

OPINION 8
COULD WE HAVE WON THE WAR?

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SALMAN IS BACK IN DABANGG 3 13 VIVACITY

Centre OK's ownership rights in 1,797 illegal colonies
'Diwali gift' to benefit 50 lakh residents in Delhi; Sainik Farms among 69 affluent colonies left out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri termed the move as a "Diwali gift" that will enable the residents of these colonies to register their properties, avail loans against it, and also pave the way for infrastructure development and civic amenities. The Centre would move swiftly to execute the decision and bring in a legislation in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning November 18, said Puri. Puri said the AAP dispensation had sought time till 2021 to fix the boundaries of these colonies. The move comes ahead of the Assembly polls in the national Capital, scheduled for early next year. Any person paying full amount in one instalment will get the ownership rights immediately. Provisional rights will be given on payment of two instalments, which will be converted to permanent rights after full and final payment. The mapping will be based on a 2015 satellite imagery and the boundaries will be mapped on that imagery. In three months, we will complete the marking of the boundaries. We will also launch a portal for people to apply by furnishing relevant details. This has been long due. We are happy over the fact that we can finally have full and authentic ownership of our houses. It is good the Government has taken this step but I hope it does not take years to be done, and is implemented soon. Generally such announcements are made as a 'token' promise before the elections.

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

the decision to grant people from low income groups own ownership rights. Puri said the city Government had sought time till 2021 to give the inputs sought from it for taking the decision and added that the Modi Government decided to "take the initiative when it became clear that the Delhi Government will do nothing". The DDA will lay down a simplified procedure for issuing conveyance deed and registration of property and fix the boundaries of these colonies. There will be no penalty and external development charges (EDC). As per the existing regulations of 2008, the process of regularisation was to be coordinated and supervised by the Delhi Government. Multiple plots/flats holders will be charged on the rate applicable to area by clubbing all properties. Residents will

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RESIDENTS SAY
This has been long due. We are happy over the fact that we can finally have full and authentic ownership of our houses. It is good the Government has taken this step but I hope it does not take years to be done, and is implemented soon. Generally such announcements are made as a 'token' promise before the elections.



Kejriwal hails Govt for nod to his proposal

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

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



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the media in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

BSNL-MTNL merger, revival planned
Govt announces ₹68,751 cr booster package, 4G spectrum, attractive VRS scheme

Giving a huge boost to the ailing Government telecom companies BSNL and MTNL, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved their merger and announced a revival package of ₹68,751 crore. The Government will also provide 4G spectrum to the merged unit, pay their GST and other dues, and offer an attractive VRS scheme to employees above 50 years. "In case of BSNL and MTNL, the Government's view is clear. These are strategic assets of India. The entire Army network is maintained by BSNL," said Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, reiterating his opposition of these two telecom companies. Prasad said that MTNL will be merged with BSNL soon and will operate as a subsidiary of BSNL. The package includes raising of ₹15,674 crore sovereign bonds to meet the immediate capital requirement of both the companies, 4G spectrum allocation worth ₹20,140 crore, ₹29,937 crore for VRS covering 50 per cent of their employees, and ₹3,674 crore for goods and services tax

that will be levied on allocation of radio waves. "The VRS package approved by the Cabinet will give eligible employees 125 per cent of income that they would have earned by serving the company till the age of 60 years. With this decision, we have taken care of the interest of lakhs of employees of these PSUs," Prasad said. BSNL has around 1.68 lakh employees and MTNL around 22,000. "The VRS is voluntary; nobody can be forced to opt for it," he said. The total debt on both the companies stood at ₹40,000 crore, of which half of the liability is on MTNL alone which operates in Delhi and Mumbai. Both the companies have been demanded to invest ₹2,000 crore in either hydrocarbon

petitive in the market. Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said the spectrum will be allocated to both the companies administratively within a month. The spectrum allocation to BSNL worth ₹14,115 crore will be in lieu of equity shares worth about ₹6,295 crore for MTNL in lieu of preferential shares," Prakash said. The Government will monetise MTNL and BSNL assets worth ₹37,500 crore over a period of three years. Both companies across India have land assets worth more than ₹3 lakh crore. "The assets primarily include land assets but also rental and leasing of their buildings. MTNL has around 29 retail outlets in Delhi alone," Prakash said.

expansion and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. Companies with net worth of ₹250 crore will be allowed to sell petrol and diesel, subject to condition that they install facilities for marketing of at least one new generation alternate fuel such as CNG, LNG, biofuels or electric vehicle charging within three years of start of operations, 18B Minister Prakash Jaisankar said. Detailed report on P10

MSP for wheat, pulses raised
New Delhi: The Government on Wednesday hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat by ₹85 to ₹1,925 a quintal and for pulses by up to ₹325 per quintal. A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers. Detailed report on P10

Shivakumar not 'flight risk', Delhi HC grants bail

Sonia pays a visit to Karnataka Congress strongman in Tihar
PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Karnataka Congress leader DK Shivakumar in a money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying he cannot tamper with the evidence or influence witnesses. Justice Suresh Kait said the Congress leader was "entitled" for grant of bail as no material has been shown to indicate that he was a flight risk. Earlier in the day, Congress president Sonia Gandhi met Shivakumar in Tihar Jail and assured him of all support from the party. Sonia was accompanied by Congress general secretary Ambika Soni and Congress MP DK Suresh, who is also the brother of Shivakumar. Sonia had met former Finance Minister P Chidambaram

when he was lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with the INX Media case. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and ex-Chief Ministers HD Kumaraswamy and Siddaramaiah welcomed the High Court granting bail to the Congress leader. Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy, both Vokkaliga strongmen, have been bitter political opponents in the old Mysuru region, until they came together for the formation of the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government, after 2018 Assembly polls. Shivakumar had met Shivakumar at Tihar Jail on Monday and said that the Congress leader was "bold" to fight "vengeance politics". Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy, both Vokkaliga strongmen, have been bitter political opponents in the old Mysuru region, until they came together for the formation of the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government, after 2018 Assembly polls. Shivakumar had met Shivakumar at Tihar Jail on Monday and said that the Congress leader was "bold" to fight "vengeance politics". Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy, both Vokkaliga strongmen, have been bitter political opponents in the old Mysuru region, until they came together for the formation of the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government, after 2018 Assembly polls.



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

CAPSULE

OPP J'KHAND MLAS JOIN BJP AHEAD OF ELECTIONS
Ranchi: Five Opposition MLAs in Jharkhand joined the BJP on Wednesday, giving the State's ruling party a shot in the arm ahead of the Assembly polls later this year. Those who switched sides included Sukhdeo Bhagat and Manoj Yadav of the Congress, Kunal Sarangi and Japrajaksh Bhai Patel of the JMM, and Independent MLA Bhanu Pratap Sahi, party sources said.

BODIES OF COUPLE FOUND IN SOUTH-EAST DELHI
New Delhi: Bodies of a couple with stab injuries have been found at their rented house in southeast Delhi's Pul Pralhadpur area, police said. They were identified as Akash (32) and Bhavina (29). They were married for six years, they said.

IMF: INDIA'S GDP GROWTH TO REBOUND TO 7%
Singapore: The International Monetary Fund sees Indian economic growth rebounding to around 7 per cent in next financial year, supported by measures like monetary policy stimulus and corporate income tax cuts.

Punjab bypolls results would test popularity of Capt Amarinder Govt

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH
With the counting of votes for the by-elections, held on October 21 in four Assembly segments of Punjab, all the prominent political parties in the State are claiming to have an upper hand. While the SAD-BJP combine are expressing confidence of winning all four seats, the ruling Congress is also convinced of keeping up its victory march by winning all seats. SAD is contesting on two seats - Dakha and Jalalabad, in alliance with the BJP which has fielded its candidates on another to seats - Phagwara and Mukerian. Though unsure, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), on the other hand, is also "hesitatingly" claiming to make a mark, at least in one of the segment. The exit polls have also

BrahMos missiles hit targets, prove IAF precision from mobile platform

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The two successive successful test firings of India's most formidable and deadliest weapon BRAHMOS in its surface-to-air configuration by the Indian Air Force (IAF) have come as a spectacular Diwali gift for the nation. "A direct hit on the target was achieved in both the cases. Firing of the missile has enhanced IAF's capability to destroy any kind of land target with pinpoint accuracy from a mobile platform," an official said after the successful test firings at Trek Islands in Andaman & Nicobar on October 21-22. Even as New Delhi prepares to deal with any kind of exigency arising out of the swiftly evolving security scenario in India's western periphery, the back-to-back successful test firings have boldly signified India's war preparedness. The successful tests have confirmed the precision guid-

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Five months after eliminating Zakir Musa, chief of Ansar Ghazwat Ul-Hind - a group affiliated with al-Qaeda - a joint team of security forces on Tuesday evening gunned down his successor Hamid Lelhari in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. After the successful operation, which was conducted on receipt of specific intelligence input about the presence of three terrorists in the area, the security forces identified the prize catch on Wednesday morning. Confirming the elimination of one of the top commanders in the Valley, the State police chief Dilbag Singh at a Press conference announced, "The Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind terror outfit has been wiped out with the



J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh addresses a Press conference in Srinagar on Wednesday. PTI



# Counting of votes today in Haryana

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

The poll results will be out on Thursday in Jatland-Haryana, which witnessed a multi-cornered ballot battle in 90-member State Assembly.

The polling held on October 21 had witnessed lowest ever voter turnout of 68.31 per cent in last three decades in Haryana. Re-polling was held at five polling stations in five Assembly constituencies each in the state on Tuesday.

While most exit polls have projected a comfortable victory for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, one has predicted a close fight between the BJP and Congress with the Jannayak Janta Party likely to play kingmaker.

"The counting of votes will begin at 8 am. The electronic voting machines (EVMs) and the VVPAT paper trail machines used in Monday's polling are kept at 90 strongrooms set up at 59 different locations in the state," said an official of Election Commission.

A counting centre has been set up in each of the 90 Assembly constituencies and there is an additional centre in Gurgaon's Badshahpur segment, which had a larger number of polling booths.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for safe custody of the EVMs and VVPAT machines at designated strong rooms where personnel of State Police and Paramilitary forces are guarding the rooms round the clock, the EC official said.

Led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, the BJP had set a target of winning 75 seats in the State, where the Congress is struggling to make a comeback. Several opinion polls have predicted that the ruling BJP will return to power with a brute majority by winning more than 65 seats out of 90 seats.

This time, Haryana recorded a low voter turnout of 68.31 per cent, a sharp decline from 76.54 in the 2014 Assembly polls. Of the total voters exercising their right to franchise, 69.36 per cent were men and 67.12 per cent women.

Altogether, 1,169 candidates, including 105 women, entered the fray this time.

A total of 1.83 crore voters including 98.78 lakh males, 85.12 lakh females and 252 transgender were eligible to vote in the polls.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, the BJP had improved its 2009 tally of four to 47 (33.2 per cent vote share), followed by the INLD with 19 (24.11 per cent)

legislators and the Congress coming third with 15 (20.58 per cent) seats against 40 in 2009 (35 per cent).

This time, the political parties in the fray were BJP, Congress, Indian National Lok Dal-Shiromani Akali Dal alliance, JJP, Aam Aadmi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP) and Swaraj India.

The BJP which is predicted by exit polls to retain power in the state, seems to have reaped benefits by playing up the nationalist issues besides being helped by factionalism in Congress and division of INLD. After INLD split, the JJP came into existence last year.

The saffron party had made the nullification of Article 370 and nationalism a major poll issues while the Congress and other opposition parties had targeted the BJP Government over unemployment, law and order and the condition of farmers in Haryana.

Political observers say that the BJP had an advantage over other political parties after its victory on all the 10 Lok Sabha seats just a few months back in Lok Sabha polls, that too with handsome margins.

Also, BJP was far ahead of its arch-rival - Congress - as far as campaigning at the grassroots level was concerned. While the entire BJP leadership toiled hard to strengthen its cadre at grassroots, the Congress which faced deep leadership crisis in the state kicked off its campaign too late, they say.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, party's working President JP Nadda among other senior party leaders had held rallies in Haryana. Prominent among those whose fate will be known on Thursday include Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, former Congress CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, JJP leader Dushyant Chautala and INLD's senior leader Abhay Singh Chautala.

Haryana Ministers Ram Bilas Sharma, Anil Vij, Capt Abhimanyu, O P Dhankar, Kavita Jain, Krishan Bedi, Manish Grover among others also contested for the BJP. The BJP also fielded TikTok star Sonali Phogat and three sportspersons - Babita Phogat, Yogeshwar Dutt and Sandeep Singh.

Congress bigwigs in the fray were Randeep Singh Surjewala, Kiran Choudhary, Ranbir Mahendra and Kuldeep Bishnoi.



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KARTARPUR**

**KHULLE DARSHAN DIDAR**

9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019 ONWARDS



FREE FACILITY FOR UPLOADING APPLICATION FORMS FOR DARSHAN AT SRI DARBAR SAHIB, KARTARPUR IN ALL SEWA KENDRAS FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019



“ I am thankful to the Almighty for providing us with the opportunity of Khulle Darshan Didar of Gurudwara Sri Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur.”

- Chief Minister, Punjab

## Chandigarh Smart City Limited kicks off e-governance project

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

To provide 27 online citizens services in the city, the Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL) has kicked off its ambitious e-governance project. An agreement has been signed with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) by Chandigarh Smart City Limited for implementation of e-governance services. The completion time of the project is one year and it has been kicked off to minimize manual intervention, ensure transparency, 24x7 access to online citizen services and public grievances by eliminating the need of visiting the Government offices.

KK Yadav, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh, who is also Chief Executive Officer, Chandigarh Smart City Limited held a meeting here on Tuesday to hold discussion on e-governance project.

He said that there will be a total of 27 e-governance services out of which major e-governance services include online building plan approvals, booking of community / banquet hall, online grievance management, e-horticulture services, online per-

missions & NOC, online water and sewerage connections, integration with property tax and registration among others.

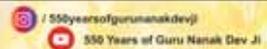
The citizens will be able to access these services through Chandigarh Smart City Limited Web-portal and mobile applications. Citizens can track the status of their applications anytime, anywhere, he said.

The Commissioner also advised that single point of contact persons should be appointed by each UT Department for enabling the data to the agency on priority and the same will be approved by the Head of Department concerned. He further directed that a Steering Committee comprising of Additional Commissioners, Chief Architect, Officers from NIC and SPIC and Deputy Commissioner, Chandigarh should be formed to monitor the progress as well as for approval of formulated plan by the agency M/s PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

Regular meetings will be conducted in the office of Chandigarh Smart City Limited and Municipal Corporation overview the project. The completion time of the project is one year, he added.



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# CBI books Rawat, others in 2016 horse trading case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The FIR follows a Preliminary Enquiry registered by the agency on April 25, 2016 when then Government

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

The agency had sent the video of the conversation between the accused persons on March 23, 2016 to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Gandhinagar in Gujarat for examination.

The FSL opined that there is no addition/deletion/insertion/tampering/morphing in the video files indicating that the recordings are genuine.

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



he could get back to power. The editor of the news channel had allegedly arranged a meeting with Harish Rawat in the VIP lounge of Dehradun Airport on March 23, 2016 and recorded the conversation

between him and Harish Rawat by using his mobile phone. Kumar met Harish Rawat to convey the demands of Harak Singh Rawat including the post of Deputy CM, two departments and cash.

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

During the PE, the CBI had questioned Harish Rawat and Umesh Kumar.

The PE revealed that after passing of the Finance Bill on March 18, 2016 in the Uttarakh Assembly, dissenting MLAs of the Congress along with members from BJP left Dehradun by a chartered flight and shifted to Gurgaon.

Umesh Kumar met Harak Singh Rawat, one of the dissenting MLAs. "During this meeting, they entered into a criminal conspiracy for the purpose of demanding gratification from Harish Rawat in

lieu of his support to the Congress Government. In pursuance of the criminal conspiracy, Harak Singh Rawat asked Umesh Kumar to meet Harish Rawat, then Chief Minister, Uttarakh and convey his demand for the post of Deputy CM, two departments and cash," reads the complaint filed by Deputy SP, CBI RL Yadav on October 13 this year. The complaint is now part of the FIR.

## SC stays proceedings against U'khand scribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

## Eye to polls: Nitish bats for Delhi Statehood, prohibition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rejecting reports of clamp-down in Jammu & Kashmir, a group of intellectuals and academicians in their report on the State said things were normal in the three regions of the State but suggested confidence-building measures to ensure equitable development of all regions and people.

"Overall Kashmir is going through intense churning. Kashmiris across the board seek healing from a corrupt, oppressive, social and political culture that has emerged in Kashmir for the past 70 years and more intensely in the last 30 years," said the report submitted by the group to Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

It said the team could feel the



freedom in the air.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjiv Gaokar, with Justices Gopal Gowd and K K Venugopal, appearing for the State Government, that the construction of the airport has been stalled for the last ten



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

"We are not in a position to constitute a special bench now. In any case, our present situation does not permit us to do this," the bench, which also comprised Justices S A Bobde and S A Nazeer, said.

One of the lawyers appear-

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

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

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



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

## Merkel on 3-day visit to India from Oct 31

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

During her visit from October 31 to November 2,

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

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

In June, Modi and Merkel

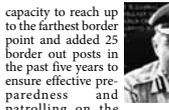
met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japanese city of Osaka and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in areas like artificial intelligence and cyber security.

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

## All is well along India-China border: ITBP chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ITBP chief SS Deswal on Wednesday said India and China have very good understanding, and well understood and agreed mechanisms to resolve all issues arising at the border. Both sides patrol at the border. Both sides patrol at the border. Both sides patrol at the border.



Deswal refused to give absolute numbers but said the Indian side is "as aggressive" as the Chinese side. "We are continuously increasing border posts, we have increased patrolling and in the last five years we have created 25 new border outposts or BOPs," Deswal said, adding each BOP was a "company level strength," implying hundreds of troops.

Asked about the number of incidents of transgressions or incursions by the Chinese PLA troops in the recent past, Deswal refused to give absolute numbers but said the Indian side is "as aggressive" as the Chinese side. "We are continuously increasing border posts, we have increased patrolling and in the last five years we have created 25 new border outposts or BOPs," Deswal said, adding each BOP was a "company level strength," implying hundreds of troops.

## GOVT OK'S FULL CADRE REVIEW THAT GUARDS LAC

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

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

## Congress announces new dates for nationwide stir against Modi Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

AICC insiders even pointed to the possibility of the protest being 'sabotaged' by a section of leaders midway during the poll campaign for Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## National protocol for snow leopard count in place

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday launched a national protocol for enumeration of the snow leopard, an elusive predator found in high-altitudes, mainly spotted in Himalayan regions of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Kamlesh stabbed 15 times, shot once'

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

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

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

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

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

Adityanath on Wednesday announced immediate financial help of ₹15 lakh to Kamlesh Tiwari's wife and sanctioned a house for the family in Sitapur district's tehsil Mehmoobad, an official said.

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

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

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

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

According to experts, it appears that the assassins first fired at Tiwari. They apparently tried to fire a second bullet but it got stuck in the pistol.

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

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

The police have already recovered the pistol and the knife allegedly used by the two men arrested Tuesday by the Gujarat ATS near Shamli Rajasthan.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMD PREDICTS HEAVY RAIN IN TN FROM OCT 25

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

No effective mechanism for flood control

200 and claimed more than 200 lives. Absence of storm water drain was cited as one of the reasons for the flood which ravaged the metropolis for almost three weeks.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami convened a meeting of all government officials to prepare an action plan to counter any kind of floods which may pose threat to the city. The 2015 flood had caused the city Rs 26,000 crore according to officials in the State Secretariat.

Chennai becomes the most unwelcome of all places once rain lashes out across the city. The roads get water logged and traffic comes to a grinding halt. Deaths due to electrocution an galore in the metropolis as Tamil Nadu Generation and Power Corporation's live wires fall into pools of water.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The nun pointed out that even after registering a case against the said channel, several defamatory articles through social media and his supporters were humiliating and defaming her.

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

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Advertisement for Northern Railway Tender Notice. Includes details about the Chief Administrative Officer/Const./Northern Railway, Chennai, and information regarding the tender process for various projects.

Danve denies making cow slaughter remarks after his video goes viral. TN RAGHUNATHA M MUMBAI. Union Minister and senior BJP leader Raasheeb Danve landed in trouble on Wednesday after a video — in which he is reportedly telling a Muslim gathering that no one would stop them from undertaking slaughter of cow progeny — went viral on social media.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED. General Public is hereby informed that two men namely: (1) Abdul o Kamal, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, (2) Raju S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, have been missing/kidnapped since 06.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY. General Public is hereby informed that one male Name: Unknown, S/O: Unknown, Address: Unknown, was found dead at Jaal in Haiderpur water treatment plant, Sec-13, Rohini, Delhi in the area of P. S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi on 17.10.2019 at 08:46 am. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 08-A, dated 17.10.2019 at P. S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Advertisement for ICICI Bank Physical Possession Notice. Includes details about the bank's policy on physical possession of property for secured loans and the consequences of non-compliance.

Danve is also heard saying: "there is illegal business of rice and sandalwood here (in Bhokardan). Should I stop it? I can stop it in just one day". After the video went viral, Danve in a statement clarified that the video had been "doctored" and he had not made any statement relating to cow slaughter. "I would like to clarify that I have made no such comment regarding cow slaughter and the video that is being shared online is manipulated to convey a wrong message in the society," the minister said in his statement.

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 45-50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Gender: Male, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Grey Shirt was found dead body in the Jurisdiction of PS Mahendra Park, Delhi on 20.09.2019 at 10:26. In this regard, FIR/DD No. 20-A dated 20.09.2019 has been lodged at PS Mahendra Park, Delhi.

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 18 years, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black, Height: 5'5", ID Mark: Black mole on head, was wearing Dark Blue T-Shirt and Grey Pant, was found near Jani Mandir, Y Block, Piliyanji Village, Fruit Mandi, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi at 16:01 PM. In this regard a DD No. 11A, dated 16.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 45-50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Gender: Male, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Grey Shirt was found dead body in the Jurisdiction of PS Mahendra Park, Delhi on 20.09.2019 at 10:26. In this regard, FIR/DD No. 20-A dated 20.09.2019 has been lodged at PS Mahendra Park, Delhi.

No torture in Kathua probe, says J&K DCP

'Court order on FIR against SIT will be followed'

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



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

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

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

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

Sources in the police force said an application asking the lower court's order would be moved before the Jammu & Kashmir High Court soon. The Kathua rape and murder case ended with the conviction of six people, including the accused, Sanjay Ram and dismissed Special Police Officers Deepak Khajuria and Parvesh Kumar who were sentenced to life imprisonment. Three dismissed policemen Anand Dutta, Tilak Raj, and Surender Verma were sentenced to five years in jail. PTI

POST ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370 J&K all set for first-ever BDC polls amid boycott by Congress, NC, PDP

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

There are 26,629 electors — 8,313 women and 18,316 men for the polls to elect chairpersons of BDCs, officials said. They said adequate security arrangements have been made at the polling stations, and for panchees and sarpaches, who will vote in the BDC elections.

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

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

The Congress has announced its decision to boycott the elections citing "indifferent attitude" of the state administration and continued detention of its leaders in Kashmir. There are 90 candidates in Baramulla, 82 in Jammu, 76 in Srinagar, 74 in Doda, 72 in Kathua, 58 each in Udhampur and Budgam, 44 in Kishtwar, 43 in Ramban and 39 in Reasi, the officials said.

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

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

BJP making mockery of democracy: J&K Cong

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

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

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

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

KILLINGS OF 4 IAF PERSONNEL

Yasin Malik appears in court through video conferencing

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

Two Hizbul terrorists arrested in Kishtwar

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

They have been identified as Abdul Kareem, brother of Hizbul terrorist Amin Bhat alias Jehangir Saroori, and Danish Nangar of Dachhan belt, officials said.

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

BJP can't form Govt without our help: Raut

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the various exit polls — results of which came out on the evening of October 21, the pollsters have predicted that the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance would win anywhere from 166 seats to 243 seats in the Assembly polls. The two exit polls have given individual winning of the Shiv Sena and the BJP separately — had on 122 and 63 seats respectively.

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

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

As many as 134,000 apple boxes have been procured from Fruit Mandi Batengoo in Anantnag district and Rs 2.50 crores have been paid to fruit growers under recently launched MIS under the department of Horticulture, they said.

The basic objective of MIS is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in case of glut in production and fall in prices of MIS under the department of Horticulture, they said.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

Schools and colleges of public transport were off the roads. There was huge rush of private vehicles in some areas of the city, including commercial hub of Lal Chowk and Jehangir Chowk, causing mass-hysteria in some areas, prompting authorities to regulate the movement of the vehicles, the officials said.

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

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

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

South Delhi Municipal Corporation Notice Inviting Tender. Office of Executive Engineer, West Zone, B-Block, Shanker Nagar, Delhi-110018. Nit No. 07.EE.M.WZ.II.WZ.TC.2019-2020. Dated: 18.10.2019. The Executive Engineer Maint WZ II SDMC, B Block, Shanker Nagar, Vikas Pur, New Delhi-110018 invites on behalf of the Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation sealed percentage rates tenders from the approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD General Wing online as per http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCTENDER on the following schedule:

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON. See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Altaf @ Afhab Alam S/o Mohd. Yaseen R/o H.No. 50-A, B-Block, Bank Colony, Rajeev Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 148/19 u/s 420/120-B/34 IPC P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Altaf @ Afhab Alam cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Altaf @ Afhab Alam absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant), Proclamation is hereby made that the said Altaf @ Afhab Alam accused of FIR No. 148/19 u/s 420/120-B/34 IPC is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.11.2019.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. The Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, Northern Railways, Kashmir gate, Delhi-110006 and on behalf of the President of India, invites Expression of Interest for the following work: Name of work and location: Notice for Expression of Interest for 'Providing proven methodology for analysing bridge structure for various stresses generated due to continuation of long welded rails over Railway Bridge at Rohank'. Pre application meeting: On 11.11.19 in the office of Dy. Chief/Track Bridge, New Delhi-110002 till 11.30 hours daily & Time for submission of Expression of Interest and opening of tender: Expression of Interest may be submitted up to 1.30 hrs on 26.11.2019 in the office of Dy. Chief/Construction, Northern Railway, Tikri Bridge, New Delhi-110002. Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed Notice for Expression of Interest is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in from 23.10.2019 to 28.11.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above Expression of Interest are given in document. Tender Notice No. Dy-CE-TRK-ROK-EOI Dated: 23.10.2019. 3394/19. Serving Customers With A Smile.

Appeal For Identification. General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown St: Unknown, R/o: Unknown Sex: Male, Height: 5 feet 5 inch, Complexion: Whisker: Face: Round, Hair: Black & White, Identity Marks: S. Kumar Write on Right hand Wearing: Green Colour Shirt, Yellow Colour T-shirt, and Orange colour pant. He was Found Hanging with a Tree at 5742/81, Reghar Pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi. He was Admitted in LHMC Hospital During Treatment Doctor declared he dead on dated 20.10.2019. In this regard a DD No. 08-A dated 20.10.2019 has been lodged at: PS Prasad Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following: SHO P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-25726562, 25751048 DP/6681/CD/19

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH-I) OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET - NEW DELHI-110017. Nit No. 52/S-1 (2019-20) S. No. Name of work Estimated cost of tender (in Rs) Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution 1 Desilting of deep and silted up sewer lines manholes of Vasant Kunj Institutional area, Vasant Kunj Phase-2 against deficiency charges deposited by D/OA under E-1(South-I)(Rs-invoice) 658000/ 23.10.2019 13.11.2019 upto 3.00 PM

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON. See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Dr. Mohitosh Roy, S/o Sh. Manoranjan Roy, R/o H.No. 125, J.P. Colony, Sec-07, R.K. Puram, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1048/19 u/s 419 IPC & 27 DMC Act has been registered at P.S. R.K. Puram, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Dr. Mohitosh Roy cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Dr. Mohitosh Roy has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant), Proclamation is hereby made that the said Dr. Mohitosh Roy accused of case FIR No. 1048/19 u/s 419 IPC & 27 DMC Act, P.S. R.K. Puram, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before 16.12.2019. By Order Sh. Manoj Kumar, Metropolitan Magistrate-08, Patiala House, New Delhi DP/112/SW/19/(Court Matter)

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI 4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001. U.O. No. 1320/18 Date: 17.09.2019. C/O BANK Versus Applicant. CHANDANI GARG & ORS. Respondent. TO: DEFENDANT 2. YOGENDRA PRATAP (S/o) D-901, Shubhikarma Apartment, F-31, Sector-50, Noida City Centre, Noida, U.P.-201301. N.O.1 also at: C/o. Info Edge India Ltd., B-5, Sect.-132, Noida, U.P.-201304. N.O.2 also at: B-39, G.F., Sect-84, Noida, U.P.-201301. Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.67,68,200/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 14.11.2019 at 10:30 AM. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence. BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

## Criminal lapses

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



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

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

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

## Needlessly undemocratic

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



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

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

# Could we have won the war?

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



CLAUDE ARPI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SOUNDBITE

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



**BCCI chief** —Sourav Ganguly

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



**Actor** —Kalki Koechlin

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



**UN Secretary-General** —Antonio Guterres

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



**Former president** —Pranab Mukherjee

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tough times ahead

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

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

### The UN, its role and challenges

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

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



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

**Ganapathi Bhat Akola**

### Learn from Assam

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

### Learn from Assam

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

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

ment and the existing Government staff were to strictly follow the two-child family norm. Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was pushing for the population policy to be adopted, recently said, "While the State's population rose by 46 lakh from 2.66 crore in 2001 to 3.12 crore in 2011, a preliminary analysis has shown that it has increased by one crore in 16 years between 2001 and 2017. This increase is not only alarming but also unacceptable." The alarming increase in population was due to the early marriage in communities living in char (riverine), tea gardens and tribal areas. Girls in these areas marry between 14 and 16 years, while boys have been found to be marrying between 16 and 20 years. Thus, the reason for the alarming increase in population being early marriage, the Government must strictly implement existing rules to forestall early marriage among people. Taking a cue from Assam, the Central Government, too, can implement this idea.

**TK Nandanani Chennai**

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Hurdles in Ayushman Bharat

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



RAJEEV AHUJA

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

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

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

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

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

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

**INSTEAD OF THE SIX-YEAR CLAUSE, IF PEOPLE ARE COMING HERE, THEY SHOULD SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT AND CAN BE GIVEN CITIZENSHIP POST VERIFICATION.**  
 — WEST BENGAL BJP GENERAL SECRETARY SAYANTAN BASU

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**BOTH THE NRC AND CAB SHOULD BE SCRAPPED. WHY DOES A PERSON NEED TO PROVE HIS IDENTITY AFTER 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE?**  
 —TMC SECRETARY GENERAL PARTHA CHATTERJEE

# End food wastage, feed millions

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



MOÏN QAZI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Studies have shown that malnutrition and

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



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

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

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

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

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

ICDS and the PDS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Innovation can break stranglehold of plastic

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

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

to pervade every aspect of our lives?

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

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



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

Though these are often erroneously promoted as biodegradable

or compostable, the fact is that these plastics are as difficult to biodegrade or recycle as conventional plastic. One again, corporate profitability is taking the lead over environmental responsibility and concerns. The Government, too, seems to be at sea when it comes to pinning down the exact sources of plastic proliferation. Due to this ambiguity, even the incidence of the recently-banned single-use plastic is now steadily creeping up.

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

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

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

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

*(The writer is an environmental journalist)*



HOPE TRUDEAU LEARNS A LESSON

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

# Govt eases rules for setting up petrol pumps

**Allows non-oil cos in business**

**PTI IN NEW DELHI**

In the biggest reform in fuel retailing sector in almost two decades, the Government on Wednesday announced setting up petrol pumps, allowing non-oil companies to venture into the business - a move that could help private and foreign firms to enter the world's fastest-growing market. At present, to obtain a fuel retailing license in India, a company needs to invest ₹2,000 crore in either hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. Companies with a net worth of ₹250 crore will be allowed to sell petrol and diesel

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

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

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



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

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

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

While Puma Energy had applied for a retail license, Aramco was in talks to enter the sector. State-owned oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) - currently own most of 65,554 petrol pumps in the country.

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

Nayara has 5,344 while Shell has just 160 pumps. BP Plc of UK had a couple of years back secured a license to set up 3,500 pumps but hasn't yet started doing so. It is now venturing into the business with Reliance with plans to scale up Reliance's present network strength to 5,500.

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

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

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

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

## BUSINESS CORNER

**AMITABH BANERJEE NOMINATED AS IFRC MD**

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



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

# Markets resume upward trend

**IT, finance stocks sparkle**

11,604.10. HCL Tech was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.93 per cent, ahead of its quarterly results.

Maruti Suzuki, SBI, HDFC and Hero MotoCorp gained up to 2.55 per cent. Infosys rebounded 1.16 per cent after a massive sell-off in the previous session following a whistleblower complaint.

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

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

worst-case scenario is factored in the stock prices.

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

Sectorally, BSE auto, IT, consumer durables, power, FMCG, tech and finance indices rose up to 1.18 per cent. On the other hand, BSE telecom, oil and gas, energy, realty, industrials, capital goods and metal indices tumbled up to 3.04 per cent.

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated marginally to 70.92 against the US dollar intraday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The CCEA has approved ₹85 per quintal hike in wheat



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

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

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

Among oilseeds, rapeseed/mustard MSP has been increased by ₹25 to ₹4,425 per quintal for 2019-20 rabi crop from ₹4,200 per quintal during 2018-19.

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

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

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

The crop will be marketed from next April onwards. **PTI**

# Infosys recovers lost ground; rises over 1%

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

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

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

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

wiping ₹53,451 crore off its market valuation. A complaint by a group that calls itself 'Ethical Employees' of Infosys has alleged CEO SAIL Parekh and CFO N. Vijay Kumar were indulging in 'unethical practices' to boost short-term revenue and profits.

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

Sebi starts probe against Infosys over whistleblower charges

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

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

# Rupee inches up 3 paise to 70.91 versus USD

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

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

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

# Gold gains ₹177 on stronger rupee, firm global trends

New Delhi: Gold prices on Wednesday rose ₹177 to ₹38,932 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001  
O.A. No. 1319/18 Date: 17.09.2019  
UCO BANK ..... Applicant  
Versus  
YOGENDRA PRATAP & ORS. .... Respondent  
TO, DEFENDANT  
1. YOGENDRA PRATAP  
2. CHANDNI GARG  
Both at:  
C-901, ShubhKarma Apartment, F-31, Sector-50, Noida City Centre, Noida, U.P. 201301.  
No. 2 Also at: C-36, G.F., Sect. 64, Noida, U.P. 201301.  
S-9, Sect-132, Noida, U.P. 201304.  
3. M/S. SUPERCITY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.,  
6. Bharti Colony, F.F. Preet Vihar, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092.  
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.32,35,235/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 14.11.2019 at 10:30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.  
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,  
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed one boy namely **Raj Yadav, S/o Lalit Yadav, R/o A-54, Shani Bazar Road Prem Nagar II, Delhi, Age: 21 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing Black colour Shirt & Pant, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, since 09.09.2019. In this regard a DD No. 66-A, Dated 17.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about him please inform undersigned.  
Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph. No. : 011-24368639 PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710 DP/3384/RD/19. PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25489080**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy named **Bir Bhan, S/o Mursahi Lal, R/o H.No. A-106, Raja Vihar, Samajpur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 19.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 61-A dated 20.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing / kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing / kidnapped boy is as under:  
Name: Bir Bhan, Gender: Male, Age: 19 years Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue & Green colour shirt, black colour pant and black colour sandal in his feet.  
If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/ Samaipur Badli, Delhi. E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 PS. Samaipur Badli, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-27854757, 27854799 DP/700/ON/19**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

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



# 39 found dead in truck container near London

## Driver arrested

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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



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

Wales on Saturday.

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

Essex Police Chief

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

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

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

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

# HK Govt withdraws bill that sparked protests

AP ■ HONG KONG

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

Secretary for Security John

Lee told the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's legislature that the Government suspended the bill because it had resulted in "conflicts in society". In order to clearly spell out the Government's position, "I formally announce the withdrawal of the bill," Lee told lawmakers. Pro-democracy law-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# China rejects report of replacing HK leader Lam

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

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

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

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

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

# Esper arrives in Baghdad to discuss US troop deployments

AP ■ BAGHDAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Iran welcomes Turkey-Russia deal on Syria

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

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

Iran regards the deal as a "positive step to restore stability and tranquility to the region," he said. "We hope that this agreement would address Turkey's security concerns as well as Syria's territorial integrity and national sovereignty," he added.

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

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

# Vikram lander not found in NASA's latest images

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## "KAVYAM" AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

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

1. Project Approvals	Colonsier/Developer: Agrante Realty Ltd License No/ Year: 101/2017 Building Plan Approved on 06.07.2018
2. Location	Sector 108, Gurugram, Haryana
3. Provisions	<b>Project Area :</b> 5 acres comprising a total 723 no. of apartments. <b>Community Facilities :</b> One Community Hall of 2000 sqft and One Anganwadi-cum-Creche of 2000 sqft. <b>Category 1:</b> 73 no. of apartments of 512.50 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 130.30 sqft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. <b>Category 2:</b> 1 no. of apartments of 512.50 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 130.30 sqft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. <b>Category 3:</b> 269 no. of apartments of 488.30 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 79.73 sqft (approx.) with a two wheeler parking.
4. Apartment Details	<b>Category 1 &amp; 2: Rs. 21.00 lakhs/ apartment;</b> <b>Category 3: Rs. 19.93 lakhs/ apartment.</b> The above rate is an all-inclusive cost of apartment as per 35.193 lakhs of the policy notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (details available at the Department website, i.e. tcharyana.gov.in) and subsequent amendments as applicable. * <b>Statutory &amp; government taxes are as applicable.</b>
5. Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)	
6. Payment Terms	i. With application: Booking amount, i.e., 5% of cost of flat. ii. On allotment: Additional 20% of cost of flat. iii. Balance 75% of the amount in six equal monthly instalments over three year period. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall invite interest as provided in rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	2BHK + 3 Balconies 2BHK + 2 Balconies (Detailed specifications are provided, in application form)
8. Applications Timelines	i. Applications can be procured from: 704, DLF Tower-B, Jasola, and New Delhi by paying an application fee of Rs 1000/- starting from 24.10.2019 & also from the website of www.kavyamhomes.com. ii. In continuation of advertisement dated 03.07.2019, it is to inform to the general public that date for submission of booking application form has now been extended till date 23.11.2019 iii. All Applicants who have already applied and the prospective applicant are also directed to submit an affidavit declaring "weather applicant is or not identified beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and relevant documents

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

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

RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018.  
Contact at - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 011-41924100-199, 8800499325, 8800499674

# EU debates Brexit delay as Johnson eyes election

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

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

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

But, in a fresh twist to the divorce saga, MPs also rejected his bid to curtail parliamentary scrutiny of the bill and rush it through in a matter of days.

European Council President Donald Tusk has recommended that EU's 27 other member states grant a flexible extension until January 31, 2020 — to be cut short if Britain ratifies the deal before then.

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

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

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

# GLOBE TROTTER

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

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

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

**ELEPHANTS DYING OF THIRST IN ZIMBABWE**  
Harare: A big relief operation is underway at one of Zimbabwe's best-known game parks where elephants are starving to death because of drought. Almost all water pans in the Mana Pools National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, have dried up, reported Efe news.

**PAK TO TAKE PART IN AF PEACE TALKS IN MOSCOW**  
Islamabad: Pakistan on Wednesday said it will take part in the four-party dialogue on the Afghan peace process to be held in Moscow next month, which will try to revive the stalled negotiations.

**TUNISIA PREZ SWORN IN AFTER UPSTART POLI WIN**  
Tunis: Tunisia's new President Kais Saied took the oath of office on Wednesday after his surprise election victory over champions of the political establishment.

Office of the Resident Representative  
**KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION**  
Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India  
Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi-110 002  
Ph.: 011-23724695 Fax: 23724694 E-mail: rrvkvc@gmail.com

No. RRO/Tender-AMC/2019-20 Date: 21.10.2019

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed offers are invited from the interested parties/ Agencies/ Firms for Empanelment for providing following services:

Sr. No.	Description	E.M.D./ Security (In Rs.)	Date for the sale of tender	Last Date for the sale of tender	Cost of Tender Form (In Rs.)
1.	Manpower Services (Stenographer, Computer Operator, Cook, Sweeper, Helper/ Multi-task staff, Sales Girls / Boys	4.00 Lac	24.10.2019	13.11.2019	1000
2.	Rental Taxi Services	0.50 Lac	24.10.2019	13.11.2019	1000

The detailed terms and conditions are given in tender document which can be purchased in cash, on any working day between 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. Tender forms can also be downloaded from our website [www.kvcic.org.in](http://www.kvcic.org.in), however, the cost of tender form will have to be deposited along with the tender in the shape of demand draft / pay order drawn in favour of "Resident Representative, KVIC, New Delhi".  
Tenders will be opened in the presence of bidders on 14.11.2019 at 15.00 Hrs.  
The Dy CEO/RRR will be empowered to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reason. (Vinay Kumar) Director

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
ICICI Bank Limited Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand/ Notice/ Amount in Demand/ Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ashwin Saini / Aarti Saini / LBDEL000002351311	Flat No-T-06-1104, 11th Floor, Tower T-06, Paras Tera Plot No-GH-01, Sector 137 G B Noida, Uttar Pradesh / Oct.17, 2019	Dec. 30, 2017 Rs. 18,86,573/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Y Venkatarasimha Rao / Yallagrapada Mohini / LBDEL00004369557	House No- 820, Ground Floor, Sector-12, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh / Oct 19, 2019	27, 2019 Rs. 71,50,756/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Sahil Dhawan / Pooam Pruthi / LBDEL00002355219	Flat No TC-1907 19th Floor Tower C The Aranya Residency Plot No GH-02 Sector 119 Noida, Uttar Pradesh / Oct. 18, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 53,19,78/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Ashish Tiwari / Krishana Lata Divedi / LBDEL00002869145	Flat No T4-2302 23th Floor Tower-14 The Aranya Heights Plot No GH-02 Sec- 119 Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301, Oct. 18, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 57,95,359/-	Delhi/ Ncr
5.	Abha Jain / Rajkumar Jain / Aditya Jain / LBDEL00002304359	Apartment No. Ut091, The Ultima, DLF Garden City, Sector 81, Gurgaon/ And/ Or Ute 091, 9th Floor, DLF Ultima, Tower E, Village Laadkhola, Sector 81, Gurgaon/ Oct 19, 2019	Aug 31, 2018 Rs. 1,39,64,133/-	Delhi/ Ncr
6.	Shrotriya Adhir / Shrotriya Prateek / LBN000000211721	Flat No B-1707, 17th Floor Tower-B Gardia Prateek / LBN000000211721 Noida201301, October 17, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 60,91,708/-	Delhi/ Ncr
7.	Subhendu Sinha / Nandana Sinha / LBGUR00002317897	Flat No-1605, Tower-B, 16th Floor, Gardonia Gateway (In Eco City) Sector-75 Plot No-10, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, October 17, 2019	July 27, 2019 Rs. 64,93,323/-	Delhi/ Ncr
8.	Amrit Jindal / Sumita Jindal / LBGUR00002280934	Flat No B2-1602, 15th Floor Plot No- GH-02 Victory Ace Sector-143 Noida Noida201301 / October 17, 2019	July 19, 2019 Rs. 54,22,404/-	Delhi/ Ncr
9.	Krishna Chandra Jha/ Rinku Jha / LBDEL00002412631	Flat No 58, 2nd Floor Sector 34, Pocket 2 Block 03 Rohini Delhi / October 17, 2019	Apr 30, 2019 Rs. 14,83,496/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date: 24-10-2019 Place: Delhi/NCR  
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-13, I&F Dept. D/P/Shaibh08819-20  
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Trend *Blazer*

Salman is back as Chulbul Pandey

Actor SALMAN KHAN is back as the 'policewala gunda' Chulbul Pandey in the trailer of *Dabangg 3*.

Going by the trailer, the film will take the audience to the time of Chulbul Pandey's life before he becomes a cop. There are some strong punches, kicks ad shirtless fight scenes in addition to romance.

The over three-minute trailer ends with his signature dialogue: "Swagat toh karo hamara."

Directed by Prabhudeva, the film also stars Sonakshi Sinha, Saiee Manjrekar and Kiccha Sudeep, who will be seen as the villain.



**'Completing a project and seeing your designs coming to life keeps me going and inspired to do good work. Getting the 'Design Person of the Year' award at BW Future Of Design Summit & Awards 2019 feels great. My message to those who are beginning is that if you're passionate about your work, you will be a winner.'**

—Gauri Khan

The second edition of the Critics' Choice Short Film Awards will have entries from the nooks and corners but with a major addition.

This time, the panel of critics will also be reviewing and awarding web series that have made strides in their field and have added to the entertainment sector of the country.

ANUPAMA CHOPRA, chairperson, Film Critics' Guild said, "I am thrilled that this year we can extend the awards to series - some of the most exciting storytelling is happening in this space. And shorts are a personal favourite."

I'm not a crazy shopper: Sarah

The *Sex and the City* star SARAH JESSICA PARKER isn't a huge fan of shopping. In fact, she says shopping sometimes can give her anxiety.

"I'm not a crazy shopper. I haven't been for many years. I mean, I think I used to be a little more so. But shopping sometimes can give me anxiety. I feel bad. If I buy something, I'm like, 'Oh do I really need that? Will I want that in five years?' Is that going to look good on me in five years?"

Sarah is known for her role as Carrie Bradshaw on the HBO television series *Sex and the City*, for which she won two Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards for Best Actress in a comedy series and three screen actors guild awards.



Crafting opulence

At designer RITU BERI's Luxury League Symposium 2019, the panellists discussed what the term signified for each of them. By CHAHAK MITTAL

When Brand India is about wellness, sustainability, luxury, craftsmanship why are Indians unable to leverage it soft power? questioned fashion designer Ritu Beri and added, "Be it *Basmati*, coconut or *haldi*, where is the global branding of India-authentic treasures? Why can't Indians stake claim to their glorious heritage?"

She explained that luxury wasn't looked upon as a good term for several years. Initially when she started The Luxury League Symposium, four years ago, people didn't understand what it meant. "However, today, with all the arts and culture involved, the concept of luxury has evolved. People are open to it. The Government's policies now respect and regard arts and craft. I think there is a huge revolution and we are really evolving," added Ritu.

Areas like fine dining, personal care, electronics, luxury travel and jewellery have seen increasing revenues and are expected to grow by 30 to 35 per cent over the next three years. Spending on luxury cars has also risen upto 18 to 20 per cent. Even the luxury beauty products market has witnessed a fast-paced growth.

WELLNESS AND SELF-GROOMING

The first session was a masterclass on the all-inclusive correlation of fashion, beauty, wellness and grooming. Speaking at the session, panelist Chinar Staro, design director Chinar Farooqui, said that finding like-minded consumers was difficult for her luxury products. "People who responded were usually a set of artists, skilled craftspersons, designers and those who knew the value of arts and craft. Of course, it didn't

come as easily. It was extremely organic and gradual. We didn't aim at numbers but the demand only grew with an increase in the number of people recognising that such products have a qualitative edge and are made to suit their preferences better," said she.

For designer Rina Singh, comfort is the new luxury, especially when it comes to clothing. It is something that you cannot survive without. She explained further, "So luxury clothing should be meaningful and soulful. It is something that can be inspired by even your grandmother's wardrobe, which has every kind of old jewellery and designs, even though the originals are not preferred today. That is luxury — a couture concept, deep rooted in the past and the very own rich Indian heritage of textiles."

Most brand makers today realise that the consumers' approach is that when they actually come across their own preferred and quality-like product, they are ready to splurge on it. Gaurav Jai Gupta, textile and fashion designer, talked about how a change in the outlook of design has transformed the definition of luxury. "Earlier, it was only about Western fashion in design schools. Today, it has become more about finding an Indianness to the designs and giving them an aesthetic touch. We just need to hear our own voice," he said.

Well, for UK-based celebrity hairstylist Dar, luxury is "to look good everyday of your life. And this is very much evident when people fly to London for haircuts."

Akcelina Cvjetic, England-based wellness expert, said that good health is the only luxury one should have. "When your outer world seems less chaotic,



you live a luxurious and healthier lifestyle. Today, we have forgotten the art of what it means to be a human being. Stress and anxiety have become our greatest friends. Hence, I would like to point out that mindfulness is important rather than becoming manic," she said and demonstrated it by saying one thing — "I have to do this work" — in two different tones — one, hurriedly with anxiety and tension and two, in a slower pace with a bit more satisfaction and calmness in her voice. She showcased the difference between working with anxiety and working with a calm and peaceful mind which impact our level of productivity. Pointing towards morning hours, she said that they are a golden period for human beings and could be one of the greatest luxury anyone can afford.

CULTURAL TOURISM

At the second session, panellists discussed why are we as a nation presenting to the world through our cultural tourism, the charm of local communities, traditions, folklore, arts, spaces and our values.

Speaking at the session, Vijai Vardhan, additional chief secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of Haryana, pointed towards how tourism is yet another factor that determines the quality of luxury that we, as a country, can offer. "I was sur-

'EARLIER, IT WAS ONLY ABOUT WESTERN FASHION IN DESIGN SCHOOLS. TODAY, IT HAS BECOME MORE ABOUT FINDING AN INDIANNESS TO THE DESIGNS'



prised to see a huge man-made pond in Kurukshetra, which is known as the Brahmasarovar — unknown and undiscovered. It is a huge area where many saints and sages from various parts of the country come and live. You will be surprised to know how these people, who do not come from the upper echelons of society, reside there for days and months. They never live in any hotels or resorts, but prefer the ashrams where they prepare their own food and survive on their own," he said and added that a few kilometres near Kurukshetra, there is also the Geeta Updesh Sthal, where Lord Krishna gave the sermon in *Mahabharata*. "Even that has never been promoted as a tourist destination. There is a light and music show that takes place at the sight, depicting an episode from the epic too," said he as he pointed out a few other monuments and heritage sites in the state which have not yet been completely explored.

So now the challenge for the Haryana Government, Vardhan pointed out, was about how to promote such spots, making them a brand and opening for the people.

Lal Tyabji added that today, people no longer want to look at dead monuments, the walls of which are stained with people's names or *paan* slochies. "They want to see the live country and that is more the tangy of arts and craft comes in. Encouraging them to look at such monuments is itself making them in the light of luxury. Tourism could be one thing that can make the brand such as Megha, she said and added that luxury is no longer the preserve of the royals but have much more to it today, when even the actual public can have it.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



Happiness is... a Diwali gift

Sweets, gold, chocolates are as passé as the quintessential *soan papdi*. It is time to up your game with some unconventional presents this festive season. By TEAM VIVA

People have usually confined themselves to conventional ideas for gifting on Diwali — most common examples being *soan papdi* and chocolates. However, it's time for some change. From protein-based cookies, e-vouchers, cufflinks and accessories to handcrafted sweets and eco-friendly hampers — there are newer options available to celebrate your valuable bond this festive season.

PROTEIN-PACKED TREATS

Diwali means sweets, and a piling up of kilos. But then, you can make health and festivities go hand in hand. Rather than a sugar rush one can pick up a special gift box by Myprotein which contains baked protein cookie, protein brownie and protein flapjack and a mini-shaker. Eco-friendly hampers — there are newer options available to celebrate your valuable bond this festive season. The protein cookie is a vegan-friendly treat with added dark chocolate chunks. The brownie is another treat with 22.5 g protein mixed with the goodness of chocolate, making it an ideal on-the-go snack.

ACCESSORIES

Gifting jewellery has been a trend but customers are now moving towards pieces which are trendier and more practical. The silver brooch by Mia (Tanishq) is perfect for the woman who has a quirky side and isn't afraid to think out of the box and take risks.

For men, what can be better than a pair of cufflinks by Cornelian? Made of brass and silver and in a variety of shapes like rectangle, oval and round.

DIGITAL GIFT VOUCHERS

The gifting market in India is estimated to soar to \$30 billion in the next four years out of which \$400 million would be digital gifts. With everyone becoming tech-savvy, it is not surprising that the gifting trend is moving towards digital. So one can go beyond traditional gifting of physically wrapped mementos and sweets that are now a 'passé' to personalised and digitised gifting.

GYFT, an e-gift company offers digital gift vouchers to facilitate instant gifting and redemption. Such gift cards enhance the recipient's experience as they have an element of freedom of choice.

CHOCOLATES

Chocolates have been the most usual gift during festivities but Fabelle Exquisite, the home-grown luxury chocolate brand from TTC Ltd, is acclaimed for creating an unparalleled experiences. They have limited edition *Fabelle Trinity - Truffles Extraordinaire* range which brings alive the cycle of life represented by the creator, nurturer and destroyer in a box of unique handcrafted truffles, each representing a concept.

ECO-FRIENDLY DIWALI HAMPERS

While Diwali hampers are usual but it is eco friendly ones which are

the need of the hour. The ones by Crown Plaza have wines, gourmet food items, roasted dry fruits, flavoured teas, beautiful Ganesh idols sets and designer candles and diyas, all of which do not add to the pollution overload. They have curated five hampers named around the precious stones — Emerald, Sapphire, Pearl, Opal and Topaz to suit various preferences and pockets.

TRAVEL PACKAGES

The hampers curated by Chambers at Taj Mahal answer several needs. There is one for kids, an exclusive organic hamper, *Season's Greetings and Festive Surprise* among others. These include an array of culinary gifts, handcrafted candles, limited edition accessories, luxury beauty essentials, exotic crystal ware, writing instruments by Mont Blanc, cufflinks and premium stoles by Taj Khazana and much more. From silver plated Ganesh idol, to beautifully presented Swarovski Champagne tulips and latest edition Apple Watch Series V to Forest Essentials Sundryarya 24k Gold Kit and the finest balsamic pearls, this royal hamper is a dream encapsulated in a box this Diwali.

TRAVEL PACKAGES

For the travel junkie, what better gift than being allowed to take off on the Diwali weekend? Shoes on loose, a travel company can create some special memories to fascinating travel destinations recommended by the company including Europe, Bali, Dubai and Thailand. The best part? The best-discounted offers do not end with the festival and are on till October 27.

Belong to film-watching community: Konkana

National Award-winning actress and filmmaker Konkana Sen Sharma says she loves to watch and share films at film festivals because she feels the audience comprises pure movie-lovers and she belongs to that "film-watching" community.

Konkana was present at Jio MAMI 21st Mumbai Film Festival with *Star*, where Seema Pahwa's directorial debut *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*, which features her, was screened.

"I have been attending MAMI from even before I shifted base to Mumbai. I was so young then, I would come here with friends, sit in a bus and run around to watch films from one venue to another. I love film festivals because I feel that I belong to the film-watching community. These people, standing in long queues and watching films one after another, are the true film-lovers," Konkana said.

She added, "They do not care about box-office numbers and other commercial aspects. What matters to them is the story and other creative aspects of a film. So whenever I attend any film festival, I get the vibe of a community that loves film for film. That is how even I started loving films. I just hope that the youngsters are getting the opportunity to watch world cinema through the film festival," said the actress.

Konkana apart, *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*, features Naseeruddin Shah, Vinay Pathak, Supriya Pathak and Vineet Kumar.

The film screened at Jio MAMI under the Spotlight section, and the cast and crew got a chance to watch it along with the audience. Konkana said the audience made the film special.

"I watched the film with the audience for the first time and it was so exciting to see their reaction. They laughed and sniffed, reacting to specific scenes and it was fun. Also this is an audience of true film-lovers. They are here to watch the film because they are movie buffs," said Konkana.

Sharing her experience of working with veteran actress-turned-director Pahwa, Konkana said: "Seema ji is a brilliant and experienced storyteller, so all the actors felt we are in good hands. The film has all the great actors of the

business, and I was initially intimidated. I wanted to run away seeing such brilliant talents! But then Ma (her mother is the iconic actress-filmmaker Aparna Sen) said that you cannot just stick to comfort zone. You have to push yourself to grow as a performer. So, I finally started shooting and that tension got eased."

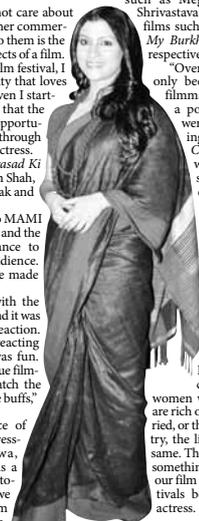
"I have always carry some nervous energy at the beginning of my projects, whether it has been a new film or my directorial debut," shared the actress who has appeared in films such as *Mr and Mrs Iyer*, *Page 3*, *Omkaara*, *Luck By Chance*, and *Wake Up Sid*.

Konkana recently travelled to Busan International Film Festival with Alankrita Shrivastava's forthcoming film *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare*, and has lately also worked with celebrated female filmmakers such as Megha Bhanu, Anankrita Shrivastava, and Tanuja Chandra in films such as *Talvar*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *A Monsoon Date* respectively.

"Over the last few years, I have only been working with female filmmakers. I can say that it is a positive change. When we went to Busan and the screening of *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* took place, we were quite surprised to see how the Korean audience was relating to a story that is set in India. During the interactive session, they were also asking pointed questions and that made us understand that the audience was feeling connected with the story."

*Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* features Konkana with Bhumi Pednekar, and is set in Delhi. "I think there is a commonality among women worldwide. Whether they are rich or poor, married or unmarried, or they come from a rich country, the lives of women are all the same. They have a common thread, something that is relatable. I believe our film got appreciation at film festivals because of that," said the actress.

—ANNS



# PAINT THE PICTURE OF ROMANCE

SIMERON GHEI, India director, Jamaica Tourist Board, shares how it is promoting the country as a wedding destination because it provides the ideal backdrop for couples and newly-weds to create memories

**What are the facilities on offer for organising a wedding?**

Jamaica offers scenic beauty, gracious hospitality and excellent infrastructure. The destination opens its arms for Indian weddings looking for exotic destinations. Jamaica Tourist Board is committed to support and facilitate Indian weddings.

**How are you encouraging Jamaica as a wedding destination?**

Jamaica has won The World Travel Awards' designation as *The World's Leading Wedding Destination* in 2014, 2016 and 2017, and the country consistently ranks at the top in wedding and honeymoon destination. Jamaica's landscape provides the ideal backdrop for couples and newlyweds looking to create romantic memories. With its jagged coastline of thick foliage that opens to breath-taking waterfalls and idyllic secluded beaches, the destination oozes romance. With many flights to choose from, it is easy to get to Jamaica. Gather your friends and family in Jamaica to make a joyful noise as you solidify your union with your loved one. Tying the knot with your partner is one of the most exciting adventures of your life. Let us help make this happy time your fondest memory.

**What are the different kinds of settings on offer for holding a wedding?**

With its many years as world's top destinations for romance, every facet of Jamaica's tourism infrastructure is experienced in satisfying the needs of couples (for weddings, honeymoon and romantic vacation). Blessed with year-round moderate temperatures, Jamaica's hotels, resorts, villas and guest house, match the needs of every couple, and their guests. There are wedding planners who take care of every detail and offer packages that range from, free for the basic arrangements to as elaborate and luxurious as the couple's dream. Couples can marry in 24 hours after arriving in Jamaica, providing prior appli-



cahion has been made and approved, for a marriage license to the Ministry of Justice.

**What are the special activities in Jamaica that make it an ideal destination for honeymoon?**

Paint your picture of romance in Jamaica. While on their honeymoon to Jamaica, couples can choose from diverse Jamaican experiences for a perfect romantic retreat. Nature adventures are among Jamaica's top attractions, couples can take a guided hike or serene raft ride to view spectacular settings of natural beauty, including cascading waterfalls.

A relaxing river ride on Martha Brae River (Montego Bay), allows couples to sit back and enjoy the sight and sounds of chirping birds, leaves rustling in the wind and cascading waterfalls as they relax on a three-mile bamboo raft ride, drifting along this serene tree-lined stretch of water, piloted by a raft captain.

Romantic dinner for two: perched on volcanic cliffs above the blue waters of Pristine Cove, makes the couples enjoy panoramic views, soothing cool breezes,



majestic sunsets and new Caribbean cuisine at Rockhouse restaurant (Negril).

Open air pampering: Enjoy a couple's massage, along with the warm Caribbean breeze, the sight of blue skies and the sound of waves caressing the shore.

Nature Adventures: Take a guided hike up Reach Falls (Port Antonio) for a blend of adrenaline rush and gorgeous setting — the lush green scenery of Montane Forest, a waterfall cascading down a rock face into a refreshing emerald river pool. A trip into the Blue Mountains (Kingston) reveals lush,

mist-filled hills creating a dreamy and majestic ambience.

Getaway Sail: Take a one-mile voyage to the one-of-a-kind Pelican Bar made of palm branches set in crystal clear waters near Treasure Beach on the shores of Jamaica.

Rainforest Adventure: Fly through the air, zipping through tropical rain forests at Mystic Mountain. Cool off together with a slide into the pool with views of Ocho Rios and the Caribbean Sea below.

Sunset Catamaran Ride: Take a romantic sunset cruise, sip rum punch as the sun makes it way colourful towards the horizon.

Get into the Rhythm of Jamaica: Enjoy live music on Negril's Seven Mile Beach and West End. Monday and Saturday nights heat up with live reggae show at Bourbon Beach.

With all the above and much more, make your adventure truly memorable by sharing it with your better half. Nothing makes the bond of love stronger than a tan-

dem kayak down the river or a horse ride through the mountains. In Jamaica, we specialise in turning big dreams into romantic realities.

**In between the wedding functions, what are some of the more interesting places that the tourists can visit or activities that they can engage in?**

A temperate year-round climate, adventure-packed activities, swag-worthy scenery, rich culture, and a romantic rhythm, Jamaica specialises in wide range of experiences to please the couple and guests of every age. They can kickstart the adventures at Blue Lagoon or discover the amazing treasures of Dunn's River Falls, climb the tropical forest till the peak of Mystic Mountain or explore Jamaica's innerworld at Green Grotto Caves. What's more? They would love to sail up the coastline or snorkel over the Caribbean reef at Montego Bay Marine Park. The surreal beauty of Glistening Waters' Luminous Lagoon, a naturally glowing night-time attraction, is sure to awe-struck the guests with illuminated memories of experiencing a wedding in Jamaica while enjoying these rich tastes amidst the rustic elegant atmosphere and unique cultural reggae vibe.

**Are there any special hotels which are ideal for honeymooners?**

This Caribbean island, with countless intimate settings, is for the couples who dream of enchanting island with sultry sunsets, magical moonlit nights and lazy mornings. It has the best five-star hotels, luxury beach resorts and charming boutiques at exotic locales. Round Hill Hotel and Villas, The Caves, Sandals Royal Plantation, Iberostar Grand Hotel Rose Hall, Sandals Montego Bay, Hotel Rio Palace, are some of the best all-inclusive resorts in Jamaica. If you are looking for a place of love, happiness, and adventure, then Jamaica should be your next destination.



## NBT India in the Frankfurt Book Fair

The Frankfurt Book Fair came to an end on October 20. It saw participation of nearly 7,500 exhibitors from 109 countries. Norway was the Guest of Honour country this year.

National Book Trust of India, which has been participating since 1970 and has the rare distinction of presenting India as the Guest of Honour country at the fair twice (in 1986 and 2006), had a very rich and engaging participation this year too.

NBT, India had put up a collective exhibit of more than 200 titles of 32 Indian publishers and also had Vigyan Prasar as co-exhibitor. The books of the collective exhibit were donated to the library of the Consulate

General of India, Frankfurt for further use for the local readers.

The NBT, India delegation had meetings and interactions with nearly 45 delegates representing 25 countries including Chief Executive Officers, Managing Directors and other senior professionals from publishing houses, International Book Fair Authorities, International Book Trade Journals, Rights Agencies, International Book Distributors.

The three-member delegation from NBT, India led by its Chairman, professor Govind Prasad Sharma, included Kumar Vikram, Editor and Project Head, and Mayank Surolia, Deputy Director.

## CA Shweta honoured with Delhi Ratan Award



Every year All India Conference of Intellectuals (AICOI) recognises the services of eminent and illustrious Indians who have made significant contributions towards mankind following the principles of humanism, nationalism, peace and by setting high ethical standard in their chosen fields.

In this context, the executive committee of AICOI has unanimously chosen CA Shweta

Pathak, vice chairperson, ICAI, for the prestigious and coveted Delhi Ratan Award for her outstanding contribution as women empowerment/social activist, in an award ceremony during 40th AICOI Annual Conference on Sunday at India International Centre (IIC).

The conference will be attended by a large number of eminent diplomats, dignitaries, bureaucrats, journalists and invitees from pan India.

AICOI, extends a warm welcome for her participation and congratulated her for her outstanding achievements in her chosen field.

The organisation is in existence for last four decades. It is a non-governmental organisations committed to promote nationalism, humanism, peace and brotherhood without any distinction of caste, creed, colour, gender or religious belief.

## RAY OF HOPE

Indian states have formulated strategies to deal with health-related challenges, especially malnutrition eradication, but the enormity of this issue in Chhattisgarh is more than other places, says TAARAN PRAKASH SINHA

There is a saying in Arabic which means 'The one who has health, has hope. And the one who has hope, has everything'. To save the world, we need to save humans and to save humans, we need to save their health. In this way, the concern for protecting human health is the concern to save the world.

The question is how are we fulfilling our responsibilities towards protecting human health. According to World Health Organisation's report, situation in many nations of the world is extremely shocking. One of the major threats that the world has been facing is of malnutrition. According to United Nations, every year in India, nearly 10 lakh children below the age of five years die because of it.

Each state of India has formulated its own strategy to deal with health-related challenges, especially malnutrition eradication. The enormity of this challenge in Chhattisgarh is way more as compared to the other states. On November 1, Chhattisgarh would



complete 20 years of formation. Around 43 per cent of the land was covered in forest while malnutrition posed as a major challenge. Till date, major chunk of the population living in remote areas of the state do not have access to the basic facilities. This is the reason why malnutrition took a monstrous shape in the state.

Approximately 41.50 per cent of the girls and women of age 15 to 45 years are anemic. It is evident that most of these people belong to tribal communities and BPL category. If we recall the quote — 'mal-

nutrition is a kind of epidemic; we can fathom the seriousness of the situation. State Government has marked the indicators of health-related challenges in Chhattisgarh and has started implementing the strategic action plan. Initial results of this action plan has turned out to be extremely promising. New government of the state has taken 'Gadho Naya Chhattisgarh' as its motto, which means — 'we will create new Chhattisgarh'. All kinds of measures are being taken to achieve the goal of providing basic facilities to even the remotest area.

With the aim of making Chhattisgarh malnutrition-free, Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi ji, launched five new schemes simultaneously, which includes four schemes directly related to nutrition and health. New government has revised the previously existing PDS system and transformed it into Universal PDS-APL System. Under the new system, every section of the society will be provided nutritious food.



Every basic facility, lack of which has been included in the list of major threats by WHO, is being provided effectively by the government under Chief Minister Haat-Bazaar Clinic Scheme and Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, thus minimising the threat. Objective of the former is to provide health facilities to even the last person living in remote area, especially tribal regions of the state. Under this scheme, government mobile clinic facility is provided in weekly haat-bazaars, wherein check-up, treatment and medicines along with regular health services are provided. Before the

launch of this scheme at state-level, it was started as a pilot project in tribal areas.

Despite the sufficient availability of government and private hospitals, ultramodern equipment, buildings, qualified doctors and trained health workers in the state, a major part of Chhattisgarh has been waiting for the ray of hope for good health. And this is the part, where soul of the state resides. Finally the time has come, when the soul of the state will be illuminated.

(The author is IAS commissioner, Public Relations, Chhattisgarh.)

## IN SHORT

IP University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Canada based company, Hatch India, to financially support the female students belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society, pursuing UG and PG programmes in different branches of engineering and technology at University School of Information, Communication and Technology. The name of the scholarship is Hatch Scholarship for Women in STEM. The maximum limit of financial assistance given will not be more than ₹75 thousands in an academic year.



Delhi Transco Limited organised one day interactive session to further improve efficiency and transparency in its business operations. The session was chaired by Padmini Singla, Chairperson and Managing Director of DTL. While inaugurating the vendors meet, Singla informed that DTL has already adopted e-tendering for all the domestic competitive biddings to ensure better transparency.



In a ceremony held in Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, in the city on Tuesday, chemicals and fertilisers minister DV Sadanand Gowda was presented a cheque of ₹11.80 crore for the highest ever dividend for 2018-19. It was presented by Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma (IAS), CMD, PDIL in presence of minister of state (chemicals and fertilisers) Mansukh L. Mandavaya and secretary (fertilisers), Chhabindra Rouf (IAS). Senior officials of Department of Fertilisers (Dof) and PDIL were also present on the occasion. Projects and Development India Ltd (PDIL) achieved highest ever profit tax (PAT) of ₹30.36 crore, highest ever turnover of ₹131.50 crore, highest ever revenue from operations of ₹116.50 crore apart from paying highest ever dividend to GOI ₹11.80 crore. It provides consultancy services for fertilisers projects and non-fertiliser projects in diversified areas such as refinery, oil and gas, pipelines, infrastructure and many others.

NTPC Singrauli team emerged as the winners of the finale of NTPC Vigilance Quiz 2019. Team from DBF & Hydro region (NTPC Dadri) emerged as the 1st runner up while team from Corporate Centre grabbed the 2nd runner up position. The quiz has been organised by the company for the employees' students prior to the Vigilance Awareness Week, which starts from October 28 to November 2. The top three teams walked away with prize money of ₹10,000, ₹6,000 and ₹6,000 respectively along with certificates.



During the recent elections, Hafeez Khan, nominee, State of Maharashtra, has been elected as president, Council of Architecture and Saena, chief architect, Department of Architecture, has been elected as vice-president, Council of Architecture, for three years. The members of the council who have been elected as executive committee members are: NK Negi, architect-in-chief, PWD, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Kapil Setia, chief architect, Department of Urban Planning, Chandigarh Administration, Ramesh Kumar, senior architect, PWD, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Bansan Singh Thangikwiew, senior architect, PWD, Government of Meghalaya and Sadiqu AI DA, principal, Department of Training and Technical Education, Lakshadweep.

APP ■ MANCHESTER

Rasmus Hojlund and Kylian Mbappe both scored second-half hat-tricks in UEFA Champions League action on Tuesday as Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham Hotspur all recorded big victories.

Bayern Munich also laboured to win in five-goal thriller on a night which brought 30 goals in eight games, a third of which were scored by Premier League clubs.

Sterling's three goals came 11 minutes apart in the second half as Pep Guardiola's City thumped Atlanta 5-1 at the Etihad Stadium to maintain their perfect record in Group C.

The Italians had earlier taken the lead from Ruslan Malinovsky's 28th-minute penalty, but they were soon overrun and remain without a point in their debut campaign.

Sergio Aguero equalised from a Sterling assist and the Argentine scored a penalty to put City ahead before the break. Sterling then took over, although City finished with 10 men as Phil Foden was sent off late on.

"I should have had four. Riyad Mahrez put me through and I was looking to put one on a plate for him. But I went through and would have finished it," Sterling admitted to BT Sport.

City will seal a place in the last 16 if they win away to Atlanta next, as nearest rivals Shakhtar Donetsk and Dinamo Zagreb played out a 2-2 draw in Ukraine earlier.

Yevhen Komyanchuk and Brazilian substitute Dodo netted for Shakhtar, with Dinamo's goals coming in between from Dani Olmo and a Mislav Orsic penalty.

Compared to Sterling, Mbappe took a longer 22 minutes to score his three goals in PSG's 5-0 romp away to former European Cup runners-up Club Brugge in Belgium in Group A.

Mauro kard scored twice for the French champions, while Neymar but had Angel Di Maria in exceptional form — the Argentine set up four goals.

According to sports statisticians Opta, the last time a team came off the bench and scored a hat-trick in the Champions League was Spain's Joseba Lorente for Villarreal in 2008.

"I wanted to start and I thought I was going to start but the coach made a choice and I had to accept it. I also wanted to show that it's difficult to get by without me," Mbappe told French broadcaster RMC Sport.

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# High 5

## Sterling, Mbappe net hat-trick; Kane, Aguero, Icardi & Son find brace in goal rush day



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice in a 4-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday, helping the Red Devils reach the top of the Premier League table.

Ronaldo's brace, assisted by Harry Kane, helped United secure a crucial three points against Spurs at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Italian champions have now won five of their last six games, including a 3-0 victory over Arsenal on Sunday.

Manchester City, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Chelsea on Sunday, remain in second place in the Premier League.

Liverpool, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Arsenal on Sunday, remain in third place in the Premier League.

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Zidane said on Monday he was "bothered" by rumours of his imminent replacement in the Madrid hot-seat, and he paced the touchline with a haunted look at times in the Turkish capital.

Belgian star Hazard shone and it was a clever cut-back from him that provided Kroos with a shot on goal, and his snap-shot was deflected past goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, who kept the visitors at bay for the rest of the proceedings.

Karim Benzema was also busy but curled two shots wide when he might have done better.

Captain Sergio Ramos was colossus at the heart of the Real defence with an ever present contribution despite his every touch being roundly booed by the home fans.

Behind him Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois kept a cool head when stopping several Turkish attempts on his goal notably with efforts from Florin Andone and Youssef El Arabi.

Hazard hit the crossbar after cutting round Muslera late on and was swiftly subbed by Zidane.

Madrid now has four points in three games while Real have picked up two and Galatasaray one after three games.

European champions arrived in Istanbul with two goals and against motivated opponents backed by passionate and

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**INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK** Ph: 0172-279035  
Asset Recovery Management Branch, E-Mail: iob2575@iob.in  
SCO 26, 2nd Floor, Madhya Marg, Sector 7-C, Chandigarh-160019

**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) [Part 8(1)]**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 07.12.2018 calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the 22nd day of October of the year 2019.

(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the 22nd day of October of the year 2019.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs. 3,36,81,911/- as on 07.12.2018 with interest thereon at contractual rates & costs as agreed charges etc. from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments of the dues payable as on 30.09.2019 i.e. Rs. 2,39,89,255.83 payable with further interest at contractual rates & costs, charges etc. till date of payment.

(3) The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:-**

All that part and parcel of the property situated at Land measuring 05 Bhas (248.88) Sq. Yards, (i.e. 100/134000 share of total area of land measuring 35 bighas 10 bawals comprising 0/0/2046/ Khasra No. 820-9, 830-4, 840-1, 840-2, 840-3, 840-4, 840-5, 840-6, 840-7, 840-8, 840-9, 840-10, 840-11, 840-12, 840-13, 840-14, 840-15, 840-16, 840-17, 840-18, 840-19, 840-20, 840-21, 840-22, 840-23, 840-24, 840-25, 840-26, 840-27, 840-28, 840-29, 840-30, 840-31, 840-32, 840-33, 840-34, 840-35, 840-36, 840-37, 840-38, 840-39, 840-40, 840-41, 840-42, 840-43, 840-44, 840-45, 840-46, 840-47, 840-48, 840-49, 840-50, 840-51, 840-52, 840-53, 840-54, 840-55, 840-56, 840-57, 840-58, 840-59, 840-60, 840-61, 840-62, 840-63, 840-64, 840-65, 840-66, 840-67, 840-68, 840-69, 840-70, 840-71, 840-72, 840-73, 840-74, 840-75, 840-76, 840-77, 840-78, 840-79, 840-80, 840-81, 840-82, 840-83, 840-84, 840-85, 840-86, 840-87, 840-88, 840-89, 840-90, 840-91, 840-92, 840-93, 840-94, 840-95, 840-96, 840-97, 840-98, 840-99, 840-100, 840-101, 840-102, 840-103, 840-104, 840-105, 840-106, 840-107, 840-108, 840-109, 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# Dadagiri unlimited

In his first media interaction after becoming BCCI president, former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly vows to run board the way he led Men in Blue during his captaincy days

## Captain takes charge: Ganguly becomes BCCI President

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday took charge as the BCCI president, easily the most high-profile name to head the world's richest cricket board that has been mired in administrative turmoil for the past three years. The 47-year-old Ganguly was officially entrusted with the task of leading Indian cricket for the next nine months at the BCCI's General Body meeting here, ending a controversial 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

His appointment as the BCCI's 39th President was held last week. He succeeds C K Khanna, who was the interim head of the Board since 2017. "It's an honour that I have been asked to take this role. It's a new start for the BCCI," said Ganguly, clad in his India blazer which was given to him during the time he served as India captain.

"I find myself in a position where I can make a change and it's a challenge," he added.

In the meeting that was also a reunion of sorts for some of the familiar faces associated with the board before the CoA's institution, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah was made the secretary.

During his tenure, Ganguly will look to coordinate with old guard such as former President N Srinivasan and ex-Secretary Niranjan Shah, whose children are now part of the BCCI.

Mahim Verma of Uttarakhand became the new vice-president. Former BCCI president and current junior finance minister Anurag Thakur's younger brother Arun Dhumal became the treasurer while Kerala's Jayesh George took the joint secretary's position.

"It's a very young group. We will have to do a lot of hard work to understand what's been going on. There have been no AGMs, no working committees in the last three years, so we have no idea how it has been done. We will take note of everything," Ganguly said.



Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly takes charge as BCCI's new President, at board headquarters PTI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Clad in his captain's navy blue blazer, Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday promised a "corruption-free, same-for-all BCCI", a philosophy that, he said, guided his tenure as India skipper from 2000 to 2005.

Elected unopposed to the top position in the world's richest cricket board, the bespectacled 47-year-old also gave enough indications that he would run the show the way he wants and is unlikely to be influenced.

"I will do it the way I know, I will do it the way which I feel is best for the BCCI with no compromise on credibility. Corruption-free and same for all BCCI. That's the way I led India and that's the way I will take this organisation forward," said the man with more than 18,000 international runs under his belt.

Hard to miss at his maiden press interaction after taking charge was the India blazer that he was wearing. "I got it when I was captain of India but I did not realise that it is so loose. But

I decided I will wear it," he said as scribbles chuckled.

He will be at the helm for nine months because the Supreme Court-mandated reforms require a cooling-off period after a six-year run as an office-bearer. Ganguly has already been Cricket Association of Bengal Secretary and President.

Ganguly couldn't help but recall the time he took over as team captain. The sport's integrity was in tatters that year after the 2000 match-fixing scandal and Ganguly was handed the responsibility of resurrecting it.

Resurrection is once again what is required after three years of administrative limbo, incidentally also caused by corruption — on the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.

Ironically, Mohammed Azharuddin was at the centre of the 2000 scandal and will now be his Board colleague as Hyderabad Cricket Association President. The two former teammates hugged each other after Wednesday's meeting.

"Coincidentally, fortunately or unfortunately, there was a similar situation when

I took over as captain and captained India for six years," Ganguly said referring to, what are widely considered, the dark days of Indian cricket.

"It's a similar sort of a situation where things need to be brought back to place, reforms need to be done, huge amount of money to be paid to state associations so it's a lot of work," he added.

Laying down his immediate priorities, Ganguly said a call to current skipper Virat Kohli is in order.

"Virat Kohli is the most important man in Indian cricket, we will listen to him. I will speak to Virat Kohli tomorrow, we will support him in every possible way, whatever he wants," he said.

"We are here to work for Indian cricket. We will do that to the best of our ability," he added.

He reiterated his commitment to improving the domestic cricket structure. "The structures are there, the tournaments are there. In the last three years the matches have doubled actually. When I played for Bengal and some of my colleagues played for the other states there were about 1000 games to be played. Now there are 2000 games between states and the affiliates.

"So we have to account for it. We have to make sure the best tournament in the country is competitive, and it remains important to everyone now because that's where you get the Kohli's and MS Dhoni's, Ajinkya Rahane's and Rohit Sharma's of Indian cricket," he said.

## Maharaj's new team



Newly-elected BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, center, Secretary Jay Shah, left, and Treasurer Arun Dhumal pose for photo during press conference AP

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly needs no introduction but the four other office-bearers who were elected unopposed here on Wednesday do. Following is the synopsis of their journey in cricket administration.

**Jay Shah**, (secretary): The 31-year-old is the youngest office-bearer in the BCCI. Jay, who is Home Minister Amit Shah's son, has been with

the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) since 2009. He was elected GCA joint-secretary in September 2013.

**Arun Singh Dhumal**, (treasurer): He too hails from a political family with his elder brother Anurag Thakur currently being a Minister of State (Finance and Corporate Affairs). Thakur was removed as BCCI president in January 2017. Dhumal, 44, served

vice-president of Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) as its secretary, joint secretary, treasurer and most recently the president. He has been part of the KCA since 2005.

cricket body, HPCA between 2012 and 2015 when Thakur was its president.

Dhumal also led a three-member ad-hoc committee which was formed to run HPCA in the wake of Lodha panel recommendations to reform Indian cricket. He also has the experience of representing HPCA in the BCCI.

**Jayesh George**, (joint secretary): The 50-year-old has years of experience in cricket administration, having been part of Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) as its secretary, joint secretary, treasurer and most recently the president. He has been part of the KCA since 2005.

**Mahim Verma**, (vice-president): His father P C Verma has served as secretary of the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU). Mahim, 45, himself was CAU's joint-secretary for 10 years until September when he was elected the association's secretary, secretary of the body got BCCI's recognition.

## Till I am around, everybody will be respected: Sourav

MUMBAI: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said the matter of Mahendra Singh Dhoni's future in international cricket will be addressed but vowed to accord the two-time World Cup winning captain respect during his tenure.

Ganguly said he doesn't now what is in Dhoni's mind but promised that a player of his stature will be given respect.

"It depends on him. You know champions don't finish quickly. I don't know what's in his mind and what he thinks about his career. So we will deal with that you know," he said.

"He is one of the greats of the game and India is proud to have MS Dhoni over a period of time. If you even sit down and take a note of what he has done, you say, 'Wow, MS Dhoni,' Ganguly said.

Legends of the game have often had unceremonious exits and Ganguly knows it more than anyone else how it feels to fight speculations and criticism.

"Till I am around, everybody will be respected and that doesn't change," he added. PTI

## Kohli is the most important man

Ganguly promises all possible support to captain asserting 'I am here to make Kohli's life easier, not difficult'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday called Virat Kohli "the most important man in Indian cricket" and promised the captain all possible support to make his life "easier and not difficult".

After taking charge as the BCCI boss, Ganguly said he will be speaking to the Indian skipper on Thursday to discuss the way forward.

"I will speak to him tomorrow (Thursday). He is the most important man in Indian cricket as captain of India. I look it at that way. So we will have a word with him and as I said we will support him in every possible way, he wants to make this team the best in the world. It has been a great team to be honest with

the way they have played in the last three to four years," said Ganguly.

Ganguly said he will also sit with the team management which also includes head coach Ravi Shastri.

"It will be a proper discussion and everything will be mutually discussed but we rest assured, we are here to make their life easier, not make their life difficult. Everything is on the basis of performance. Mutual respect will be there, opinions and discussions will be there and we will do what is best for the game."

## Samson, Dube on line for place in T20 squad



Sanju Samson & Shikhar Dhawan run between wickets during India A fourth game against South Africa A at Trivandrum. Sanju/Twitter

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India skipper Virat Kohli's workload could be a topic of discussion while Rishabh Pant could have a profitable Sanju Samson for cover during three T20s when the selection committee picks the squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh here today.

Kohli has featured in 48 out of the 56 games India have played across formats since October 2018. However, the selection committee will leave it on Kohli to decide whether he needs a break or continue playing.

There is expected to be serious discussions about rookie Mumbai all-rounder Shivam Dube, who might replace an injured Hardik Pandya for the all-rounder's slot, primarily based on his big-hitting prowess.

Apart from the three-match T20 series which starts in New Delhi on

November 3, followed by matches at Rajkot and Nagpur, Bangladesh will also play two Tests as a part of the World Championship in Indore and Kolkata.

Samson, who recently hit a double hundred for Kerala in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, is expected to come in but only as second option to Pant for the time being.

"There is no harm if both Rishabh and Sanju are there in the team. They have played together in IPL also. Rishabh has had limited success in shorter formats but he is a long-term investment and we need to persist with him," a BCCI official privy to developments in selection committee said.

"At the same time, Sanju is a player with game-changing abilities. Keeping World T20 in mind, the team management needs to check other options also as everyone knows that it's time to look beyond Mahendra Singh Dhoni," the source added.

With Kohli not there in the squad, Samson is being seen as a back-up batsman but it will be interesting to see if Manish Pandey returns to the squad that played against South Africa.

Mumbai all-rounder Dube has now picked Vijay Shankar as the second choice all-rounder in the shortest format, based on big-hitting prowess.

It is unlikely that the famed wrist spin duo of Kuldew Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal will get a look in as Rahul Chahar and Washington Sundar are set to get another opportunity.

K L Rahul, after his good show in Hazare Trophy, is likely to retain his place in the squad that played against South Africa.

Veteran opener Shikhar Dhawan has been horribly out of form but the selectors might continue with him for one more series.

In case there is a question of dropping Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal could be a choice as reserve opener.

Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini and Khaled Ahmed are expected to be the three frontline pacers.

## After ODI & T20s, Rohit enters top 10 in Tests

PTI ■ DUBAI

Rohit Sharma has become the 11th India batsman to reach the top 10 of ICC rankings in all three formats after a memorable series against South Africa in which he donned the new role of Test opener.

Rohit emulated captain Virat Kohli and retired opener Gambhir as his knock of 212 in the third Test in Ranchi helped him advance 12 places to 10th position in the ICC Test Player Rankings.

Ajinkya Rahane's knock of 116 in Ranchi has helped him equal his career-high rank of fifth place, achieved earlier in November 2016. He remains the third-best Indian batsman in terms of Test rankings after Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara.

With Mayanka Agarwal in



Rohit Sharma congratulates Mayank Agarwal after he scores his first ton PTI

18th position, India have finished the series with five batsmen in the top 20.

Rohit's player of the series effort of 529 runs helped him make his debut from 44th place before the series. The 'Hitman' has held a career-high ranking of second in ODIs (in February 2018) and seventh in T20s (November 2018).

Kohli has been number one in all three formats while Gambhir has been at the top in Tests and T20s and eighth in ODIs.

Fast bowlers Mohammad Shami and Umesh Yadav have ended the series with their highest-ever rating points tally. Shami is on 751 points and only one place below his career-best ranking of 14th achieved in March 2018, while Yadav is on 624 points, three below his best of 21st in July 2016.

## K'taka, TN to play Hazare final

PTI ■ BENGALURU

K L Rahul hit 88 (111 balls, 6 fours, 1 six) and shared a century partnership with fellow opener Devdutt Padikkal (92) to power Karnataka to a nine-wicket over Chhattisgarh and into the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday, where it will face Tamil Nadu, which beat Gujarat by five wickets in the other semifinal.

Chasing 224 for victory, the host romped home in 40 overs as Rahul and Padikkal and then Mayank Agarwal (47, 33 balls, 3 fours, 4 sixes) toyed with the Chhattisgarh attack.

For Chhattisgarh, Amandeep Khare (78, 102 balls, 4 fours) held fort and Sumit Sureshroo Raikar (40, 37 balls, 1 four, 2 sixes) helped cause with some late hitting before the innings ended in the final over at 223.

While Kaushik finished with 4 wickets, Mithun (2/44), offie K Gowtham (2/30) and leggie Pravin Dube (2/43) were among the wickets.

In the Tamil Nadu-Gujarat encounter, the Dinesh Karthik led side chased down the

rival's 177 for 9 in a game reduced to 40 overs due to a late start owing to overnight rain and a wet outfield with an over to spare, thanks to an enterprising half-century by the talented M Shahrulkhan.

Gujarat couldn't recover from the early loss of their batting mainstays-Parthiv Patel and Priyank Panchal and could only make 177 for 9 in 40 overs.

Dhruv Raval was the top-scorer with 40 while Axar Patel (37) and tail-ender C T Gajja (24) were the other important contributors.

For Tamil Nadu, medium-pace M Mohammed with 3 for 33 was the best bowler, while Washington Sundar, R Ashwin and leggie Murgan Ashwin (1/33) and T Natarajan scalped a wicket each.

In reply, Abhinav Mukund (32, 65 balls, 3 fours), who has been in good form in the league phase and Dinesh Karthik (47, 47 balls, 5 fours) steadied the ship.

However, the loss of three quick wickets put Tamil Nadu under pressure before Washington Sundar (27 not out, 43 balls, 2 fours) and the young M Shahrulkhan (50 not out, 46 balls, 3 fours, 3 sixes) took the team home in style, winning with an over to spare. The final will be played tomorrow.

## SINGLES

### PRAVEEN BAGS GOLD IN WORLD C'SHIP

SHANGHAI: Praveen Kumar on Wednesday became the first Indian man to win a wushu World Championships Gold, beating Russell Diaz of Philippines in the 48kg category. The Indian saw off his Filipino opponent 2-1 in the men's sanda event. In 2017, Pooja Kadian became the first Indian to be crowned world champion in wushu after she defeated Evgeniya Stepanova of Russia in the women's 75kg sanda event. Among other Indians in the fray, Potam Iwonen (75kg) and Samathoi Devi (women's 52kg) secured Silver medals while Vikrant Balian bagged the Bronze in the men's 60kg category.

### SMITH ELECTED MCC LIFE MEMBER

London: Former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodians of the game's law. The MCC took to Twitter to announce the membership. "MCC has today announced the election of @OfficialCSA legend @GraemeSmith49 as an Honorary Life Member of the Club," the MCC tweeted on Tuesday. Smith, who has an impressive record in One-Day International cricket for his country, scored 6,989 runs including ten centuries, expressing his excitement on being bestowed upon the honour. "Thank you @HomeOfCricket and the MCC for this incredible honour. I have so many amazing memories and I'm excited to share more with you in the future," Smith tweeted.

### WFI TAKES BENTINIDIS UNDER ITS WINGS

NEW DELHI: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has brought Bajrang Punia's coach Shako Bentinidis under its wings by offering him a contract under the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and also appointed Russian Murad Gadairov to help out Deepak Punia and Ravi Dahiya. Bentinidis was attached with the JSW and the WFI was always interested in having the services of the Georgian. Bentinidis had refused the offer earlier but was left with no option but to bow down to the Federation since it was not getting happy with him and was contemplating helping Bajrang a new coach.

### 2 MORE GOLDS IN MILITARY GAMES

WUHAN: India added two more Gold medals to its kitty with para-athletes Anesh Kumar Surendran Pillai and firebrand bagging the top honours in their respective events at the seventh CISM World Military Games. Pillai won the Gold in the disabled men's shot put IF1 category with a best throw of 12.76 metres which he registered in the fourth of his six attempts. Virender added one more yellow metal, when he emerged winner in the men's disabled shot put IF5 category with a best effort 11.43m. India narrowly missed a Bronze medal in the 25m Centre Fire Pistol men's event after the top of Yogesh Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Omkar Singh finished fourth behind Ukraine, Korea and China. AGENCIES