
2. The applicant identified under PMAY shall be given first preference.
3. Any applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retain only one flat.

Allotment Criteria:-
1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (available at the Department website, i.e., tcp.haryana.gov.in) and subsequent amendments as applicable.
4. Agrante Realty Ltd 704 7th floor DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi.

RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018.
Contact at: - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 011-41924100-199, 8800499325, 8800499674

Office of the Resident Representative
KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION
Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi-110 002
Ph.: 011-23724695 Fax: 23724694 E-mail: rrkvc@gmail.com

No. RRO/Tender-AMC/2019-20 Date: 21.10.2019

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited from the interested parties/ Agencies/ Firms for Empanelment for providing following services:

Sr. No.	Description	E.M.D./ Security (In Rs.)	Date for the sale of tender	Last Date for the sale of tender	Cost of Tender Form (In Rs.)
1.	Manpower Services (Stenographer, Computer Operator, Cook, Sweeper, Helper/ Multi-task staff, Sales Girls / Boys)	4.00 Lac	24.10.2019	13.11.2019	1000
2.	Rental Taxi Services	0.50 Lac	24.10.2019	13.11.2019	1000

The detailed terms and conditions are given in tender document which can be purchased in cash, on any working day between 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. Tender forms can also be downloaded from our website www.kvcic.org.in, however, the cost of tender form will have to be deposited along with the tender in the shape of demand draft / pay order drawn in favour of "Resident Representative, KVIC, New Delhi".

Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders on 14.11.2019 at 15.00 Hrs.
The Dy CEO/RR will be empowered to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
(Vinay Kumar) Director

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Abhinav Saini / Aarti Saini / LBDEL00002351311	Flat No-T-06-1104, 11th Floor, Tower T-06, Paras Tiera Plot No-GH-01, Sector 137 G B Nagar, Noida Uttar Pradesh / Oct 17, 2019	Dec 30, 2017 Rs. 18,86,537/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Y Venkatanarasimha Rao / Yellapragada Mohini / LBDEL00004369557	House No- 620, Ground Floor, Sector- 12 Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh / Oct 19, 2019	Oct 27, 2019 Rs. 71,50,756/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Sahil Dhawan / Poonam Pruthi / LBDEL00002355219	Flat No TC-1907 19th Floortower C The Aranya Residency Plot No Gh 02 Sector 119 Noida-201301/ Oct 18, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 53,11,978/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Ashish Tiwari / Krishana Lata Dwivedi / LBDEL00002869145	Flat No T4-2302 23th Floor Tower-T4 The Aranya Heights Plot No Gh-02 Sec- 119 Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301. Oct 18, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 57,95,359/-	Delhi/ Ncr
5.	Abha Jain / Rajkumar Jain / Aditya Jain / LBDEL00002304359	Appartment No. Ute091, The Ultima, Dlf Garden City, Sector 81, Gurgaon And/ Or Ute 091, 9th Floor, Dlf Ultima, Tower E, Village Lakhnola , Sector 81, Gurgaon/ Oct 19, 2019	Aug 31, 2018 Rs. 1,39,64,133/-	Delhi/ Ncr
6.	Shrotriya Adhir / Shrotriya Preeti / LBNOD00002111721	Flat No B-1707, 17th Floortower-B Gardenia Gateway Plot No 10 Sector-75 Noida Noida201301. October 17, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 60,91,708/-	Delhi/ Ncr
7.	Subhendu Sinha / Nandita Sinha / LBGUR00002317897	Flat No-1605, Tower-B, 16th Floor, Gardenia Gateway (In Eco City) Sector-75 Plot No-10, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. October 17, 2019	June 27, 2019 Rs. 64,93,323/-	Delhi/ Ncr
8.	Amit Jindal / Sunita Jindal / LBGUR00002280934	Flat No B2-1602, 15th Floortower No- Gh 02 Victory Ace Sector-143 Noida Noida201301 / October 17, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 54,22,404/-	Delhi/ Ncr
9.	Krishna Chandra Jha/ Rinku Jha / LBDEL00002412631	Flat No 50, 2nd Floor Sector 34, Pocket 2 Block E3 Rohini Delhi / October 17, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 14,83,496/-	Delhi/ Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 24-10-2019 Place: Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Trend
Blazer

Salman is back as Chulbul Pandey

Actor SALMAN KHAN is back as the 'policewala gunda' Chulbul Pandey in the trailer of *Dabangg 3*.

Going by the trailer, the film will take the audience to the time of Chulbul Pandey's life before he becomes a cop. There are some strong punches, kicks and shirtless fight scenes in addition to romance.

The over three-minute trailer ends with his signature dialogue: "Swagat toh karo hamara."

Directed by Prabhudeva, the film also stars Sonakshi Sinha, Saiee Manjrekar and Kiccha Sudeep, who will be seen as the villain.



'Completing a project and seeing your designs coming to life keeps me going and inspired to do good work. Getting the 'Design Person of the Year' award at BW Future Of Design Summit & Awards 2019 feels great. My message to those who are beginning is that if you're passionate about your work, you will be a winner.'

—Gauri Khan

The second edition of the Critics' Choice Short Film Awards will have entries from the nooks and corners but with a major addition.

This time, the panel of critics will also be reviewing and awarding web series that have made strides in their field and have added to the entertainment sector of the country.

ANUPAMA CHOPRA, chairperson, Film Critics' Guild said, "I am thrilled that this year we can extend the awards to series - some of the most exciting storytelling is happening in this space. And shorts are a personal favourite."

I'm not a crazy shopper: Sarah

The *Sex and the City* star SARAH JESSICA PARKER isn't a huge fan of shopping. In fact, she says shopping sometimes can give her anxiety.

"I'm not a crazy shopper. I haven't been for many years. I mean, I think I used to be a little more so. But shopping sometimes can give me anxiety. I feel bad. If I buy something, I'm like, 'Oh do I really need that? Will I want that in five years? Is that going to look good on me in five years?'"

Sarah is known for her role as Carrie Bradshaw on the HBO television series *Sex and the City*, for which she won two Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards and three screen actors guild awards.



Crafting opulence

At designer RITU BERI's Luxury League Symposium 2019, the panellists discussed what the term signified for each of them.

By CHAHAK MITTAL

When Brand India is about wellness, sustainability, luxury, craftsmanship why are Indians unable to leverage it soft power? questioned fashion designer Ritu Beri and added, "Be it *Basmati*, coconut or *haldi*, where is the global branding of India-authentic treasures? Why can't Indians stake claim to their glorious heritage?"

She explained that luxury wasn't looked upon as a good term for several years. Initially when she started The Luxury League Symposium, four years ago, people didn't understand what it meant. "However, today, with all the arts and culture involved, the concept of luxury has evolved. People are open to it. The Government's policies now respect and regard arts and craft. I think there is a huge revolution and we are really evolving," added Ritu.

Areas like fine dining, personal care, electronics, luxury travel and jewellery have seen increasing revenues and are expected to grow by 30 to 35 per cent over the next three years. Spending on luxury cars has also risen upto 18 to 20 per cent. Even the luxury beauty products market has witnessed a fast-paced growth.

WELLNESS AND SELF-GROOMING

The first session was a masterclass on the all-inclusive correlation of fashion, beauty, wellness and grooming. Speaking at the session, panelist Chinar Studio, design director Chinar Farooqui, said that finding like-minded consumers wasn't difficult for her luxury products. "People who responded were usually a set of artists, skilled craftspersons, designers and those who knew the value of arts and craft. Of course, it didn't

come as easily. It was extremely organic and gradual. We didn't aim at numbers but the demand only grew with an increase in the number of people recognising that such products have a qualitative edge and are made to suit their preferences better," said she.

For designer Rina Singh, comfort is the new luxury, especially when it comes to clothing. It is something that you cannot survive without. She explained further, "So luxury clothing should be meaningful and soulful. It is something that can be inspired by even your grandmother's wardrobe, which has every kind of old jewellery and designs, even though the originals are not preferred today. That is luxury — a couture concept, deep rooted in the past and the very own rich Indian heritage of textiles."

Most brand makers today realise that the consumers' approach is that when they actually come across their own preferred and quality-like product, they are ready to splurge on it. Gaurav Jai Gupta, textile and fashion designer, talked about how a change in the outlook of design has transformed the definition of luxury. "Earlier, it was only about Western fashion in design schools. Today, it has become more about finding an Indianness to the designs and giving them an aesthetic touch. We just need to hear our own voice," he said.

Well, for UK-based celebrity hairstylist Dar, luxury is "to look good everyday of your life. And this is very much evident when people fly to London for haircuts."

Akcelina Cvijetic, England-based wellness expert, said that good health is the only luxury one should have. "When your outer world seems less chaotic,

you live a luxurious and healthier lifestyle. Today, we have forgotten the art of what it means to be a human being. Stress and anxiety have become our greatest friends. Hence, I would like to point out that mindfulness is important rather than becoming manic," she said and demonstrated it by saying one thing — "I have to do this work" — in two different tones — one, hurriedly with anxiety and tension and two, in a slower pace with a bit more satisfaction and calmness in her voice. She showcased the difference between working with anxiety and working with a calm and peaceful mind which impact our level of productivity. Pointing towards morning hours, she said that they are a golden period for human beings and could be one of the greatest luxury anyone can afford.

CULTURAL TOURISM

At the second session, panellists discussed why are we as a nation presenting to the world through our cultural tourism, the charm of local communities, traditions, folklore, arts, spaces and our values.

Speaking at the session, Vijai Vardhan, additional chief secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of Haryana, pointed towards how tourism is yet another factor that determines the quality of luxury that we, as a country, can offer. "I was sur-



'EARLIER, IT WAS ONLY ABOUT WESTERN FASHION IN DESIGN SCHOOLS. TODAY, IT HAS BECOME MORE ABOUT FINDING AN INDIANNESS TO THE DESIGNS'



prised to see a huge man-made pond in Kurukshetra, which is known as the Brahmasarovar — unknown and undiscovered. It is a huge area where many saints and sages from various parts of the country come and live. You will be surprised to know how these people, who do not come from the upper echelons of society, reside there for days and months. They never live in any hotels or resorts, but prefer the ashrams where they prepare their own food and survive on their own," he said and added that a few kilometres near Kurukshetra, there is also the Geeta Updesh Sthal, where Lord Krishna gave the sermon in *Mahabharata*. "Even that has never been promoted as a tourist destination. There is a light and music show that takes place at the sight, depicting an episode from the epic too," said he as he pointed out a few other monuments and heritage sites in the state which have not yet been completely explored.

So now the challenge for the Haryana Government, Vardhan pointed out, was about how to promote such spots, making them a brand and opening for the people.

Lal Tyabji added that today, people no longer want to look at dead monuments, the walls of which are stained with people's names or *paan* splashes. "They want to see the live country and that is where the tangy of arts and craft comes in. Encouraging them to look at such monuments is itself making them in the light of luxury. Tourism could be one thing that can make the Brand India big," she said and added that luxury is no longer the preserve of the royals but have much more to it today, when even the usual public can have it.

Photo: Parikaj Kumar



Happiness is... a Diwali gift

Sweets, gold, chocolates are as passé as the quintessential *soan papdi*. It is time to up your game with some unconventional presents this festive season. By TEAM VIVA

People have usually confined themselves to conventional ideas for gifting on Diwali — most common examples being *soan papdi* and chocolates. However, it's time for some change. From protein-based cookies, e-vouchers, cufflinks and accessories to handcrafted sweets and eco-friendly hampers — there are newer options available to celebrate your valuable bond this festive season.

PROTEIN-PACKED TREATS

Diwali means sweets, and a piling up of kilos. But then, you can make health and festivities go hand in hand. Rather than a sugar rush one can pick up a special gift box by Myprotein which contains baked protein cookie, protein brownie and protein flapjack and a mini-shaker. The protein cookie is a vegan-friendly treat with added dark chocolate chunks. The brownie is another treat with 22.5 g protein mixed with the goodness of chocolate, making it an ideal on-the-go snack.

For those who are nuts, there is always California walnuts which offer a perfect blend of nutrition and sweetness every festive celebration deserves. Walnuts provide an excellent source of plant-based omega-3 fatty acid and a handful of walnuts also offers 4 gm of protein along with 2 gm of fibre.

ACCESSORIES

Gifting jewellery has been a trend but customers are now moving towards pieces which are trendier and more practical. The silver brooch by Mia (Tanishq) is perfect for the woman who has a quirky side and isn't afraid to think out of the box and take risks.

For men, what can be better than a pair of cufflinks by Corneliani? Made of brass and silver and in a variety of shapes like rectangle, oval and round.

DIGITAL GIFT VOUCHERS

The gifting market in India is estimated to soar to \$30 billion in the next four years out of which \$400 million would be digital gifts. With everyone becoming tech-savvy, it is not surprising that the gifting trend is moving towards digital. So one can go beyond traditional gifting of physically wrapped mementos and sweets that are now a 'passé' to personalised and digitised gifting.

GyFTR, an e-gift company offers digital gift vouchers to facilitate instant gifting and redemption. Such gift cards enhance the recipient's experience as they have an element of freedom of choice.

CHOCOLATES

Chocolates have been the most usual gift during festivities but Fabelle Exquisite, the home-grown luxury chocolate brand from ITC Ltd, is acclaimed for creating an unparalleled experiences. They have limited edition *Fabelle Trinity - Truffles Extraordinaire* range which brings alive the cycle of life represented by the creator, nurturer and destroyer in a box of unique handcrafted truffles, each representing a concept.

ECO-FRIENDLY DIWALI HAMPERS

While Diwali hampers are usual but it is eco friendly ones which are

the need of the hour. The ones by Crowne Plaza have wines, gourmet food items, roasted dry fruits, flavoured teas, beautiful Ganesha idol sets and designer candles and diyas,

all of which do not add to the pollution overload. They have curated five hampers named around the precious stones — Emerald, Sapphire, Pearl, Opal and Topaz to suit various preferences and pockets.

The hampers curated by Chambers at Taj Mahal answer several needs. There is one for kids, an exclusive organic hamper, *Season's Greetings* and *Festive Surprise* among others. These include an array of culinary gifts, handcrafted candles, limited edition accessories, luxury beauty essentials, exotic crystal ware, writing instruments by Mont Blanc, cufflinks and premium stoles by Taj Khazana and much more. From silver plated Ganesha idol, to beautifully presented Swarovski Champagne tulips and latest edition Apple Watch Series V to Forest Essentials Soundarya 24k Gold Kit and the finest balsamic pearls, this royal hamper is a dream encapsulated in a box this Diwali.

TRAVEL PACKAGES

For the travel junkie, what better gift than being allowed to take off on the Diwali weekend? Shoes on loose, a travel company can create some special memories to fascinating travel destinations recommended by the company including Europe, Bali, Dubai and Thailand. The best part? The best-discounted offers do not end with the festival and are on till October 27.

Belong to film-watching community: Konkana

National Award-winning actress and filmmaker Konkana Sen Sharma says she loves to watch and share films at film festivals because she feels the audience comprises pure movie-lovers and she belongs to that "film-watching" community.

Konkana was present at Jio MAMI 21st Mumbai Film Festival with *Star*, where Seema Pahwa's directorial debut *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*, which features her, was screened.

"I have been attending MAMI from even before I shifted base to Mumbai. I was so young then, I would come here with friends, sit in a bus and run around to watch films from one venue to another. I love film festivals because I feel that I belong to the film-watching community. These people, standing in long queues and watching films one after another, are the true film-lovers," Konkana said.

She added, "They do not care about box-office numbers and other commercial aspects. What matters to them is the story and other creative aspects of a film. So whenever I attend any film festival, I feel the vibe of a community that loves film for film. That is how even I started loving films. I just hope that the youngsters are getting the opportunity to watch world cinema through the film festival," said the actress.

Konkana apart, *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*, features Naseeruddin Shah, Vinay Pathak, Supriya Pathak and Vineet Kumar.

The film screened at Jio MAMI under the Spotlight section, and the cast and crew got a chance to watch it along with the audience. Konkana said the audience made the film special.

"I watched the film with the audience for the first time and it was so exciting to see their reaction. They laughed and sniffed, reacting to specific scenes and it was fun. Also this is an audience of true film-lover. They are here to watch the film because they are movie buffs," said Konkana.

Sharing her experience of working with veteran actress-turned-director Pahwa, Konkana said: "Seema ji is a brilliant and experienced storyteller, so all the actors felt we are in good hands. The film has all the great actors of the

business, and I was initially intimidated. I wanted to run away seeing such brilliant talents! But then Ma (her mother is the iconic actress-filmmaker Aparna Sen) said that you cannot just stick to your comfort zone. You have to push yourself to grow as a performer. So, I finally started shooting and that tension got eased."

"I have always carry some nervous energy at the beginning of my projects, whether it has been a new film or my directorial debut," shared the actress who has appeared in films such as *Mr and Mrs Iyer*, *Page 3*, *Omkara*, *Luck By Chance*, and *Wake Up Sid*.

Konkana recently travelled to Busan International Film Festival with Alankrita Shrivastava's forthcoming film *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare*, and has lately also worked with celebrated female filmmakers such as Meghna Gulzar, Alankrita Shrivastava, and Tanuja Chandra in films such as *Talvar*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *A Monsoon Date* respectively.

"Over the last few years, I have only been working with female filmmakers and I can say that is a positive change. When we went to Busan and the screening of *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* took place, we were quite surprised to see how the Korean audience was relating to a story that is set in India. During the interactive session, they were also asking pointed questions and that made us understand that the audience was feeling connected with the story."

Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare features Konkana with Bhumi Pednekar, and is set in Delhi. "I think there is a commonality among women worldwide. Whether they are rich or poor, married or unmarried, or they come from a rich country, the lives of women are all the same. They have a common thread, something that is relatable. I believe our film got appreciation at film festivals because of that," said the actress.

—IANS



PAINT THE PICTURE OF ROMANCE

SIMERON GHEI, India director, Jamaica Tourist Board, shares how it is promoting the country as a wedding destination because it provides the ideal backdrop for couples and newly-weds to create memories

◆**What are the facilities on offer for organising a wedding?**

Jamaica offers scenic beauty, gracious hospitality and excellent infrastructure as the destination opens its arms for Indian weddings looking for exotic destinations. Jamaica Tourist Board is committed to support and facilitate Indian weddings.

◆**How are you encouraging Jamaica as a wedding destination?**

Jamaica has won The World Travel Awards' designation as *The World's Leading Wedding Destination* in 2014, 2016 and 2017, and the country consistently ranks at the top in wedding and honeymoon destination. Jamaica's landscape provides the ideal backdrop for couples and newlyweds looking to create romantic memories. With its jagged coastline of thick foliage that opens to breath-taking waterfalls and idyllic secluded beaches, the destination oozes romance. With many flights to choose from, it is easy to get to Jamaica. Gather your friends and family in Jamaica to make a joyful noise as you solidify your union with your loved one. Tying the knot with your partner is one of the most exciting adventures of your life. Let us help make this happy time your fondest memory.

◆**What are the different kinds of settings on offer for holding a wedding?**

With its many years as world's top destinations for romance, every facet of Jamaica's tourism infrastructure is experienced in satisfying the needs of couples (for weddings, honeymoon and romantic vacation). Blessed with year-round moderate temperatures, Jamaica's hotels, resorts, villas and guest house, match the needs of every couple, and their guests. There are wedding planners who take care of every detail and offer packages that range from, free for the basic arrangements to as elaborate and luxurious as the couple's dream. Couples can marry after 24 hours after arriving in Jamaica, providing prior appli-



cation has been made and approved, for a marriage license to the Ministry of Justice.

◆**What are the special activities in Jamaica that make it an ideal destination for honeymoon?**

Paint your picture of romance in Jamaica. While on their honeymoon to Jamaica, couples can choose from diverse Jamaican experiences for a perfect romantic retreat. Nature adventures are among Jamaica's top attractions, couples can take a guided hike or serene raft ride to view spectacular settings of natural beauty, including cascading waterfalls. A relaxing river ride on Martha Brae River (Montego Bay), allows couples to sit back and enjoy the sight and sounds of chirping birds, leaves rustling in the wind and cascading waterfalls as they relax on a three-mile bamboo raft ride, drifting along this serene tree-lined stretch of water, piloted by a raft captain. Romantic dinner for two: perched on volcanic cliffs above the blue waters of Pristine Cove, makes the couples enjoy panoramic views, soothing cool breezes,



majestic sunsets and new Caribbean cuisine at Rockhouse restaurant (Negril). Open air pampering: Enjoy a couple's massage, along with the warm Caribbean breeze, the sight of blue skies and the sound of waves caressing the shore. Nature Adventures: Take a guided hike up Reach Falls (Port Antonio) for a blend of adrenaline rush and gorgeous setting — the lush green scenery of Montane Forest, a waterfall cascading down a rock face into a refreshing emerald river pool. A trip into the Blue Mountains (Kingston) reveals lush, mist-filled hills creating a dreamy and majestic ambience. Getaway Sail: Take a one-mile voyage to the one-of-a-kind Pelican Bar made of palm branches set in crystal clear waters near Treasure Beach on the shores of Jamaica. Rainforest Adventure: Fly through the air, zipping through tropical rain forests at Mystic Mountain. Cool off together with a slide into the pool with views of Ocho Rios and the Caribbean Sea below.

Sunset Catamaran Ride: Take a romantic sunset cruise, sip rum punch as the sun makes it way colourful towards the horizon. Get into the Rhythm of Jamaica: Enjoy live music on Negril's Seven Mile Beach and West End. Monday and Saturday nights heat up with live reggae show at Bourbon Beach. With all the above and much more, make your adventure truly memorable by sharing it with your better half. Nothing makes the bond of love stronger than a tan-

dem kayak down the river or a horse ride through the mountains. In Jamaica, we specialise in turning big dreams into romantic realities.

◆**In between the wedding functions, what are some of the more interesting places that the tourists can visit or activities that they can engage in?**

A temperate year-round climate, adventure-packed activities, swoon-worthy scenery, rich culture, and a romantic rhythm. Jamaica specialises in wide range of experiences to please the couple and guests of every age. They can kickstart the adventures at Blue Lagoon or discover the amazing treasures of Dunn's River Falls, climb the tropical forest till the peak of Mystic Mountain or explore Jamaica's innerworld at Green Grotto Caves. What's more? They would love to sail up the coastline or snorkel over the Caribbean reef at Montego Bay Marine Park. The surreal beauty of Glistening Waters' Luminous Lagoon, a naturally glowing night-time attraction, is sure to awe-struck the guests with illuminated memories of experiencing a wedding in Jamaica while enjoying these rich tastes amidst the rustic elegant atmosphere and unique cultural reggae vibe.

◆**Are there any special hotels which are ideal for honeymooners?**

This Caribbean island, with countless intimate settings, is for the couples who dream of enchanting island with sultry sunsets, magical moonlit nights and lazy mornings. It has the best five-star hotels, luxury beach resorts and charming boutiques at exotic locales. Round Hill Hotel and Villas, The Caves, Sandals Royal Plantation, Iberostar Grand Hotel Rose Hall, Sandals Montego Bay, Hotel Riu Palace, are some of the best all-inclusive resorts in Jamaica. If you are looking for a place of love, happiness, and adventure, then Jamaica should be your next destination.



NBT India in the Frankfurt Book Fair

The Frankfurt Book Fair came to an end on October 20. It saw participation of nearly 7,500 exhibitors from 109 countries. Norway was the Guest of Honour country this year.

National Book Trust of India, which has been participating since 1970 and has the rare distinction of presenting India as the Guest of Honour country at the fair twice (in 1986 and 2006), had a very rich and engaging participation this year too.

NBT, India had put up a collective exhibit of more than 200 titles of 32 Indian publishers and also had Vigyan Prasar as co-exhibitor. The books of the collective exhibit were donated to the library of the Consulate

General of India, Frankfurt for further use for the local readers.

The NBT, India delegation had meetings and interactions with nearly 45 delegates representing 25 countries including Chief Executive Officers, Managing Directors and other senior professionals from publishing houses, International Book Fair Authorities, International Book Trade Journals, Rights Agencies, International Book Distributors.

The three-member delegation from NBT, India led by its Chairman, professor Govind Prasad Sharma, included Kumar Vikram, Editor and Project Head, and Mayank Surolia, Deputy Director.

CA Shweta honoured with Delhi Ratan Award



Every year All India Conference of Intellectuals (AICOI) recognises the services of eminent and illustrious Indians who have made significant contribution towards mankind following the principles of humanism, nationalism, peace and by setting high ethical standard in their chosen fields.

In this context, the executive committee of AICOI has unanimously chosen CA Shweta

Pathak, vice chairperson, ICAI, for the prestigious and coveted Delhi Ratan Award for her outstanding contribution as women empowerment/social activist, in an award ceremony during 40th AICOI Annual Conference on Sunday at India International Centre (IIC).

The conference will be attended by a large number of eminent diplomats, dignitaries, bureaucrats, journalists and invitees from pan India.

AICOI, extends a warm welcome for her participation and congratulated her for her outstanding achievements in her chosen field.

The organisation is in existence for last four decades. It is a non-governmental organisations committed to promote nationalism, humanism, peace and brotherhood without any distinction of caste, creed, colour, gender or religious belief.

IN SHORT

IP University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Canada based company, Hatch India, to financially support the female students belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society, pursuing UG and PG programmes in different branches of engineering and technology at University School of Information, Communication and Technology. The name of the scholarship is — Hatch Scholarship for Women in STEM. The maximum limit of financial assistance given will not be more than ₹75 thousands in an academic year.



Delhi Transco Limited organised one day interactive session to further improve efficiency and transparency in its business operations. The session was chaired by Padmini Singla, Chairperson and Managing Director of DTL. While inaugurating the vendors meet, Singla informed that DTL has already adopted e-tendering for all the domestic competitive biddings to ensure better transparency.



In a ceremony held in Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, in the city on Tuesday, chemicals and fertilisers minister DV Sadanand Gowda was presented a cheque of ₹11.80 crore for the highest ever dividend for 2018-19. It was presented by Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma (IAS), CMD, PDIL in presence of minister of state (chemicals and fertilisers) Mansukh L Mandaviya and secretary (fertilisers), Chhabilendra Roul (IAS). Senior officials of Department of Fertilisers (DoF) and PDIL were also present on the occasion. Projects and Development India Ltd (PDIL) achieved highest ever profit after tax (PAT) of ₹30.36 crore, highest ever turnover of ₹131.50 crore, highest ever revenue from operations of ₹116.50 crore apart from paying highest ever dividend to GOI ₹11.80 crore. It provides consultancy services for fertilisers projects and non-fertiliser projects in diversified areas such as refinery, oil and gas, pipelines, infrastructure and many others.

NTPC Singrauli team emerged as the winners of the final of NTPC Vigilance Quiz 2019. Team from DBF & Hydro region (NTPC Dadri) emerged as the 1st runner up while team from Corporate Centre grabbed the 2nd runner up position. The quiz has been organised by the company for the employees' students prior to the Vigilance Awareness Week, which starts from October 28 to November 2. The top three teams walked away with prize money of ₹10,000, ₹8,000 and ₹6,000 respectively along with certificates.



RAY OF HOPE

Indian states have formulated strategies to deal with health-related challenges, especially malnutrition eradication, but the enormity of this issue in Chhattisgarh is more than other places, says TAARAN PRAKASH SINHA

There is a saying in Arabic which means 'The one who has health, has hope. And the one who has hope, has everything'. To save the world, we need to save humans and to save humans, we need to take care of their health. In this way, the concern for protecting human health is the concern to save the world.

The question is how are we fulfilling our responsibilities towards protecting human health. According to World Health Organisation's report, situation in many nations of the world is extremely shocking. One of the major threats that the world has been facing is of malnutrition. According to United Nations, every year in India, nearly 10 lakh children below the age of five years die because of it.

Each state of India has formulated its own strategy to deal with health-related challenges, especially malnutrition eradication. The enormity of this challenge in Chhattisgarh is way more as compared to the other states. On November 1, Chhattisgarh would



complete 20 years of formation. Around 43 per cent of the land was covered in forest while nalaxism posed as a major challenge. Till date, major chunk of the population living in remote areas of the state do not have access to the basic facilities. This is the reason why malnutrition took a monstrous shape in the state.

Approximately 41.50 per cent of the girls and women of age 15 to 45 years are anemic. It is evident that most of these people belong to tribal communities and BPL category. If we recall the quote — 'mal-

nutrition is a kind of epidemic', we can fathom the seriousness of the situation. State Government has marked the indicators of health-related challenges in Chhattisgarh and has started implementing the strategic action plan. Initial results of this action plan has turned out to be extremely promising. New government of the state has taken 'Gadho Naya Chhattisgarh' as its motto, which means — 'we will create new Chhattisgarh'. All kinds of measures are being taken to achieve the goal of providing basic facilities to even the remotest area.

With the aim of making Chhattisgarh malnutrition-free, Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi ji, launched five new schemes simultaneously, which includes four schemes directly related to nutrition and health. New government has revised the previously existing PDS system and transformed it into Universal PDS-APL System. Under the new system, every section of the society will be provided nutritious food.



Every basic facility, lack of which has been included in the list of major threats by WHO, is being provided effectively by the government under Chief Minister Haat-Bazaar Clinic Scheme and Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, thus minimising the threat. Objective of the former is to provide health facilities to even the last person living in remote area, especially tribal regions of the state. Under this scheme, government mobile clinic facility is provided in weekly haat-bazaars, wherein check-up, treatment and medicines along with regular health services are provided. Before the

launch of this scheme at state-level, it was started as a pilot project in tribal areas.

Despite the sufficient availability of government and private hospitals, ultramodern equipment, buildings, qualified doctors and trained health workers in the state, a major part of Chhattisgarh has been waiting for the ray of hope for good health. And this is the part, where soul of the state resides. Finally the time has come, when the soul of the state will be illuminated.

(The author is IAS commissioner, Public Relations, Chhattisgarh.)



During the recent elections, Habeeb Khan, nominee, State of Maharashtra, has been elected as president, Council of Architecture and Sagna, chief architect, Department of Architecture, has been elected as vice-president, Council of Architecture, for three years. The members of the council who have been elected as executive committee members are: NK Negi, architect-in-charge, PWD, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Kapil Setia, chief architect, Department of Urban Planning, Chandigarh Administration, Ramesh Kumar, senior architect, PWD, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Bansan Singh Thangkhiew, senior architect, PWD, Government of Meghalaya and Sadiqu Ali DA, principal, Department of Training and Technical Education, Lakshadweep.

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

High 5

Sterling, Mbappe net hat-trick; Kane, Aguero, Icardi & Son find brace in goal rush day

Raheem Sterling and Kylian Mbappe both scored second-half hat-tricks in UEFA Champions League action on Tuesday as Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham Hotspur all recorded big victories.

Bayern Munich also laboured to win in five-goal thriller on a night which brought 30 goals in eight games, a third of which were scored by Premier League clubs.

Sterling's three goals came 11 minutes apart in the second half as Pep Guardiola's City thumped Atalanta 5-1 at the Etihad Stadium to maintain their perfect record in Group C.

The Italians had earlier taken the lead from Ruslan Malinovskyi's 28th-minute penalty, but they were soon overrun and remain without a point in their debut campaign.

Sergio Aguero equalised from a Sterling assist and the Argentine scored a penalty to put City ahead before the break. Sterling then took over, although City finished with 10 men as Phil Foden was sent off late on.

"I should have had four. Riyad Mahrez put me through and I was looking to put one on a plate for him. But I went through and should have finished it," Sterling admitted to *BT Sport*.

City's will seal a place in the last 16 if they win away to Atalanta next, as nearest rivals Shakhtar Donetsk and Dinamo Zagreb played out a 2-2 draw in Ukraine earlier.

Yevhen Konoplyanka and Brazilian substitute Dodo netted for Shakhtar, with Dinamo's goals coming in between from Dani Olmo and a Mislav Orsic penalty.

Compared to Sterling, Mbappe took a sluggish 22 minutes to score his three goals in PSG's 5-0 romp away to former European Cup runners-up Club Brugge in Belgium in Group A.

Mauro Icardi scored twice for the French champions, who were without the injured Neymar but had Angel Di Maria in exceptional form — the Argentine set up four goals.



Raheem Sterling celebrates after completing his hat-trick AP

According to sports statisticians *Opta*, the last player to come off the bench and score a hat-trick in the Champions League was Spaniard Joseba Llorente for Villarreal in 2008.

"I wanted to start and I thought I was going to start, but the coach made his choice and I had to accept it. I also wanted to show that it's difficult to get by without me," Mbappe told French broadcaster *RMC Sport*.

PSG have a maximum nine points, are yet to concede a goal in Europe this season and will be through to the last 16 with a win at home to Club next month.

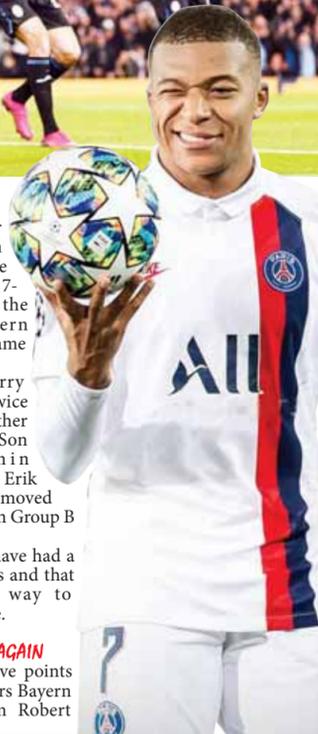
RED STAR THRASHING
Meanwhile, there was a welcome win for Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham, who

crushed Red Star Belgrade 5-0 in north London, three weeks on from their 7-2 humiliation at the hands of Bayern Munich at the same venue.

Captain Harry Kane scored twice for Spurs either side of a Son Heung-min brace and an Erik Lamela goal as they moved up to second place in Group B on four points.

"We know we have had a tough run of results and that was the perfect way to respond," said Kane.

LEWANDOWSKI AGAIN
They remain five points behind group leaders Bayern Munich, for whom Robert



FIGURATIVELY

1 Kylian Mbappe is the 1st substitute to score 3+ goals in a Champions League game since Joseba Llorente with Villarreal (v Aalborg) in October 2008

16 Harry Kane has scored 16 goals in the group stages of the CL; only Paul Scholes (19) has more amongst English players

8 Raheem Sterling is the 8th English player to score a UCL hat-trick, after Michael Owen, Andrew Cole, Wayne Rooney, Harry Kane, Mike Newell, Alan Shearer and Danny Welbeck. Only Brazil (12) and France (9) have had more different hat-trick scorers in the competition

13 Paulo Dybala has scored 13 goals in UCL; among the Juventus goalscorer in the top European club competitions (UCL + European Cup) only Inzaghi, Platini, Trezeguet and Del Piero netted more goal than the Argentinian player

1 Alvaro Morata has become the first ever player to score for both Atletico de Madrid and Real Madrid in the European Cup/Champions League.

Lewandowski bagged two in a 3-2 win at Olympiakos that maintained their perfect record.

The Pole has 18 goals this season and 58 career Champions League goals — only Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Raul and Karim Benzema have more.

Youssef El Arabi gave Olympiakos the lead, but Lewandowski's brace either side of half-time changed the game and Corentin Tolisso fired in a magnificent third before Guilherme pulled one back.



Javier Pinola of River Plate heads the ball during a Copa Libertadores semifinal second leg match against Boca Juniors AP

River Plate reach Copa Libertadores final

AFP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Defending champions River Plate booked a place in the final of the Copa Libertadores on Tuesday despite losing a tense semi-final to rivals Boca Juniors at a packed Bombonera in Buenos Aires.

A goal from 19-year-old Venezuelan forward Jan Hurtado 10 minutes from full-time set up a frantic finale but River held on to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

The "Millionaires" will play the winners of all-Brazilian clash between Flamengo and Gremio in the final in Santiago next month.

Urged on by 50,000 fans, Boca failed to get revenge in a repeat of last year's final, the second leg of which was played 10,000 kilometers away in Madrid — and two weeks behind schedule — after the original match was twice postponed.

The tone was set for a scrappy encounter when the kick-off was held up by 15 minutes to allow groundsman using leaf-blowers to clear the pitch of thousands of paper sheets released like ticker tape by the fans.

When the match did eventually get underway, it was predictably breathless as Boca — two goals down from the first leg — desperately sought an early breakthrough.

But with Ramon Abila too often an isolated figure up front, Boca struggled for any fluidity, and River's center-halves Lucas Quarta and Javier Pinola cleared everything that came their way.

Boca's Toto Salvio swept the ball into the net after 20 minutes but celebrations were

cut short when it was rightly disallowed for a clear handball without the ref needing a VAR check.

The ball struck defender Emmanuel Mas on the arm as he collided with teammate Augustin Almendra when flicking on Alexis Mac Allister's deep free kick.

River played the more composed football as the half wore on and the nearest Boca came to threatening Franco Armani's goal was a sliced clearance by Enzo Perez that drew a point-blank reflex save from the Argentina goalkeeper just before half-time.

Boca were better in the second half but still struggled for composure.

Still, substitute Lucas Pratto could have sealed it for River but the striker opted to pass instead of shoot when he burst through on goal towards the end.

Former Manchester United and Juventus center-forward Carlos Tevez — a sub in the first game — played from the start here but failed to create enough chances.

"We left everything on the pitch. There's nothing more we could do," Tevez said after the game.

The goal, when it came, was suitably scrappy. Mauro Zarate hoisted a free kick into the box, Lisandro Lopez won a header and with Armani stranded, Hurtado got the last touch as three Boca players scrambled for the loose ball.

FRANTIC FINALE

It set up a frantic finish, as Boca peppered River's box with crosses. Substitute Sebastian Villa had a shot saved by Armani at his near

post, and Mas rose highest to head a free-kick narrowly wide of Armani's right-hand post at the end of six minutes of injury time.

Brazilian referee Wilton Sampaio handed out eight yellow cards in a niggly match where chances were few and far between.

"At times, when you can't play, you have to fight," said River's Pinola, admitting his team lacked the spark they showed in the first leg.

Flamengo play Gremio in the other semi-final at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium on Wednesday, with the match poised at 1-1.

It was a satisfying night for River Plate manager Marcelo Gallardo, who masterminded last year's 3-1 final victory over Boca after weeks of controversy.

"There were a lot of stoppages. There were adverse conditions for us. We know how to suffer and today we suffered. We had to fight. We made the difference in the first leg," Gallardo said after the game.

River ran out comfortable 2-0 winners at the Monumental in the first leg, thanks to goals from Rafael Borre and Nacho Fernandez. Boca's players had refused to play the second match of last year's two-legged final after their team bus came under attack from home fans at River.

Boca appealed to South America's football governing body CONMEBOL and the Court of Arbitration for Sport to have the trophy awarded to them, but both bids failed and they were beaten in Madrid.

Dybala's double rescues Bianconeri

AFP ■ TURIN

Maurizio Sarri praised Juventus for not losing their heads as Paulo Dybala's quick-fire second-half double rescued a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Lokomotiv Moscow in their Group D clash in Turin on Tuesday.

The Italian champions had trailed the Russians with 13 minutes to go in the Allianz Stadium after Aleksei Miranchuk had put the visitors ahead after half an hour.

But Dybala pulled the hosts level on 77 minutes and added a second two minutes later to keep Juventus on course in Group D with seven points after three games.

Sarri's side had drawn with Atletico Madrid and beaten Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the last two games.

Atletico also have seven points, after beating Leverkusen 1-0 in Spain on Tuesday, with Lokomotiv third with three points.

"It wasn't an exceptional day, we play every three days, so a less brilliant day," said former Chelsea boss Sarri.

Cristiano Ronaldo missed the chance for another record of scoring against a 34th different Champions League club.

"I'm very happy, I really needed two goals like this," said Dybala.

"It was a difficult game but tonight you could really see the level of experience of our

"Goals give you confidence and winning gives you enthusiasm. The Morata goal brought everyone together."
— DIEGO SIMEONE

"It became a difficult match when we conceded this goal. But we did well not to lose our heads. We knew we could get back into the match."
— MAURIZIO SARRI

"It was a tough game. We got tired closer to the end and lost focus. Juve are a dangerous team and punished us for that."
— ALEKSEI MIRANCHUK

"I'm very happy, I really needed two goals like this."
— PAULO DYBALA

team. We always remained calm until we finally scored."

The Argentine was substituted after his double to an ovation from the home crowd.



Zidane's men edge Galatasaray

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

Real Madrid came away from Istanbul with three crucial Champions League points on Tuesday with a 1-0 away win at Galatasaray thanks to a first-half Toni Kroos goal and Eden Hazard's threatening creativity.

Pressure on coach Zinedine Zidane will be alleviated after Madrid had been beaten in their first European game by PSG, before they had to fight back from 2-0 down at home to Club Brugge to snatch a point in their second match of the campaign.

The thirteen-times European champions arrived in Istanbul needing a win against motivated opponents backed by passionate and noisy supporters.

Zidane said on Monday he was "bothered" by rumours of his imminent replacement in the Madrid hot-seat, and he paced the touchline with a haunted look at times in the Turkish capital.

Belgian star Hazard shone and it was a clever cut-back from him that provided Kroos with a shot on goal, and his snap-shot was deflected past goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, who kept the visitors at bay for the rest of the proceedings.

Karim Benzema was also busy but curled two shots wide when he might have done better.

Captain Sergio Ramos was colossal at the heart of the Real



Toni Kroos celebrates after scoring Real Madrid's goal against Galatasaray AP

defence with an ever present contribution despite his every touch being roundly booed.

Behind him Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois kept a cool head when stopping several Turkish attempts on his goal notably with efforts from Florin Andone and Younes Belhanda.

Hazard hit the crossbar after cutting round Muslera late on and was swiftly subbed by Zidane.

Madrid now has four points in three games while Brugge have two and Galatasaray one after three games.

Paris 2024 logo mocked online

AFP ■ PARIS

The new 2024 Olympics logo is supposed to evoke French history but has instead earned ridicule online for its apparent resemblance to a stereotypical Parisian woman.

Unveiled on Monday, the design incorporates the art deco style in vogue the last time Paris hosted the Games in 1924, depicting an Olympic flame within a Gold medal.

It also incorporates the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of liberty and the French Republic since the revolution of 1789 — an addition that some mocked for adding an unnecessarily seductive character to the motif.

"The French Olympic logo tumbles out of bed on a Parisian morning," wrote Paris-based journalist Megan Clement on *Twitter*.

"She tousles her messy bob, dons breton stripes and ballet flats and whisks down the stairs from her fifth-floor apartment to grab a baguette before enigmatically texting two men who are pursuing her romantically.

"(She) has an espresso and a cigarette for lunch. She hops on a vintage bicycle and pedals past the Eiffel Tower on her way to a cafe where she will sit and read Baudelaire with her fluffy white dog at her feet."

Others compared the flame motif to the logo of dating app *Tinder* and suggested the silhouette of Marianne brought to mind the retro hairstyle made popular by Jennifer Aniston in the American sitcom "Friends".

"The artist's muse, the poet's dream, and the girl your mother warned you about. She's fashionably late for everything. She'll make out with your husband at a party and then wonder why you're mad," said one *Twitter* user.

"I want to follow the French Olympic logo on *Instagram*," wrote another.

Parisians got their first glimpse of the new logo when it was unveiled at the French capital's famous Grand Rex cinema on Monday.

Srikanth, Kashyap out in France

PTI ■ PARIS

India's Kidambi Srikanth and Parupalli Kashyap were both ousted in the opening round of the men's singles event at the French Open here on Wednesday.

While Srikanth fought hard for 55 minutes against second seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei before losing 15-21, 21-7, 21-14, Kashyap was no match for Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus, losing 11-21, 9-21. Another Indian male shuttler Sameer Verma to suffered the same fate as he lost 22-



20, 18-21, 18-21 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in the first round. Shubhanker Dey now

remains the lone Indian in the men's singles contest, having progressed to the second round

where he will be up against Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia.

India's challenge, however, came to an end in the opening round of the mixed doubles event with the ouster of the pairs of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa and Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy.

While Rankireddy and Ponnappa lost 17-21, 18-21 against fourth seed Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yujung of Korea, Chopra and Reddy combination was shown the door by England's Chris Adcock and Gabrielle Adcock 13-21, 18-21.

Postponed Clasico set for Dec 18



Barca's right back Nelson Semedo battles for ball possession with Real Madrid's striker Karim Benzema during Clasico AP

AFP ■ MADRID

The rearranged Clasico between Barcelona and Real Madrid will be played on December 18 despite opposition from La Liga, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on Wednesday.

Spain's most prestigious fixture, which was due to take place at Camp Nou on Saturday, was postponed last week because of violent pro-independence protests in Catalonia.

La Liga had proposed December 4 or 7 and have said they are considering an appeal. "The league does not agree with the decision," La Liga said in a statement.

"It is studying the documentation to decide whether to appeal, against whom and before what bodies."

An earlier statement from the RFEF read: "The decision of the Competition Committee has taken place after analysing in recent days the proposals of both clubs, who were invited to agree a

date and decided on December 18.

"It has also analysed a report from the RFEF Competitions Area as well as numerous reports submitted by La Liga, which are not binding.

"At today's meeting, the Committee also analysed the latest reports from both clubs, who maintain their initial proposal to play the match on 18 December."

It means Barcelona, who wanted the match to go ahead as originally planned this weekend, will face a testing few weeks before Christmas.

In December, they are already scheduled to play away at Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan in the Champions League and Real Sociedad, who sit fourth in La Liga.

Real Madrid will play away at Club Brugge in the Champions League and then Valencia, just before travelling to Barca.

But both clubs swiftly settled on Wednesday, December 18 last week, hours after being instructed to agree a new date by the RFEF.

La Liga, who originally proposed the postponement, disagreed, claiming December 18 would clash with fixtures in the Copa del Rey and harm the economic interests of the clubs involved.

COMMON SENSE
"The decision to change the date of the most important La Liga match cannot be left to the decision of the two participating clubs," La Liga said on Friday, adding that they have a responsibility to "maximise income" from television rights.

La Liga initially suggested swapping the two Clasicos, with the first one being played at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, and then proposed the weekend of December 7, when Barcelona and Madrid already have fixtures.

Their last proposal was Wednesday, December 4, which comes just after Barca play away at Atletico Madrid.

Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said on Tuesday he hoped the two clubs would not be drawn into a political "war" between La Liga and the RFEF, who have clashed on various issues in recent years.

"I would like common sense to prevail," Valverde said "I would like there to be a date settled and for the internal wars between La Liga and the RFEF not to involve us."

Barcelona, who visit Slavia Prague in the Champions League, moved top of La Liga last weekend, one point ahead of Real Madrid.

Dadagiri unlimited

In his first media interaction after becoming BCCI president, former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly vows to run board the way he led Men in Blue during his captaincy days

Captain takes charge: Ganguly becomes BCCI President

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday took charge as the BCCI president, easily the most high-profile name to head the world's richest cricket board that has been mired in administrative turmoil for the past three years. The 47-year-old Ganguly was officially entrusted with the task of heading Indian cricket for the next nine months at the BCCI's General Body meeting here, ending a controversial 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

His appointment as the BCCI's 39th President was finalised last week. He succeeds C.K. Khanna, who was the interim head of the Board since 2017.

"It's an honour that I have been asked to take this role. It's a new start for the BCCI," said Ganguly, clad in his India blazer which was given to him during the time he served as India captain.

"I find myself in a position where I can make a change and it's a challenge," he added.

In the meeting that was also a reunion of sorts for some of the familiar faces associated with the board before the CoA's institution, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah was made the secretary.

During his tenure, Ganguly will look to coordinate with old guard such as former President N. Srinivasan and ex-Secretary Niranjan Shah, whose children are now part of the BCCI. Mahim Verma of Uttarakhand became the new vice-president.

Former BCCI president and current junior finance minister Anurag Thakur's younger brother Arun Dhumal became the treasurer while Kerala's Jayesh George took the joint secretary's position.

"It's a very young group. We will have to do a lot of hard work to understand what's been going on. There have been no AGMs, no working committees in the last three years, so we have no idea how it has been done. We will take note of everything," Ganguly said.



Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly takes charge as BCCI's new President, at board headquarters PTI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Clad in his captain's navy blue blazer, Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday promised a "corruption-free, same-for-all BCCI", a philosophy that, he said, guided his tenure as India skipper from 2000 to 2005.

Elected unopposed to the top position in the world's richest cricket board, the bespectacled 47-year-old also gave enough indications that he would run the show the way he wants and is unlikely to be influenced.

"I will do it the way I know, I will do it the way which I feel is best for the BCCI with no compromise on credibility. Corruption-free and same for all BCCI. That's the way I led India and that's the way I will take this organisation forward," said the man with more than 18,000 international runs under his belt.

Hard to miss at his maiden press interaction after taking charge was the India blazer that he was wearing.

"I got it when I was captain of India but I did not realise that it is so loose. But

I decided I will wear it," he said as scribes chuckled.

He will be at the helm for nine months because the Supreme Court-mandated reforms require a cooling off period after a six-year run as an office-bearer. Ganguly has already been Cricket Association of Bengal Secretary and President.

Ganguly couldn't help but recall the time he took over as team captain. The sport's integrity was in tatters that year after the 2000 match-fixing scandal and Ganguly was handed the responsibility of resurrecting it.

Resurrection is once again what is required after three years of administrative limbo, incidentally also caused by corruption — the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.

Ironically, Mohammed Azharuddin was at the centre of the 2000 scandal and will now be his Board colleague as Hyderabad Cricket Association President. The two former teammates hugged each other after Wednesday's meeting.

"Coincidentally, fortunately or unfortunately, there was a similar situation when

I took over as captain and captained India for six years," Ganguly said referring to, what are widely considered, the dark days of Indian cricket.

"It's a similar sort of a situation where things need to be brought back to place, reforms need to be done, huge amount of money to be paid to state associations so it's a lot of work," he added.

Laying down his immediate priorities, Ganguly said a call to current skipper Virat Kohli is in order.

"Virat Kohli is the most important man in Indian cricket, we will listen to him. I will speak to Virat Kohli tomorrow, we will support him in every possible way, whatever he wants," he said.

"We are here to work for Indian cricket. We will do that to the best of our ability," he added.

He reiterated his commitment to improving the domestic cricket structure. "The structures are there, the tournaments are there. In the last three years the matches have doubled actually. When I played for Bengal and some of my colleagues played for the other states there were about 1000 games to be played at. Now there are 2000 games between states and the affiliates.

"So we have to account for it. We have to make sure the best tournament in the country is competitive, and it remains important to everyone now because that's where you get the Kohli's and MS Dhoni's, Ajinkya Rahane's and Rohit Sharma's of Indian cricket," he said.

Maharaj's new team



Newly-elected BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, center, Secretary Jay Shah, left, and Treasurer Arun Dhumal pose for photo during press conference AP

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly needs no introduction but the four other office-bearers who were elected unopposed here on Wednesday do. Following is the synopsis of their journey in cricket administration.

Jay Shah, (secretary): The 31-year-old is the youngest office-bearer in the BCCI. Jay, who is Home Minister Amit Shah's son, has been with

the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) since 2009. He was elected GCA joint-secretary in September 2013.

Arun Singh Dhumal, (treasurer): He too hails from a political family with his elder brother Anurag Thakur currently being a Minister of State (Finance and Corporate affairs). Thakur was removed as BCCI president in January 2017. Dhumal, 44, served as vice-president of Himachal

cricket body, HPCA between 2012 and 2015 when Thakur was its president.

Dhumal also led a three-member ad-hoc committee which was formed to run HPCA in the wake of Lodha panel recommendations to reform Indian cricket. He also has the experience of representing HPCA in the BCCI.

Jayesh George, (joint secretary): The 50-year-old has years of experience in cricket administration, having been part of Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) as its secretary, joint secretary, treasurer and most recently the president. He has been part of the KCA since 2005.

Mahim Verma, (vice-president): His father P C Verma has served as secretary of the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU). Mahim, 45, himself was CAU's joint-secretary for 10 years until September when he was elected the association's secretary, soon after the body got BCCI's recognition.

Till I am around, everybody will be respected: Sourav

MUMBAI: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said the matter of Mahendra Singh Dhoni's future in international cricket will be addressed but vowed to accord the two-time World Cup winning captain respect during his tenure.

Ganguly said he doesn't now what is in Dhoni's mind but promised that a player of his stature will be given respect.

"It depends on him. You know champions don't finish quickly. I don't know what's in his mind and what he thinks about his career. So we will deal with that you know," he said.

"He is one of the greats of the game and India is proud to have MS Dhoni over a period of time. If you even sit down and take a note of what he has done, you say, 'Wow, MS Dhoni,'" Ganguly said. Legends of the game have often had unceremonious exits and Ganguly knows it more than anyone else how it feels to fight speculations and criticism.

"Till I am around, everybody will be respected and that doesn't change," he added. PTI

Kohli is the most important man

Ganguly promises all possible support to captain asserting 'I am here to make Kohli's life easier, not difficult'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday called Virat Kohli "the most important man in Indian cricket" and promised the captain all possible support to make his life "easier and not difficult".

After taking charge as the BCCI boss, Ganguly said he will be speaking to the Indian skipper on Thursday to discuss the way forward.

"I will speak to him tomorrow (Thursday). He is the most important man in Indian cricket as captain of India. I look at it that way. So we will have a word with him and as I said we will support him in every possible way, he wants to make this team the best in the world. It has been a great team to be honest with

the way they have played in the last three to four years," said Ganguly.

Ganguly said he will also sit with the team management which also includes head coach Ravi Shastri.

"It will be a proper discussion and everything will be mutually discussed but be rest assured, we are here to make their life easier, not make their life difficult. Everything is on the basis of performance," the BCCI president was clear. "Performance is the most important thing and will decide the future of Indian cricket. Virat is the most important man in the entire context. We will support him, we will listen to him. I have been a captain myself so I understand. Mutual respect will be there, opinions and discussions will be there and we will do what is best for the game."

Samson, Dube on line for place in T20 squad



Sanju Samson & Shikhar Dhawan run between wickets during India 'A' fourth game against South Africa 'A' at Trivendrum Sanju/Twitter

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India skipper Virat Kohli's workload could be a topic of discussion while Rishabh Pant could have prolific Sanju Samson for cover during three T20s when the selection committee picks the squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh here today.

Kohli has featured in 48 out of the 56 games India have played across formats since October 2018. However, the selection committee will leave it on Kohli to decide whether he needs a break or continue playing.

There is expected to be serious discussions about rookie Mumbai all-rounder Shivam Dube, who might replace an injured Hardik Pandya for the all-rounder's slot, primarily based on his big-hitting prowess.

Apart from the three-match T20 series which starts in New Delhi on

November 3, followed by matches at Rajkot and Nagpur, Bangladesh will also play two Tests as a part of the World Championship in Indore and Kolkata.

Samson, who recently hit a double hundred for Kerala in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, is expected to come in but only as second option to Pant for the time being.

"There is no harm if both Rishabh and Sanju are there in the team. They have played together in IPL also. Rishabh has had limited success in shorter formats but he is a long-term investment and we need to persist with him," a BCCI official privy to developments in selection committee said.

"At the same time, Sanju is a player with game-changing abilities. Keeping World T20 in mind, the team management needs to check other options also as everyone knows that it's time to look beyond Mahendra Singh Dhoni," the source added.

With Kohli not there in the squad, Samson is being seen as a back-up batsman but it will be interesting to see if Manish Pandey retains his place in the squad that played against South Africa.

Mumbai all-rounder Dube has now pipped Vijay Shankar as the second choice all-rounder in the short-term format, based on big-hitting prowess.

It is unlikely that the famed wrist spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal will get a look in as Rahul Chahar and Washington Sundar are set to get another opportunity.

K L Rahul, after his good show in Hazare Trophy, is likely to retain his place in the side. Veteran opener Shikhar Dhawan has been horribly out of form but the selectors might continue with him for one more series.

In case there is a question of dropping Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal could be a choice as reserve opener. Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini and Khaleel Ahmed are expected to be the three frontline pacers.

After ODI & T20s, Rohit enters top 10 in Tests

PTI ■ DUBAI

Rohit Sharma has become the third India batsman to reach the top 10 of ICC rankings in all three formats after a memorable series against South Africa in which he donned the new role of Test opener.

Rohit emulated captain Virat Kohli and retired opener Gautam Gambhir as his knock of 212 in the third Test in Ranchi helped him advance 12 places to 10th position in the ICC Test Player Rankings.

Ajinkya Rahane's knock of 116 in Ranchi has helped him equal his career-high rank of fifth place, achieved earlier in November 2016. He remains the third-best Indian batsman in terms of Test rankings after Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara.

With Mayanka Agarwal in



Rohit Sharma congratulates Mayank Agarwal after he scores his first Test century PTI

18th position, India have finished the series with five batsmen in the top 20.

Rohit's player of the series effort of 529 runs helped him make huge strides from 44th place before the series. The 'Hitman' has held a career-high ranking of second in ODIs (in February 2018) and seventh in T20Is (November 2018).

Kohli has been number one in all three formats while Gambhir has been at the top in Tests and T20Is and eighth in ODIs.

Fast bowlers Mohammad Shami and Umesh Yadav have ended the series with their highest-ever rating points tally. Shami is on 751 points and only one place below his career-best ranking of 14th achieved in March 2018, while Yadav is on 624 points, three below his best of 21st in July 2016.

K'taka, TN to play Hazare final

PTI ■ BENGALURU

K L Rahul hit 88 (111 balls, 6 fours, 1 six) and shared a century partnership with fellow opener Devdutt Padikkal (92) to power Karnataka to a nine wicket over Chhattisgarh and into the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday, where it will face Tamil Nadu, which beat Gujarat by five wickets in the other semi-final.

Chasing 224 for victory, the host romped home in 40 overs as Rahul and Padikkal and then Mayank Agarwal (47, 33 balls, 3 fours, 4 sixes) toyed with the Chhattisgarh attack.

For Chhattisgarh, Amandeep Khare (78, 102 balls, 4 fours) held fort and Sumit Suresh Rao Raikar (40, 37 balls, 1 four, 2 sixes) helped cause with some late hitting before the innings ended in the final over at 223.

While Kaushik finished with 4 wickets, Mithun (2/44), offie K Gowtham (2/30) and leggie Pravin Dube (2/43) were among the wicket-takers.

In the Tamil Nadu-Gujarat encounter, the Dinesh Karthik led side chased down the

rival's 177 for 9 in a game reduced to 40 overs due to a late start owing to overnight rain and a wet outfield, with an over to spare, thanks to an enterprising half-century by the talented M Shahrulkh Khan.

Gujarat couldn't recover from the early loss of their batting mainstays-Parthiv Patel and Priyank Panchal and could only make 177 for 9 in 40 overs.

Dhruv Raval was the top-scorer with 40 while Axar Patel (37) and tail-ender C T Gaja (24) were the other important contributors.

For Tamil Nadu, medium-pacer M Mohammed with 3 for 33 was the best bowler, while Washington Sundar, R Ashwin and leggie Murugan Ashwin (1/33) and T Natarajan scalped a wicket each.

In reply, Abhinav Mukund (32, 65 balls, 3 fours), who has been in good form in the league phase and Dinesh Karthik (47, 47 balls, 5 fours) steadied the ship.

However, the loss of three quick wickets put Tamil Nadu under pressure before Washington Sundar (27 not out, 43 balls, 2 fours) and the young M Shahrulkh Khan (50 not out, 46 balls, 3 fours, 3 sixes) took the team home in style, winning with an over to spare. The final will be played tomorrow.

SINGLES

PRAVEEN BAGS GOLD IN WORLD C'SHIP
SHANGHAI: Praveen Kumar on Wednesday became the first Indian man to win a wushu World Championships Gold, beating Russel Diaz of Philippines in the 48kg category. The Indian saw off his Filipino opponent 2-1 in the men's sanda event. In 2017, Pooja Kadian became the first Indian to be crowned world champion in wushu after she defeated Evgeniya Stepanova of Russia in the women's 75kg sanda event. Among other Indians in the fray, Poomam (women's 75kg) and Sanathoi Devi (women's 52kg) secured Silver medals while Vikrant Baliyan bagged the Bronze in the men's 60kg category.

SMITH ELECTED MCC LIFE MEMBER
LONDON: Former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodians of the game's law. The MCC took to Twitter to announce the membership. "MCC has today announced the election of @OfficialCSA legend @GraemeSmith49 as an Honorary Life Member of the Club," the MCC tweeted on Tuesday. Smith, who has an impressive record in One-Day International cricket for his country, scoring 6,989 runs including ten centuries, expressed his excitement on being bestowed upon the honour. "Thank you @HomeOfCricket and the MCC for this incredible honour. I have so many amazing memories there and I'm excited to share more with you in the future," Smith tweeted.

WFI TAKES BENTINIDIS UNDER ITS WINGS
NEW DELHI: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has brought Bajrang Punia's coach Shako Bentinidis under its wings by offering him a contract till the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and also appointed Russian Murad Gaidarov to help out Deepak Punia and Ravi Dahiya. Bentinidis was attached with the JSW and the WFI was always interested in having the services of the Georgian. Bentinidis had refused the offer earlier but was left with no option but to bow down to the Federation since it was not happy with him and was contemplating getting Bajrang a new coach.

2 MORE GOLDS IN MILITARY GAMES
WUHAN: India added two more Gold medals to its kitty with para-athletes Anesh Kumar Surendran Pillai and Virender bagging the top honours in their respective events at the seventh CISM World Military Games. Pillai won the Gold in the disabled men's shot put IF1 category with a best throw of 12.76 metres which he registered in the fourth of his six attempts. Virender added one more yellow metal, when he emerged winner in the men's disabled shot put IF5 category with a best effort of 11.43m. India narrowly missed a Bronze medal in the 25m Center Fire Pistol Men team event after the trio of Yogesh Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Omkar Singh finished fourth behind Ukraine, Korea and China. AGENCIES