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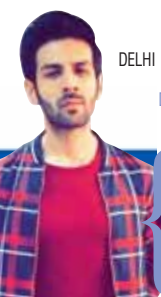
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 NO TIME FOR  
 LOVE: KARTIK  
 AARYAN  
 13 VIVACITY

# Relief for Adani in coal scam

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The other aspect of the coal scam probe related to allotment fraud had also generated a big block its probe into the over-valuation charge.

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## Delhi's odd-even rules announced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

The list of exempted people include: President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Governors, Chief Justices of India and Judges of the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court.

Emergency, enforcement, defence, paramilitary and embassy vehicles will also be exempted.

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

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

## Parking fee hike will militate against car rationing: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"We are asking people to share their vehicles during



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

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

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

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the SDMC, Bhupendra Gupta said the Base

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

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

North Delhi Mayor Avtar Singh said the BPF committee has made recommendations to the apex monitoring committee for its final approval.

"We will take steps from our side, once the final picture emerges. Whatever happens, we will take steps accordingly in a way that there is balanced approach so that we neither put burden on the people nor incur loss to the corporation," Singh said.

## B'desh guards kill BSF man as meet goes awry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



HC Vijay Bhan Singh

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

troopers in the BSF boat, approached BGB patrol in the water channel of River Padma near Boundary Pillar 75/7-S. During flag meeting, BGB patrol did not release Indian fisherman and also tried to cord-off (gherao) BSF troops. Sensing the situation worsening, BSF party immediately returned.

"BGB troops opened fire on the returning BSF party. Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh received bullet injuries on

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

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

The attack on the BSF troops is primarily an indicator of some local issues in Bangladesh aimed at addressing the domestic audience through radical elements in the BGB ahead of the national elections.

The incident does not reflect any design at the level of the Government there which has been friendly with India and cooperating on a number of issues including counter-terrorism operations, sources said.

## Karnataka tops NITI Aayog's innovation list



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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

remaining top ten major States respectively.

The top ten major States are majorly concentrated in southern and western India. Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north-eastern & hill States, and union territories.

Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient States in translating inputs into output. Detailed report on P16

## Brexit deal inked, Parliament nod a challenge for UK

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

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK and the European Union (EU) on Thursday declared that they have agreed a new Brexit deal for Britain's withdrawal from the 28-member economic bloc within the October 31 deadline.

While UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the agreement as a "great new deal", EU President Jean Claude Juncker branded it a "fair and balanced agreement" as he recommended it for member-countries to be rat-

fied at an EU summit underway in Brussels this week.

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

"We've got a great new deal that takes back control," Johnson tweeted, just before heading to Brussels to join other EU leaders for the crucial summit. Juncker took to Twitter to say, "Where there is a will, there is a deal — we have one! It's a fair and balanced agreement for the EU and the UK and it is testament to our commitment to find solutions."

## Saved by a (big cat) whisker



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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The soaring vegetable prices are taking a toll on the common man as well as restaurants, hotels and dhabas. The prices in the retail markets continue to rule high in the range of ₹60-80/kg or higher across the country.

Cauliflower is priced at ₹100-120 per kg while coriander at ₹300 per kg. Onion is ruling at ₹60 per kg whereas tomato is available in the range of ₹60-80/kg. This despite the Government's measures to boost onion and tomato pure supply via Mother Dairy's Safal outlets.

Similarly, the rates of cauliflower, lemons, spinach, radish, bottle gourd, green mustard, and coriander leaves have continued to rise since August. Lemons are being sold at ₹120 per kg.

The skyrocketing vegetable prices have hit hard all sections of the society. The price rise is seen as a result of demand supply mismatch and traders and farmers say there will be no relief from soaring prices till November-end.

Spinach (palak) is being sold at ₹70-80 per kg and the rate of wild spinach (bathua) is ₹70-80 per kg. The same was being sold at ₹40 a kg till last month. The rate of cauliflower is ₹90 per kg. Bitter melon (karela) is being sold at ₹50 a kg while Bottle gourd (lauke) at ₹30 a kg. Capsicum (Shimla mirch) is being sold at ₹70-80 a kg. Cluster beans (gwar) at ₹80 a kg, lady finger at ₹40 a kg and brinjal at ₹60 per kg.

According to trade experts, mainly two factors created shortages and price rise. First, delayed arrival of monsoon and resultant delay in sowing of kharif crop, and second, significant rain at the time of



harvest in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in August/September.

Traders and farmers claim the erratic monsoon and flooding in various parts of the country have impacted pan-

India connectivity, resulting in an increase in transportation costs and disruption in supply. According to traders in Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), the prices of vegetables in Bihar, Uttar

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, and Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka and the regions have shot up and there will be no relief to the people till arrival of the new crops from November onwards.

Worried over skyrocketing onion prices, State-owned trading company MMTC Ltd has issued a tender seeking bids to import 2,000 tonnes of onions by October-end with a price cap of \$352 per tonne.

Officials said that tomato producing States have been regularly advised to interact with agricultural produce marketing committees (APMCs), traders and transporters to ensure regular supply. The same is being reiterated to four major tomato producing States namely, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, to ensure prices normalise and supply is augmented immediately.

Normally, tomato production is around 20 million tonnes a year. Thankfully, Tomato is a year-long crop and the country has enough supply to meet its requirement.



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

AP

# Low margins of victory in Haryana polls

NISHU MAHAJAN ■  
CHANDIGARH

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

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

The classic case of 'closest election' in Rajya Sabha constituency (Sonapat district) from where Congress MLA Jai Tirath Dahiya had won by just three votes against his rival Indrajit Dahiya of Indian National Lok Dal in 2014 assembly polls, still remains afresh in people's mind.

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

Interestingly, the HC verdict came at the fag end of Jai Tirath's term in September when the Election Commission had already



declared the October 21 Haryana Assembly polls. The Court had stated, "It has been proved that nine void votes were cast in favour of the returned candidate (Jai Tirath) and two void votes were cast in favour of the petitioner, Indrajit."

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

Year of State Assembly Election	Lowest Margin (Votes/assembly seat)	Highest Margin (Votes/assembly seat)
2014	3/ Rai constituency	84095/Gurgaon
2009	145/Dadri	72100/Garhi Sampla Kilo
2005	21/Gharaunda	71081/Adampur
2000	161/ Mewla Maharajpur	46057/Adampur
1996	11/Gharaunda	37140/Sonapat
1991	38/Narnaunda and Rohat constituencies	31596/Adampur
1987	1368/Hisar	45248/Uchana Kalan
1982	10/Sadhaura (SC)	25628/Tosham
1977	86/Rewari	23583/Loharu
1972	108/Safidon	23877/Dawalvi (SC)
1968	12/Gharaunda	17741/Beri
1967	114/Sambhalka	17745/Badopal

Yet another interesting case is of Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Ramesh, who had defeated his 'namesake' Ramesh Kumar Rana of Santa Party by just 11 votes on Gharaunda assembly constituency in the 1996 assembly elections.

Gharaunda assembly seat in the state has an exception of witnessing three election victories with lowest margins in various elections so far.

INLD's candidate Rekha Rana had defeated independent Jai Pal Sharma by just 21 votes from the constituency in

2005 assembly polls. Similarly in 1968, Haryana's Gharaunda assembly constituency had seen closest contest, with the Bharatiya Jan Sangh's Randhir Singh snatching the seat from Swatantra Party's Rulya Ram by just 12 votes.

Two assembly constituencies namely Narnaunda and Rohat had recorded the lowest victory margin i.e. 38 votes each in 1991 assembly polls. Congress' Hukum Singh had managed to taste the victory against his rival Janata Party's Mohinder Singh in Rohat assembly constituency while JP's Verender Singh

had defeated Congress' Jawsant Singh from Narnaunda by 38 votes.

In 2009 elections, the lowest victory margin was recorded in Dadri constituency, from where Haryana Janhit Congress's Satpal had defeated his rival Rajdeep of INLD by 145 votes.

While the lowest victory margins clearly outline the importance of every single vote in the elections, the state has also registered record highest victory margins.

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

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

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

The longest serving Chief Minister of Haryana, Bhajan Lal has the distinction of

winning three elections with highest margins from assembly seat in 2005. Bhajan Lal (84693 votes) won with a margin of 71081 (63.70 per cent) against INLD's Rajesh (15882 votes). In the previous 2000 elections, he had recorded victory with a margin of 46057 from the same seat against BJP's Ganesh Lal while in 1991, Bhajan Lal had won with a margin of 31596 against Janata Party's Hari Singh.

After a triangular contest between BJP, Congress and INLD in 2014 assembly polls, the state is witnessing a multi-cornered contest this time with BJP, Congress, INLD, Jannayak Janta Party, Aam Aadmi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Loktantra Suraksha Party and Swaraj India in the fray.

With several regional parties adding flavor to the polling season this time, the results on October 24 are likely to throw some surprises in Haryana.

There are a total of 1.83 crore (1,83,90,525) voters including 98.78 lakh males (98,78,042), 85.12 lakh females (85,12,231) and 252 transgender voters in the State.

## Nodal officers in 8,000 villages to check stubble burning

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To check stubble burning more effectively, Punjab Government on Thursday decided to depute nodal officers in nearly 8000 paddy growing villages to check stubble burning by the Agriculture Department. These nodal officers have been asked to keep a close vigil over the post harvesting operations.

Secretary Agriculture and

Farmers Welfare, Kahan Singh Pannu said that all the Deputy Commissioners had already been asked to depute the officers in each of such villages to create awareness about the ill effects of paddy stubble burning hazardous for human health and the environment.

He said the staff of Cooperation, Revenue, Rural Development & Panchayats, Agriculture, Horticulture and Soil Conservation departments and Powercom would work in tandem to check this menace efficaciously.

The nodal officers will also undertake various activities, ranging from holding meetings with the farmers, arranging

Crop Residue Management (CRM) machines, distribution of pamphlets etc in villages, besides making announcements in Gurdwaras etc.

Pannu said these nodal officers had also been directed to interact with village schools for organizing the rallies and awareness lectures to sensitize students so that they could in turn prevail upon their parents to make them aware about the harmful effects of stubble burning.

If any farmer burns the stubble in the open fields, the nodal officers will ensure red entry in the Revenue records with the help of the Patwari of the village concerned. Likewise, the nodal officers would also ensure effective implementation of Punjab Government's instructions in case of paddy straw burnt in land of employees of Govt./Board/Corporation/Coop. Societies and Panchayats land.

Pannu said that all the secretaries of 3485 Cooperative Societies across the state would be put on this job. Likewise, the services of the 1850 Panchayat Secretaries of Rural Development & Panchayats, 2000 Junior Engineers, 6000 linemen, 200 Sub Division Officers of PSPCL, 1500 officers of the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Soil Conservation would also be engaged for this purpose.

## PUNJAB BY-POLLS

### Capt playing religious divisive cards to divert people's attention: BJP

PNS ■ PHAGWARA

Punjab BJP president Shwail Singh said that the BJP Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh of playing religious and divisive cards to vitiate the atmosphere in the state and divert people's attention from burning issues.

The Congress government in the state has failed on every front and Singh has not fulfilled even a single promise. Malik claimed as he predicted a landslide victory for the BJP-SAD combine in the bypolls to all the four Assembly seats, that will 'prove to be a Waterloo for Amarinder Singh'.

The Rajya Sabha MP also alleged that Singh's 'weak policy' led to resurgence of militancy in Punjab.

Addressing a press conference here, Malik said, 'The fact is that militancy is growing in the state. The chief minister wants to create fear psychosis among the people of the state

in order to grind his political axe and derive political mileage.'

Alleging that Capt Amarinder wants to disturb the Hindu-Sikh unity, Malik said, 'The people of Punjab will not allow Captain to succeed in his evil designs.'

Termining the Congress 'vishwasgathi (betrayal)', he alleged the chief minister reneged on his promise of wiping out drugs from state within four weeks after taking oath with the holy Gutka Sahib in his hands.

Listing various achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in just 100 days of his second term, Malik claimed Amarinder Singh has nothing to mention as his achievement in '1000 days of his misrule'.

Punjab's four Assembly seats -- Phagwara, Dakh, Mukerian and Jalalabad -- are going for bypolls on October 21.

## IN BRIEF

**SJVN DECLARES DIVIDEND OF ₹44.91 CR FOR FY 2018-19**  
Shimla: SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna and Schedule 'A' CPSU under Ministry of Power, on account of its annual financial performance has paid a total dividend of Rs 44.91 crores for its shareholders for financial year 2018-19. The company has already paid an interim dividend of Rs 388.07 crores in March 2018 to GSE, India which is presently holding 61% equity in the company. The final dividend cheque for FY 2018-19 of Rs 156.22 crores was handed over to the Union Minister of State (I/C) Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh by Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN Limited at New Delhi.

**GVU TO INAUGURATE CHANDIGARH FAIR TODAY**  
Chandigarh: VP Singh Badnore, Punjab Governor and UT Administrator will inaugurate the 24th edition of the Ch Chandigarh Fair here in Sector 17. The four-day fair would host more than 450 stalls in 12 concurrent expos, including Realcon (Real Estate), Gardenia, Infocom, Apparels, Home Decor, Food, Persona, Home Appliances & Kitchen Ware, International Arcade and many more. The fair will showcase a variety of products to choose from countries like Afghanistan and Thailand, besides finest products from the domestic sellers. This year, the focus of the fair is 'Making Chandigarh Plastic-Free'.

**115 DEFAULTERS CHALLENGED FOR NOT SEGREGATING WASTE**  
Chandigarh: Acting tough against the defaulters, who did not segregate waste at source level, the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh has issued challans to 115 defaulters including 2 door to door waste collector for not collecting segregated waste i.e. wet and dry separately. Different teams of sanitation wing of MCC inspected their respective areas throughout city and challenged the defaulters, who did not give segregated waste to the door to door waste collectors. The MCC challenged 115 violators with ₹200 fine each as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

**'LAADO' TO BE HELD FROM OCT 23-24**  
Chandigarh: The Social Security, Women and Child Development Department in collaboration with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) would organize the First Self Help Group (SHG) Mela - 'LAADO' from October 23 to 24. A spokesman said, 'The Mela' would be held at Kisan Bhawan here from 11 AM-7 PM and the main aim would be to highlight the work of self help groups and women entrepreneurs of Punjab. The Self Help Groups from Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Gujarat would also participate in the JALABAD.

**PHAGWARA, MUKERIAN, DAKHA, JALALABAD OFF ON OCT 21**  
Chandigarh: A spokesman said that it has been notified that in the Assembly constituency Phagwara, Mukerian, Dakh and Jalalabad, voting is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 21, hence it would be a local holiday on the government offices, boards / corporations and educational institutions located in these constituencies. This holiday is declared under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act - 1881.

**SECOND EDITION OF PKL DOG SHOW ON OCT 19**  
Chandigarh: Royal Kennel Club (RKC) Panchkula will organize the 2nd edition of Panchkula Dog Show on October 19 at Dussehra Ground, Sector 5, Panchkula. The show's timings are from 12 noon till 7 pm. Sikander Singh, General Secretary, RKC Panchkula said, 'This time, around 200 exhibitors from different parts of India will participate in the event. We will be getting top and exotic dog breeds from places like Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal, Delhi, Dehradun, Bhopal and even as far as Chennai.'

**CHB FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM WEBSITE**  
Chandigarh: People can download forms, free of cost, from the website of the Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB), www.chbchd.org. The applicants using the downloaded application form will not be asked to pay any additional extra. Further the existing forms of application forms, affidavits, undertakings, indemnity bonds and agreements are being revised in next about 15-20 days. Efforts are being made to simplify these forms to that extent possible so that one can use these forms without any assistance, a spokesman said.

**GRILL FOOD ALFRESCO RESTAURANT REOPENS FOR SEASON**  
Chandigarh: Taking a cue from the changing weather, tricity's popular open air grill restaurant 'Terrace Grill', which is housed in Hotel Homestay, Industrial Phase 1, here has announced its reopening. Nandendu Acharya, General Manager said, "We reopen Terrace Grill a unique alfresco restaurant every year during fall -winter and the restaurant remains open for 6-7 months from October-April each year. The idea is to focus on providing our guests an unmatched ambience of dining under the stars in this salubrious weather."

**PU'S MOOC COURSE LISTED AMONG TOP 5 COURSES OF UGC**  
Chandigarh: Panjab University's MOOC Course (Massive online open Course) on Digital Marketing has been listed among the top 5 courses of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi currently being offered on Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) SWAYAM platform. The present course on Digital Marketing is being offered by Dr Tejinder Singh, Associate Professor at University Business School. For the session July-Oct 2019, there are 43 online Courses offered by UGC on SWAYAM platform on diverse subjects.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**

**SME CENTER, ZONAL OFFICE, CIVIL LINES, LUDHIANA**

**(Rule 8-(1) POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property])**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Bank issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general, that the Undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property/ies 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 dates mentioned against Account.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies) will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India, Tagore Nagar, Ludhiana**, for an amount mentioned here below, along with interest and other charges thereon.

The borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

Name of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
M/s Empire Garments	All that part and parcel of residential house bearing MC No. B-1-639/2 (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Satish Kumar Sh/S measuring 164.81 sq. yards comprised in Seventeen Thousand Nine Malwa Ram, B-1, 639/2, Khata No. 1298/1565, Khaska No. Hundred Ninety Only) due as Kundan Puri, Civil Rd/10557/1446/13729-326/234/6/965 to 870 on 09.06.2019 plus further Lines, Ludhiana. (as per jamabandi for the year 1979-80 situated at Mahal Baghat, Locality known as Kundanpuri Civil Lines Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana in the name of Sh. Satish Kumar Sh/S. Malwa Ram & Sh. Dalvirinder Kumar Sh/S. Malwa Ram vide sale deed No. 1357/8 dated 29.03.1985 and 1819 dated 08.05.1985, bounded as per East : Road, West : Remaining Property, North : Road, South : Property of Sh. Dr. Shiv Charan Dass.	10.06.2019	17.10.2019	Rs. 21,17,990/-

Dated : 17.10.2019 Place: Ludhiana Sd/-Authorized Officer

ELECTION NOTICE				
Name and address of candidate : Vimal Kishor, 574-B Mohalla Kalan Sonapat				
Name of Political Party : Aam Aadmi Party				
Name of Election : Legislative Assembly, Haryana				
Name of Constituency : 31 Sonipat				
I Vimal Kishor the candidate for above mentioned election declare for the public information the following details about my criminal antecedents.				
SN	Name of the Court	Case No.	Section(s) of Acts concerned	Status
1	ACJM SONIPAT	HRSO 03-00842-2016	147, 149, 283, 341 IPC	PENDING
2	ACJM SONIPAT	HRSO 03-000819-2019	147, 149, 186, 283, 323, 332, 342, 353, 452, 506 IPC	PENDING
3	JMIC SONIPAT	HRSO 03-005952-2016	288 IPC	PENDING
4	JMIC SONIPAT	HRSO 03-001149-2017	341, 427 IPC	PENDING
5	JMIC SONIPAT	HRSO 03-003467-2019	323, 341, 427 IPC	PENDING
6	JMIC SONIPAT	HRSO 03-010556-2018	147, 149, 269, 270 IPC	PENDING
7	CJM SONIPAT	HRSO 03-006274-2016	147, 283, 341 IPC	PENDING
8	CJM SONIPAT	HRSO 03-005770-2017	323, 354 C, 506, 325 IPC	PENDING
9	CJM SONIPAT	HRSO 03-009222-2018	506, PIC, 67 IT ACT	PENDING
10	ADJS SONIPAT	HRSO 01-003527-2017	306, 34 IPC	PENDING

Chandigarh: The Jannayak Janta Party on Thursday released its poll manifesto for

the October 21 Haryana Assembly polls, promising to reserve 75 per cent of jobs for

the local youth. If voted to power, the JJP promised to bring 'Right to Work Act',

under which jobs will be given as per one's qualification. "Seventy-five per cent jobs

will be reserved for the youth of Haryana," JJP leader K C Bangar said while releasing the election manifesto. With political opponents making unemployment in Haryana a major poll plank, the JJP promised that a separate employment ministry will be set up in the state and its main task will be to provide jobs.

The party promised to provide a monthly assistance of Rs 11,000 per month to unemployed youth while student from rural areas will be given extra ten marks when they appear in competitive examinations in the state.

For the farmers, a bonus of 10 per cent or Rs 100 will be given over MSP. The JJP promised that liquor vendors within village limits will be closed. The party promised to bring changes in the Motor Vehicle Act so to give relief to people who are burdened with 'paying hefty fines now'.

Alleging that people outside the state are occupying plum positions in the M L Khattar regime, the JJP promised that chairpersons of various boards, corporations, OSDs, vice chancellors and registrars of universities will be Haryana domiciled people.

The party promised free education to girls till PhD level, fee of private schools will be regulated and 20 per cent seats will be reserved for poor children in private schools. PNS

## DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES (FORMAT C-1)

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate:- Manish Kumar Grover  
Name of political party:- Bhartiya Janta Party  
Name of Election:- Haryana Vidhan Sabha - 2019  
Name of Constituency:- Rohtak - 62  
I, Manish Kumar Grover, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sr. No.	Pending Criminal Cases			Details about cases on conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of court	Case No. and status of case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of court & date (s) of order (s)	Description of offence(s) and punishment imposed
1.	At the stage of Investigation	F.I.R. No. 517 Dt: 30-07-2019 Police Station Shivaji Colony Rohtak	25 of ARMS ACT 120B, 166A, 171C, 171F, 188, 342, 483, 506, 511 of IPC, 135A of R.P. ACT. The allegation are regarding the disobedience of law/undue influence by public servant, Counter-feiting of property mark attempt to booth capturing, cheating and conspiracy.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.





# Hooda, Khattar intensify campaign



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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

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

## EQUAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE STATE, SAYS KHATTAR

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

as well as for the MLAs of other parties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HOODA COUNTERS NATIONALISM PITCH OF BJP

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

Hooda's remarks dismissing the BJP's nationalism pitch and the Indian National Lok Dal as having 'no role' post polls came after Congress' former Haryana unit president Ashok Tanwar announced his support for Dushyant Chautala-led BJP.

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

"There is a wave in favour



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The veteran leader also dismissed the "Modi factor" in polls, saying people are talking about the failures of the Haryana government and the achievements of his government between 2005-14. "People will not get diverted, they are intelligent," he asserted. Highlighting the promises made by his party in its manifesto, Hooda said loans of farmers will be waived. Hooda said, "Unemployment is the biggest issue. Unemployment rate that was at 2.8 per cent has increased 10 times to 28 per cent, highest in the country. No new industry is coming up. The government is busy in event management."

Hitting out at Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for his remarks against Sonia Gandhi recently, Hooda said a person sitting in a position of responsibility should make responsible comments. Anyone making irresponsible statements should be condemned, he added.



## POLL BUZZ

### 5,249 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED ON CIVIL

**Chandigarh:** As many as 5,249 model code of conduct in Haryana have been received so far on cVIGIL app. Haryana chief electoral officer, Anurag Agarwal on Thursday said that all the complaints have been redressed within the prescribed time. He said, out of the complaints received so far, not a single complaint is pending at DCC level. He said 126 complaints are under investigation, including 85 in Rohtak district and 21 in Faridabad district. 249 complaints have been received from Ambala district, 82 from Bhiwani, six from Charkhi Dadri, 518 from Faridabad, 54 from Fatehabad, 821 from Gurugram, 535 from Hisar, 184 from Jhajjar, 30 from Jind, 461 from Kaithal, 158 from Karnal, 233 complaints from Kurukshetra, two from Mahendragarh, 18 from Mewat, 23 from Palwal, 40 from Panchkula, 33 from Panipat, 55 from Rewari, 767 from Rohtak, 419 from Sirsa, 184 from Sonapat and 440 from Yamunanagar district were received on the cVIGIL app. People can file complaints of any violation related to Model Code of Conduct directly to the Commission through the cVIGIL mobile application, he said.

### SUNNY DEOL CAMPAIGNS FOR BJP IN HARYANA

**Chandigarh:** BJP's Gurdaspur MP and Bollywood actor Sunny Deol, 62, on Thursday delivered some famous dialogues from his hit films to seek votes for Haryana Minister Cpt Abhimanyu, who is seeking re-election

from Narnaul in Hisar district. He appealed to people to vote for the ruling BJP in the October 21 assembly polls. "This time I have come with folded hands to seek your blessings for Captain (Abhimanyu). As I say 'tarikh-par-tarikh' (dates after dates), but remember the October 21 'tarikh' (date), remember we have to make him victorious," Deol said while addressing a poll gathering in Narnaul. "I am overwhelmed by your love. We will always remain connected with you. I have come here for Captain (Abhimanyu). He helped me in Gurdaspur and gave me the encouragement as I am new in this field (politics). Now, it is his turn and I have come here to give him a boost," the Gurdaspur MP said. The actor then proceeded to deliver his iconic dialogue from the film "Gadar" to hail the country -- "Hindustan zindabad tha, hai aur rahaga".

### BSP CHIEF MAYAWATI HITS OUT AT BJP AND CONGRESS

**Yamunanagar:** Campaigning for her party in Haryana, BSP Chief Mayawati alleged that the condition of farmers and other people in Haryana was not good and the wrong policies of the BJP and the Congress were responsible for it. "Farmers, poor people, labourers, traders and other sections are facing problems. The condition of farmers and a few other sections is not good," she said, blaming both the BJP and the Congress, alleging that "because of their wrong economic policies, poverty, unemployment and inflation have gone up." She accused political

parties of making big promises to people at the time of polls, but forgetting about them after coming to power. "Be it the Congress, the BJP or regional parties, when they come to power they forget about the promises made by them to farmers. They forget about other sections," she claimed. "They woo people with sops, but when polls are over, they forget about their promises. Don't be misled by their manifestos," she said. The BSP chief alleged that both ruling BJP and previous Congress regime's policies were aimed at benefiting rich industrialists. "After coming to power, they do not frame policies for the benefit of common people but only those which benefit rich industrialists," she charged. The BSP leader also alleged that whether the BJP has been in power in Haryana or the Congress, the Dalits have been "exploited" by both the parties.

### TANWAR TO BACK ABHAY CHAUTALA ON SINGLE SEAT

**Chandigarh:** Ashok Tanwar, sacked as Haryana Congress chief last month, who on Wednesday announced his support to Dushyant Chautala-led Jananayak Janta Party in state polls, has decided to also back senior INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala on the Elenabad seat. "Abhay came to meet me at my residence at Sirsa in the evening. I consulted my supporters. I said if they have decided to support him (Abhay) on one seat (Elenabad), then I have no issues," Tanwar said. Tanwar's supporters were of the view that he and Abhay Chautala, seeking re-election from Elenabad seat in

Sirsa district, have the same objective of stopping the BJP from returning to power and to teach the Congress a lesson. Earlier in the day, when he announced his support to JJP at a press meet in Delhi, Tanwar described the move as a 'surgical strike' on his former party, the Congress. He was appointed the Haryana Congress chief in 2014 and had been at tussles with former chief minister and party strongman Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Last month, he was replaced as Congress Haryana unit president by Kumar Seija and Hooda was appointed as state legislature party leader. Asked if JJP would be okay with his decision to extend support to Abhay Chautala, Tanwar said, "I have not said that I was extending blanket support that I cannot extend support in news conference here, he said their leaders were involved in corrupt practices. 'That's why, most of leaders of Congress across the Country are in jail or on bail,' he said. Patra praised Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar-led government for implementing online transfer policy of teachers and providing corruption free Government in the state in five years. Fair recruitment was conducted by Khattar government in the State. He said that

### MOST OF CONG LEADERS ARE IN JAIL OR ON BAIL: PATRA

**Chandigarh:** Attacking at Congress, BJP national spokesperson Sanjay Patra on Thursday said corruption was rampant during Congress rule in the State and the country. Addressing a news conference here, he said their leaders were involved in corrupt practices. "That's why, most of leaders of Congress across the Country are in jail or on bail," he said. Patra praised Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar-led government for implementing online transfer policy of teachers and providing corruption free Government in the state in five years. Fair recruitment was conducted by Khattar government in the State. He said that

centre government has recently taken many steps to overcome from economic slowdown which is prevalent worldwide.

### CONG HITS OUT AT BJP FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

**Chandigarh:** Journalist-turned-politician and Congress leader Supriya Shrinay attack BJP-led Government in the state of its wrong policy leading to highest unemployment rate upto 29 per cent as well as rise in crime cases especially against women in the State. Addressing a press conference here, she also hit out at the centre government over economic slowdown. "Indian economy has suffered due to demonetisation and GST in which we are now realising in the form of decline in factory output, production, job loss and demand and supply across the country," she said.

### RAVISHANKAR: BJP FOLLOWS SARKAR, SADACHAR, IMANDAR

**Rohtak:** Union Minister Ravishankar Prasad on Thursday said the BJP government has three guiding principles to execute in the interest of the people and the country in a holistic way, these principles are SARKAR, SADACHAR AND IMANDAR. Addressing media persons, he said that coming to Rohtak and not speaking of corruption of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is possible. He said that he wished to raise some questions for Hooda though media, the answer of which he has to give to the people of the country.

## Rajnath Singh hits out at Rahul over Rafale 'puja'

IAN ■ HARYANA

Slamming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over the Rafale puja (worship) controversy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday asked what should he have written on the fighter jet if not "Om", a word with spiritual relevance.

"When I wrote Om on the Rafale jet, people said why did he write (the word). I would like to ask Rahul Gandhi if not 'Om', what should I have written on the aircraft," Singh said at an election rally here in Bhiwani district of Haryana that will go to the polls for 90 Assembly seats in a single phase on October 21.

Rahul Gandhi has said that the Defence Minister had gone to Paris to receive delivery of the first Rafale jet because there was 'guilt' in the minds of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders over the Rs. 59,000 crore deal for the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets, manufactured by Dassault Aviation of France.



At the election rally, Singh also accused the Congress of internationalising the Kashmir issue, saying "It is an internal matter."

"I want to ask Congress leaders where human rights violations are taking place. Human rights violations were taking place when terrorist activities were occurring (in Kashmir). Why did you not speak at that time?" the senior BJP leader asked the Congress.

"I want a reply from the Congress. Kashmir is our internal matter. Will there be a discussion on it in other countries... Will you be discussing Kashmir matter in other countries?" he said.

Many people have lost their lives in terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

"They (Congress leaders) have created a strange situation. What has happened to them? It seems they have lost their minds," he added.





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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

end of next year, on its own.

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

'Mathed' (difference of opinion) has not changed into 'manbed' (change of heart), he said. JD(U) has been on an uneasy term with the BJP after it opted out from the Modi Government for it not including two of its leaders in the union cabinet and making space for only one cabinet berth for its alliance partner. JD(U) has also not been backing triple talaq bill and objected to the criminalisation clause in it.

Shah has also not been backing triple talaq bill and objected to the criminalisation clause in it. He was asked if the BJP is considering fighting the State election, slated to be held by the

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

The directive, when implemented, will ensure that the jawans will be posted to their nearest units and they can travel and stay with their families during the lack of operational exigencies, an official said.

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

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

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

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

The move will give a significant relief to the jawans.

# Fadnavis Govt fulfilled over 96% poll promises, claims BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

# INSHORT

## RAHUL ACCUSES MODI OF SELLING PSUs



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

## IAF EXERCISES WITH OMANI AIR FORCE

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

## SC TO HEAR JAYPEE GROUP'S APPEAL

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

# Cut road construction costs: Road Ministry to NHA

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The PMO in August this year had questioned the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Action sought against Dhavan for tearing Ayodhya map

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Arguing for Chidambaram, noted lawyer

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

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

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

# Govt banks on researchers to end malaria by 2030

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

ies and tools are being sought to take the vector head-on.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Collegium recommends transfer of Patna High Court judge

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

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

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

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

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

# Collegium recommends names for elevation as CJs of Jharkhand, Meghalaya HC's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

grims,' he said.

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

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

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

## IN WAKE OF POTENTIAL THREATS

# Bengal Govt accorded 'Z' class security cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The CRPF guards a number of VIPs



including Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

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

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

# Forced NRC will give mileage to Didi: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

good governance at the Centre.

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

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

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

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

# Bengal Govt committed to alleviating poverty: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



ed.

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

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

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

India (CPI).

The CPI was formed on 17 October 1920 at Tashkent in Uzbekistan, then part of USSR. Yechury said the updating of the NRC in the rest of the country after Assam is against the interests of the people as BJP intends to use it for its "divisive communal agenda."

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Will take over BJP controlled Bhatpara municipality soon: TMC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sadhus look at stone slabs, carved-out for the construction of Ram Temple, at Shri Ram Jambhoomi Karayashala (workshop) in Karsawapuri, Ayodhya on Thursday

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

PTI ■ VARANASI

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

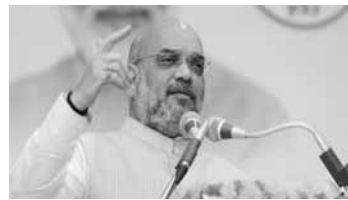
Stressing the need to rewrite history from India's point of view, Shah credited Savarkar for calling the 1857 rebellion as India's first independence struggle.

Shah said had it not been for him, the rebellion of 1857 would have become history and India would have seen it from the British point of view. His remarks came two days after the Maharashtra BJP

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

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

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



(BHU).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ VARANASI (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the officials concerned to initiate a campaign to ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi is the cleanest in the country. Modi had won the seat in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year by a huge margin of 4.79 lakh votes. He had not only retained the seat, but also saw his victory margin increase by nearly 1 lakh votes as compared to the 2014 general elections.

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

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

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

Do something special so that Kashi



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

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

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

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

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

# Democracy in danger under BJP rule: Gehlot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

On the BJP suggesting the Bharat Ratna for Veer Savarkar, the Chief Minister said the party had a fascist ideology and did not consider what the public or other political parties think.

"In a democracy, sentiments of the opposition are considered but for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ IMPHAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting that all disputes can be settled through dia-

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

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

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

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

Mentioning that around Rs 600 crore would be spent on improving road connectivity in Ukhrul district, the Chief Minister said around 7250 crore has been sanctioned for construction of roads between Kamjong and Tengnoupal districts.





PAPER WITH PASSION

## Ayodhya closure

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



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

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

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

## Still too hungry

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



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

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

## Who is an Indian?

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



AJOY KUMAR

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

He himself suffered terribly but did, however, stop here. As terror spread across Bhopal, large crowds of the affected population descended on to the station in an attempt to escape the gas chamber. Dastagir went from platform to platform, attending to and consoling victims and sent an SOS to all nearby railway stations to send ambulances and doctors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SOUNDBITE

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

Senior Congress leader — Digvijaya Singh

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

Screenwriter — Javed Akhtar

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

UK Prime Minister — Boris Johnson

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

Congress leader — Shashi Tharoor



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bridge the gap

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

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

JS Acharya  
Hyderabad

### Ganguly has an onerous task at hand

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

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



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

Ganapathi Bhat  
Ahola

### IRCTC's market debut

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

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

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

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

Employment in the public

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

Madhu Agrawal  
Delhi

### Poll rhetoric

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

Swadha  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### Time for some 'Freakonomics'

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a policy analyst)

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

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



**THE GOVERNMENT IS OBSESSED WITH TRYING TO BLAME ITS OPPONENTS, THUS IT IS UNABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR REVIVAL OF THE ECONOMY.**  
 —FORMER PRIME MINISTER  
 MANMOHAN SINGH

# A stirred and shaken India

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



BZ KHASRU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is most disturbing in this government's

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Can Delhi GRAPple with pollution?

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



## FOREIGN EYE



### BREXIT DEAL NOT A GAME OF CHESS

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

(The Guardian editorial)

# Sensex rallies 453 pts, Nifty tops 11,550

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

The broader NSE Nifty too spiked 122.35 points, or 1.07 per cent, to settle at 11,586.35. Yes Bank was the biggest gainer, surging 11.59 per cent, followed by Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Bajaj Auto, Asian Paints, Axis Bank, Tata Steel and Maruti, rising up to 9.82 per cent.



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

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

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

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

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

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

## ₹ strengthens 27 paise to 71.16 post Brexit deal

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Gold falls ₹105 on stronger ₹, weak cues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Karnataka is the leader in the overall rankings in the category of major states.

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

According to the NITI Aayog, the index shows that the innovation ecosystem of the country is strong in south and western parts of India. In fact, three of the top five major states are from southern India, Delhi and Haryana seem to be an exception to this rule and seem to be doing well on the Index.

"Thus, there seems to be a west-south and north-east divide across the country," the index report said. The index was released in the presence of Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science, Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH.

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

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

## Nadella earns \$42.9 mn in 2018-19 fiscal

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

He received \$29.6 million in stock award, \$10.7 million in non-equity incentive plan compensation and around \$1,10,000 in other compensation.

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

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

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

In the 2017-18 fiscal, the Hyderabad-born business executive had got a pay of \$25.8 million.

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

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

Microsoft's stock price rose 1.4 per cent on Thursday to \$157.45 a share.

The company's revenue rose 11 per cent in the third quarter, while its earnings rose 12 per cent.

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## Aviation regulator's nod to 5 firms to manufacture drones

PTI ■ MUMBAI

New Delhi: In a push to domestic civil aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given the nod to five firms to manufacture Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The consumption slump, a major challenge afflicting the economy, cannot be attributed to the NBFC crisis as it predates its first default by infra lender IL&FS, says a brokerage, which has also slashed growth forecast to 6 per cent with a 2 per cent margin.

Many people attribute the deepening slowdown in consumption to the NBFC crisis that began in September 2018 when IL&FS went belly up, but the brokerage said the fall in the stock price of the company, which is a source of shadow banks, stopped with a chill in disbursements by these players.

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

"The consumption slump is a source of shadow banks, stopped with a chill in disbursements by these players."

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## SIAM supports draft guidelines on authorised vehicle scrapping facility

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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## BUSINESS CORNER

DIVYANGJANS TO GET ASSISTIVE DEVICES



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

## TRAINING FOR VIGILANCE, INVESTIGATING OFFICERS



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

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

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

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

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

Reliance Jio has accused old operators including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea of "illegally" masquerading wire-line numbers as mobile numbers for "undue enrichment" and has exhorted Trai to slap "severe penalty" on them for violating regulations and licensing norms. After the fresh set of allegations surfaced, Bharti Airtel immediately hit back saying Jio was trying to mis-gauge the regulator ahead of the crucial consultation on call connect charges (also called IUC or interconnect usage charges).

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

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl named Sapna, DOB: 10/01/2007, R/o H.No. RZE-107, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Age 14 years, Height 4'9", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Wearing White colour top, blue colour jeans pant and blue colour hawai chappal in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 26.09.19. In this regard a case FIR No. 678/19 dated 28.09.19 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:  
E-mail: ID/cic@cbi.gov.in SHO  
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 25946700, 25946710

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

Any person having any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned  
Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639  
SHO  
PS. Aman Vihar, Delhi  
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

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

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

By Order  
Sh. Vaibhav Mehta, Metropolitan Magistrate,  
South Zone, Room No. 210,  
Saket Court, Delhi

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl named Shagun D/o Suresh Kumar, R/o H.No. S-3 C-2nd, Raju Park, Khanpur, New Delhi, Age: 16 yrs., Height: 5 ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour Jeans and Red Colour T-Shirt, has been missing / kidnapped since 14.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Neb Sarai. In this regard a case FIR No. 320/19 dated 14.09.2019 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Neb Sarai, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned  
Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph: 011-24368638, 2



# Sebi reigs primary market advisor panel

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

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

The other members of the panel include BSE MD and CEO Ashish Chauhan, HFCF Vice-Chairman and CEO Keki Mistry, NSE MD and CEO Vikram Limaye, Dolphy Dsouza Partner at E&Y, Prime Database chief Prithvi Haldar and Sunil Sanghai founder and CEO of Nova Dhruva Capital. The panel also has representatives from Sebi, RBI, and finance and corporate affairs ministries. Sebi's Whole-Time Member Ananta Barua, its

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PTI NEW DELHI

off 18 of their attached assets. The letter was released by a spokesperson of the Wadhawans. According to the letter, the Wadhawans have a large portfolio of assets, including a Rolls Royce Phantom, Bentley Continental, a BMW 730 LD, as well as a humble Ambassador, owned by Rakesh Wadhawan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Housing sales declined 25 per cent in nine major cities to 65,799 units during July-September quarter, while new launches fell 45 per cent to 31,883 units during the period. These cities are — Mumbai Metropolitan Region (including Navi Mumbai & Thane), Pune, Noida (including Greater Noida & Yamuna Expressway), Gurugram (including Gurgaon, Faridkot & Sohna), Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Ahmedabad.

"New launches continued to show a downward trend in

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

Singapore-based Elara is a fund management company that owns PropTiger.com, Housing.com and Makaan.com.

"While new launch numbers might continue to fall in

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

According to the data, housing sales in Mumbai region fell to 21,985 units during July-September 2019 from 28,563 units in the year-ago period. In Pune, sales fell to 13,644 units from 16,946 units in the year-ago period. In Bengaluru, demand declined to 7,772 units from 10,929 units. Housing sales in Hyderabad went down to 6,141 units from 6,783 units.

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

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

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

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTZ	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11466.30	11599.10	11439.05	11586.35	122.35
YESBANK	41.90	42.20	40.70	42.40	6.35
TATAMOTORS	172.10	144.35	125.10	142.55	16.70
ICICIBANK	190.00	207.00	194.50	207.00	15.20
INDUSIND	174.00	184.00	172.00	181.00	45.50
BAJAJ-AUTO	300.00	310.00	295.00	310.00	13.10
SBIN	256.00	266.00	255.00	263.50	9.25
TATASEEL	34.00	36.15	34.35	35.90	12.50
ASIANPAINT	177.00	184.65	175.00	183.00	45.50
AXISBANK	495.50	712.40	495.00	710.00	115.00
BAJAJFINS	815.00	857.00	810.00	831.65	16.35
COALINDIA	19.00	19.95	19.20	19.85	4.30
MARUTI	697.00	715.55	694.00	712.60	15.10
RAJNAND	402.05	412.20	400.00	406.00	79.20
BRITANNIA	317.00	326.35	316.00	323.00	36.25
RELIANCE	205.00	209.00	201.00	205.45	58.75
HINDUNILVR	206.70	210.00	204.00	210.50	35.50
RELIANCE	173.00	179.00	172.00	179.50	22.60
WINDTELE	218.20	225.10	214.50	222.75	16.55
TCS	200.00	208.00	199.00	202.00	27.60
GAIL	126.70	129.05	125.85	128.40	1.60
KOCHIN	436.00	443.00	437.00	440.75	5.45
ZEEL	26.00	26.50	25.50	26.25	3.85
HEROMOTOCORP	264.00	258.00	261.00	261.00	26.65
NESTLEINDIA	1483.00	1463.35	1416.00	1460.00	15.30
ITC	24.00	24.60	24.05	24.55	2.30
DREDDY	271.00	274.00	269.00	272.00	24.55
ITPC	117.70	117.75	116.95	117.00	1.15
MAM	58.10	59.65	57.75	58.90	4.75
KOC	14.95	14.70	14.75	14.60	0.85
KINDALCO	18.50	18.75	18.25	18.60	0.45
UPL	583.00	599.00	583.00	596.00	18.45
TITAN	128.00	128.55	127.10	127.60	0.45
SUNPHARMA	40.10	40.25	39.80	40.00	0.30
IT	142.00	143.60	142.00	142.50	0.80
HDFCBANK	122.70	122.85	121.10	122.50	0.40
SHRDL	35.00	36.10	35.00	35.50	0.50
BHEL	312.00	313.50	304.00	311.50	0.90
KOTAK	161.00	161.60	158.50	160.00	-3.55
WIPRO	248.00	250.15	246.00	248.30	-0.40
INFY	707.00	725.00	703.00	720.00	-2.05
ADANIPORTS	44.50	45.20	44.00	44.50	0.45
TECHM	72.00	73.10	71.95	72.40	-0.90
ONGC	14.10	14.10	13.95	14.05	-0.70
ADANIPOR	40.10	41.10	40.00	40.75	-0.45
POWERGRID	198.75	202.75	194.00	200.00	-1.15
NTPC	25.00	25.10	24.95	25.05	-0.10
GRASIMCO	427.10	428.00	421.00	425.00	-3.35
ULTRACEM	74.10	73.05	71.00	72.50	-5.15
VEDL	148.00	149.70	144.75	148.95	-1.45
HCTECH	110.00	110.20	108.55	109.20	-11.70

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTZ	PREATH
YESBANK	41.90	48.20	40.65	47.10	ICICIBANK
INDUSINDBKFIN	169.80	204.00	165.95	197.15	INFRAE
RELIANCE	256.00	293.90	253.65	289.85	BOMBYD
ICICIBANK	190.00	207.00	194.50	207.00	ACC
INDUSINDBKFIN	169.80	208.00	166.15	203.60	MANIPAL
YESBANK	256.00	266.00	255.65	265.25	ADANIG
MARUTI	697.00	715.00	694.00	712.10	BAHART
TATAMOTORS	172.10	199.00	172.15	187.15	INFRAE
TATATELEST	34.60	36.15	34.00	35.65	ITANI
INDUSINDBKFIN	127.00	134.60	127.25	133.80	ITANI
BAJAJFINANCE	402.90	415.25	399.20	410.20	CONGEN
RELIANCE	260.00	273.75	259.00	264.70	PACIFIC
TATAMOTORS	151.00	207.80	151.00	207.80	ACC
AXISBANK	69.10	72.40	69.10	71.00	EDELWE
BAJAJFINANCE	251.50	270.90	250.00	268.10	TITAN
EICHERMOTOR	1945.10	2078.40	1945.10	2051.80	UTP
TATAMOTORS	172.10	199.00	172.15	187.15	INFRAE
TVS	40.80	45.10	39.60	43.15	BAJAJ
HDFC	260.00	294.95	250.55	288.20	INDIA
ICICIBANK	43.50	44.25	43.75	44.05	SIEMENS
RELIANCE	181.00	207.80	181.00	207.80	ACC
BAJAJFINANCE	102.00	83.61	100.00	82.65	SUNTV
APOLLO	128.25	142.85	138.60	141.00	MNF
MOTERSHOMI	100.00	111.70	99.50	108.60	GAIL
INDUSINDBKFIN	122.10	134.60	122.10	134.60	AMARAJ
RELIANCE	87.30	89.40	86.30	89.00	RNAM
INDUSINDBKFIN	389.00	423.60	371.90	410.65	ADANIG
INDUSINDBKFIN	219.80	224.60	214.20	223.35	STRICH
TATAMOTORS	172.10	199.00	172.15	187.15	INFRAE
RELIANCE	58.75	59.60	58.25	59.20	UNION
ICICIBANK	51.35	51.05	50.30	51.15	STRICH
TATAMOTORS	282.10	286.90	277.10	285.50	MINDA
RELIANCE	88.00	92.15	87.00	91.00	DSHVT
BAJAJFINANCE	149.00	149.00	148.50	148.50	ACC
INDUSINDBKFIN	42.00	44.90	41.45	44.55	TECHM
RELIANCE	76.80	79.55	76.50	78.10	GILLETTE
AXISBANK	81.00	84.80	81.00	84.40	ACC
TATAMOTORS	187.00	193.45	187.00	193.45	ACC
ASHOKLEY	71.25	74.00	71.00	73.50	ACC
BAJAJ-AUTO	300.00	316.30	299.50	313.00	ACC
RELIANCE	243.00	246.60	243.00	245.85	ACC
INDUSINDBKFIN	80.00	82.15	79.50	81.75	ACC
AXISBANK	6.00	6.40	5.97	6.32	ACC
INDUSINDBKFIN	1925.00	1988.00	1925.00	1981.75	ACC
HDFCLIFE	611.10	621.60	611.00	614.85	ACC
RELIANCE	187.00	193.45	187.00	193.45	ACC
INDUSINDBKFIN	14415.00	14600.00	14160.00	14512.75	ACC
PVR	189.00	189.60	180.00	183.95	ACC
RELIANCE	57.50	59.35	56.95	59.10	ACC
RELIANCE	628.00	648.75	625.00	646.40	ACC
PFC	95.50	96.40	93.30	95.15	ACC







Despite some misses, *Wok in the Clouds* makes for a comfy place for light bites, says CHAHAK MITTAL

Tucked in one of the many busy and bustling blocks of Connaught Place, Wok in the Clouds instantly took me back to the Keanu Reeves-starrer, *A Walk in the Clouds*. I wondered whether it was one of those high-concept bars based on a blockbuster. As I entered the place, I realised that it was inspired only by the film's name. Its vibe was about chic contemporaneity. The heart-shaped mirrors, graffiti and trendy posters about drinking and dining at the entrance were a quirky way to welcome the guests. As I sat on the high-pitched chaise-lounge at the table adjacent to the bar, I observed artefacts and showpieces which intrigued me. Why would a fine dine-in restaurant-cum-bar have three tiny statues of soldiers holding a rope in different positions — climbing up, crawling down and hanging? However, they added to the absorbing aura. To my left were posters of guitar, music signs, and some doodles that said, 'I Love Binge Drinking.' Well, the vibrant bar with a colourful glassy slab, lit with yellow lights, and an array of wines, whiskies, spirits and beers, could certainly make that one come true.

As impressed as I was by WITC's aesthetics, I wondered whether it served me would match up to the ambience. Scrolling through the menu, I first ordered the puree of wild mushroom soup. The porcini, shiitake and button mushrooms-infused off-white creamy soup had a delicate texture. I never had thought that mushrooms could be so distinctly flavourful. Talking of spices, the soup tasted of black pepper that blended perfectly with a variety of bland but fresh mushrooms. The soup was served with two cigar rolls and a chilli oregano dip, which complemented the soup's comforting taste.

It was time for the *Minestrone*. The broth filled with finely-chopped bits of tomatoes and vegetables, kidney beans, dry spaghetti, rye bread and garlic butter had the right amount of tanginess which made the right impact. However, an excess of garlic meant the soup couldn't quite make the cut.



## CLOUD OF HOT AIR

Next up was the *Aloo chakna chaat*. As eager as I was for this dish to arrive on my table, my interest fell flat as I bit into it. With wheat crisps (*sev*) and pomegranate sprinkled on top, the chopped potatoes dipped in sweet-spicy tamarind sauce and tasted exactly the way it was described, nothing less or more. I wished there was extra zing to the dish. After all, why would I pay ₹225 for an *Aloo chaat* that I could relish at just ₹40 at the street side? Also, the latter would have been aptly spicy.

The *Rawa dal tikki* followed. I chose to order the dish as the thought of a *tikki* being served with *Matar ka hummus*, rather than the conventional mint *chutney* or *meethi saunth*, instantly drew me towards it. Well, it didn't disappoint me. But the problem lay at the heart as the *tikki*, due to its blandness and dry texture, failed to make an everlasting impression.

Next in line were the crunchy *dahi sticks*, or the *Dahi kebabs*. The previous two dishes were responsible for a taste graph that was sliding down fast. However, it's rightly said, good things come to you when you least expect them. The kebabs, wrapped around wooden ice cream sticks, were presented in four vodka shot glasses. Its appearance had made a mark. Now



was the time for the more important test — taste — and it passed with flying colours. It instantly melted in my mouth which was soon awash with the creamiest filling. Served with a *mint chutney*, the kebabs were made with

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

tastiest dish of the evening.

To accompany the sweet and salty dishes that I was having, I ordered the scented black currant sherbet which had kokum, black currant, cumin in sparkling water. It was the perfect refreshment. I sulked at the thought that I could have ordered it earlier. Its juicy, spicy and tangy texture made me forget all my woes of tasting imperfect dishes on an evening when I craved for some lasting delicacies.

Then came the spicy golden paneer fingers in two ways — peri peri and pesto. Now as we know, the mere mention of paneer excites a vegetarian. However, to my surprise, the long cottage cheese fingers didn't arrive in 'two ways', rather came with two flavoured dips — creamy green pesto and peri peri sauce. Well, one bite into the dish and there occurred an epiphany — there's nothing worse than sitting down at a cafe, ordering a dish, pining for it and being miserably disappointed. The dish was bland and even the dips didn't help.

As full as I was, I didn't want to miss the desserts. I ordered two out of the four in the menu — Apple pie and Sizzling brownie. While the latter amazed me with its remarkable presentation and taste, the latter did a great job at fulfilling my cravings. Just a few words for both the desserts — taste it yourself and feel its extraordinariness.

Though the place had all its misses, a certain joy remains preserved there. It has a quiet, personal yet, at the same time, a strangely social vibe, making it ideal to catch up with a friend after years. Another thing that can be said in favour of the place was the service which was impeccable.

## Fussy little burger

ANDREW REA talks about how his cooking show, *Binging with Babish*, is inspired by many recipes that have been featured in various films and TV series

It all started with a fictional Turkey burger. Andrew Rea's YouTube video series *Binging with Babish* was born in 2016 when he attempted to recreate the 'fussy little burger' described in elaborate detail by Rob Lowe's character Chris Traeger on a third-season episode of *Parks and Recreation*. Hungry viewers were soon clamouring for more recipes based on foods that appear or get mentioned in films or TV episodes, and Rea had a new career on his hands.

Now he has a new cookbook: *Binging with Babish: 100 Recipes Recreated from Your Favorite Movies and TV Shows* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). And while the premise might sound more silly than serious, the book — like the video series — is actually full of real meals and desserts that transcend his sometimes ridiculous fictional origins.

There are a few recipes you'll marvel at but probably never want to make, like Buddy the Elf's candy-laden pasta dish from the movie *Elf* or Jake the Dog's bizarre 'perfect sandwich' from the cartoon *Adventure Time*, which includes human tears as an ingredient. But even with these, Rea lays out the steps to recreate them in actual, edible form.

Most of this beautiful hardcover book, though, is filled with dishes you'd want to dig into even if they didn't have a pop-culture connection.

Rea's recipe for flavourful, yogurt-marinated Palestinian chicken really is as good as Larry David says it is during a season eight episode of *Seinfeld*. And Rea's version of the mushroom soup recipe that Elaine is determined to get from the *Soup Nazi* on *Seinfeld* really is sublime, and not difficult to replicate.

Though he points out in the book's surprisingly moving introduction that he's not a professional chef, Rea brings a remarkable professionalism to the authenticity of his recipes. His luscious strudel, inspired by the film *Inglourious Basterds*, includes dough painstakingly made from scratch.

Fans might be a bit disappointed, in fact, by the shortage of explanation about how



these recipes fit into the stories that inspired them. Beyond the name of the show or film, Rea says little or nothing about that.

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

The recipes are laid out with detailed instructions amid gorgeous photography, and Rea explains how he chose the ingredients and created the dishes. Each recipe includes his personal 'verdict' on how good it really tastes.

Some dishes, it seems, are better left on the screen, including Liz Lemon's Cheesy Blasters (an artery-clogging mix of hot dogs stuffed with Monterey jack cheese, wrapped in a frozen pizza, from *30 Rock*) and Dothraki Blood Pie from *Game of Thrones*, which has as its primary ingredient a full pound of pork fat, if you're diced.

The verdict on that one, according to Rea: 'Dothraki Blood Pie is pretty gross.' But the 'prison gravy' from *Goodfellas* will elevate your next spaghetti dinner. And Rea swears by his



recipe for confit byaldi (better known as ratatouille, and included here in honor of the animated movie of the same name).

In this much longer follow-up to his 2017 cookbook *Eat What You Watch: A Cookbook for Movie Lovers*, Rea has included not just about every genre of film and TV. You'll find Lake Trout and Pit Beef from *The Wire*, followed on the next page by Principal Skinner's favorite coconut-based seafood stew from *The Simpsons*.

If you've ever wanted the secret recipe for Krabby Patties or thought about assembling your own *Friends*-inspired Moistmaker sandwich out of Thanksgiving leftovers, both recipes are here.

And Marvel fans, remember that sandwich Simmons lovingly sent along with Fitz on his first real mission during season one of *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*? It's here, along with a recipe for chicken paprika just like the one Vision attempts to whip up for Wanda Maximoff during *Captain America: Civil War*. Even the chicken shawarma that the Avengers refueled on after the exhausting Battle of New York is included.

Whatever your TV or movie preferences may be, Rea's appealing voice and creative recipes might just inspire you to start cooking.

In describing the joyful reaction of Aziz Ansari's character, Dev, at having made really good pasta from scratch during an episode of *Master of None*, Rea offers this encouragement: "This sentiment of excited accomplishment is an accessible, tangible sensation that we can manifest from our favorite pieces of fiction. All you've got to do is try."

—AP

## gorge us



Sidekick, Hyatt Regency presents special Diwali hampers, which bring together a range of carefully selected assortments, including Indian sweets, and dry fruits in limited edition boxes. Some of them are the Gourmet Box, the Premium Box, the Luxury Box, and the Executive Box with four, six, eight and 12 items respectively. Price: ₹2,450 plus taxes



Celebrate this Diwali with L'Opéra's carefully curated limited edition festive hampers that comprise authentic French delicacies such as macarons, biscuits, chocolates, colourful dragées, florentines, tea cakes, preserves and exotic teas in various combinations, which can also be customised to suit your requirements. Price: ₹800 onwards



Foodhall brings the perfect solution for gifting needs this Diwali through its hampers like Noor and Arsh, Opulence of India and Medley, and Taber, comprising luxurious and artisanal offerings like pista, pine nuts and apricots, saffron honey, honey dippers, baklava, stuffed dates and special gourmet salted caramel rochers, orange and mixed seed florentines, honey roasted almonds and more. Price: ₹1,500



Celebrate the festival of lights with The Good Life (TGL) Company's hampers of premium teas that unfold six decadent tea blends, handcrafted to tease each of the six senses, consisting of Mogo Mogo, China Geisha, Strawberry and Cream, Orange and more. Price: ₹999 plus taxes



Live up to the vibrancy of the festive season as The Westin Gurgaon presents an array of thoughtfully crafted bespoke Diwali hampers. There is a range of these specially curated treats like truffle chocolates, enticing Indian sweets, macarons and cookies, chocolate bars, baklava, nuts and more. There is also the Tea Hamper, which is an aficionado's treat, curated with some of the finest teas. Price: ₹350 onwards



### WHOLE SOME WALNUT BREAD

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Fresh yeast: 25 gm
- Warm water
- Honey: 1 tbsp
- Malt flour: 2 tbsp
- Flour: 375 gm
- Whole grain wheat flour: 200 gm
- Walnuts (coarsely chopped): 150 gm
- Salt: 7 gm

#### METHOD

- Dissolve the fresh yeast in a large bowl in lukewarm water. If you are using dry yeast, mix it with the flour.
- Add honey, three types of flour and then stir or knead everything into a nice dough.
- Add the chopped walnuts, salt and knead everything into the dough for five to 10 minutes.
- Leave the kneaded dough in the bowl, cover it with a dish towel and set it aside at a warm place. Let the dough rise for 60 minutes.



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

covered oven plate. Then cover it with a clean dishtowel and let it rise for another 30 minutes at a warm place.

- Preheat the oven to 200 C.
- Spray a little cold water into the oven to create some water vapour. Now bake the bread for about 35 minutes. The bread is done when it sounds hollow when knocking at the bottom of it.

Courtesy: Cicchetti by Mr Beans.

## RECIPES



### BRATHENDL (ROASTED CHICKEN)

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Whole skin chicken: 1 kg
- Salt: 10 gm
- Black pepper crush: 8 gm
- Paprika powder: 15 gm
- Parsley: 20 gm
- Melted butter: 30 gm
- Heavy cream: 200 ml
- Fresh rosemary: 5 gm
- Mustard paste: 5 gm
- Boiled potato: 100 gm
- Garlic paste: 20 gm
- Olive oil: 50 ml

#### METHOD

- Clean and wash chicken, and then allow it to dry. You can also use kitchen towel for this.
- Mix salt, pepper, paprika powder, garlic paste, olive

oil and fresh rosemary. Then rub the chicken with this mixture. Wash parsley bunch and put it inside chicken belly. Allow it to rest for two to three hours.

- Pre-heat oven to 220-225 degree, brush chicken with melted butter and place it on the grid with the breast side down. Let it cook until it turns brown. Try to keep the chicken wet until its roasted fully.
- Pass the juice through a sieve and adjust the seasoning by adding salt, pepper and mustard sauce. Chop parsley, add heavy cream to it and serve hot with chicken, parsley potato and red cabbage salad.

Courtesy: Corporate Chef, Sanjay Singh Yadav at Vapour Bar Exchange.





# Eye opener

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

PTI ■ RANCHI

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

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

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

"It's always a good learning curve coming to India."

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

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

"We can still get 40 points by fol-



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

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

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

"It's no secret that it's been a bit

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

which is an immensely proud moment for every player. "We still motivate everyone within our squad. It has been a challenging few weeks but it's still not too gloomy for us. We are upbeat, the

morale in the camp is still very good. "We still have one game and we can actually change quite a lot. We are still pretty hopeful and pretty positive going into the last Test," he asserted.

## Self destruction

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

his injury."

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

He left for South Africa on

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ RANCHI

A "frustrated" South African batsman Aiden Markram was on Thursday ruled out of the third and final Test against India, having sustained a wrist injury after punching a solid object.

As per Cricket South Africa's media release, "The injury took place following the opener's dismissal in the second innings of the match. In a moment of frustration with his own performance, he lashed out at a solid object, resulting in



## Indian pace attack reminds Lara of old Windies

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Asked what makes Indian team special, Lara said: "It's the Indian pace attack. Unbelievable. I saw them in the West Indies. When you look at the quality — (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Shami, (Umesh) Yadav — all these guys, and the guys on the sidelines, like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, are unbelievable." "It reminds me a little bit of the (pace-bowling) strength that the West Indies had in the 80s and 90s. The reserve strength is very important in assessing a team's ability. It means that your attack has quality," Lara added.

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

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

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

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

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

"To exclude a player like that (from the Test team) will be very difficult, with the field too. He is coming off very well in the background of MS Dhoni, who laid the foundation, and did things in a different way. "So, I think Indian cricket, as we all know, is headed in the right direction. It's influenced by some of the best people, and is reaping the benefits of it," Lara told reporters here.

## Al-Amin back in B'desh T20 team

PTI ■ DHAKA

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

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

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

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



Al-Amin Hossain in a file picture

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Marsh set to miss Pak Test

AFP ■ SYDNEY

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

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

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

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

"It's my middle finger, just below the wrist — a fracture straight through



the bone," Marsh, who was sporting a cast on his arm, told reporters. Marsh had only been recalled to the Test side for the final game of the Ashes against England last month after a long period out of favour and there are no guarantees he will win a spot back.

"It's a good lesson for

me. Hopefully it's a good lesson for other people as well," added Marsh, whose blunder could open the door for Marcus Stoinis in Brisbane. "At the end of the day, it's a game of cricket. Sometimes you get beat, sometimes you get out, and you can't be punching walls."

SL names T20 squad for Aus tour

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's T20 skipper Lasith Malinga along with Kusal Perera and Niroshan Dickwella, who skipped the recent Pakistan tour citing security fears, were on Thursday included in a 16-man squad to play against Australia. The opening match will be at the Adelaide Oval on Oct 27 with the second at Gabba on Oct 30 and the final game at the MCG on November 1. **The Squad:** Malinga, K Perera, K Mendis, D Gunathilaka, A Fernando, D Shanaka, S Jayasuriya, B Rajapaksa, O Fernando, W Hasaranga, L Sandakan, N Pradeep, I Kumara, I Udana & Kasun Rajitha.

## Reputed coach can help Indian sprinters: Carmelita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



in the 100 meters.

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

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

## India's campaign end in Denmark

PTI ■ ODENSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Wawrinka reach Antwerp quarters



Stan Wawrinka celebrates after win

AGENCIES ■ ANTWERP

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

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

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

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

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

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