

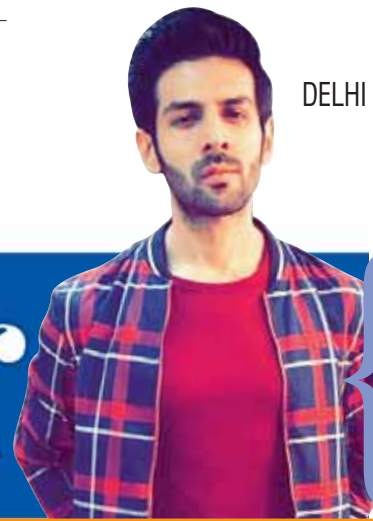
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Relief for Adani in coal scam

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

The DRI had demanded around ₹29,000 crore from these companies for alleged

overvaluation of coal imports. The Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal had already rejected this plea.

In June this year, the DRI charged AEL of attempting to block its probe into the overvaluation charge.

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

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

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

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

The other aspect of the coal scam probe related to allotment fraud had also generated a big controversy when the role of former CBI chief Ranjit Sinha had come under scanner for allegedly helping the accused companies.

B'desh guards kill BSF man as meet goes awry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



HC Vijay Bhan Singh

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

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

The attack on the BSF trooper is primarily an indicator of some local issues in Bangladesh aimed at addressing the domestic audience through radical elements in the BGB ahead of the national elections. The incident does not reflect any design at the level of the Government there which has been friendly with India and cooperating on a number of issues including counter-terror operations, sources said.

Continued on Page 4

Delhi's odd-even rules announced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

The list of exempted people include President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Governors, Chief Justices of India and Judges of the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court. Emergency, enforcement, defence, paramilitary and embassy vehicles will also be exempted.

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

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

Continued on Page 4

Parking fee hike will militate against car rationing: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that hiking parking fees during the implementation of the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme will be counterproductive. Kejriwal's statement came after the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) chairman Bhure Lal had asked the Delhi Government last week to fix parking charges as per the new parking policy so that it could be hiked in view of growing air pollution.

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

"We are asking people to share their vehicles during



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

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

submitted," he said.

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

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the SDMC Bhupender Gupta said the Base

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

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

North Delhi Mayor Avtar Singh said the BPF committee has made recommendations to the apex monitoring committee for its final approval. "We will take steps from our side, once the final picture emerges. Whatever happens, we will take steps accordingly in a way that there is balanced approach so that we neither put burden on the people nor incur loss to the corporation," Singh said.

Karnataka tops NITI Aayog's innovation list



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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

remaining top ten major States respectively.

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

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

Detailed report on P10

Brexit deal inked, Parliament nod a challenge for UK

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

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

way in Brussels this week.

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

"We've got a great new deal that takes back control," Johnson tweeted, just before heading to Brussels to join other EU leaders for the crucial summit.

Juncker took to Twitter to say, "Where there is a will, there is a #deal — we have one! It's a fair and balanced agreement for the EU and the UK and it is testament to our commitment to find solutions."

Continued on Page 4

Saved by a (big cat) whisker



A 25-year-old (above) mentally-unstable man leapt into the enclosure of a lion at the Delhi zoo on Thursday, and came face to face with the big cat and moved around unconcerned about the lurking danger, before the zoo staff rescued him after tranquillising the lion. (Left) The combo of 4 photos show the man inside the lion's enclosure at Delhi Zoo on Thursday (Detailed report on P4)

PTI

No let-up in soaring veg prices till Nov end

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The skyrocketing vegetable

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

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

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



harvest in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in August/September.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

AP

Will fix 232 potholes today: CM

Pioneer reporter loses phone to snatcher

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said 232 potholes found on roads managed by Public Works Department (PWD) will be repaired by this Friday. While, 283 patches of broken roads will be repaired by October 31 and 272 uneven roads by November 30.

Around 1,260 km road stretches are maintained by PWD. As per the official survey, a total number 232 potholes, 272 uneven roads, 283 patches of broken roads have been identified.

Kejriwal has recently announced a scheme called 'pothole-free city'. Under the scheme around 50 MLAs, along with the concerned area engineer, inspected the roads maintained by the PWD to identify the number of potholes, cracks and various other issues.

After implementing pothole free roads scheme, the Aam Aadmi party (AAP) Government has directed the

DISTANCE	BOARDS TO BE INSTALLED AT EVERY 250 METRES
DISPLAY MESSAGE	THIS ROAD COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DELHI GOVERNMENT. THIS ROAD IS MAINTAINED BY DELHI GOVERNMENT. IF YOU SEE ANY POTHOLES ON THIS ROAD, TAKE A PICTURE AND SEND IT TO OUR WHATSAPP NUMBER WITH LOCATION

PWD to put boards every 250 metre with display messages. "This road comes under the Delhi Government and is pothole free. If you find any pothole, take a photo and send with location to our WhatsApp helpline number

According to the documents accessed by *The Pioneer*, display board will have the message written in both Hindi and English language. The board will display the message, "*ye Delhi Sarkari ki road hai. Iss sadak ka rakh rakhav, Delhi sarkar karti hai. yadhi sadak mai kahin gaddha dikahyi de to uski photo khinch kar uski location whatsapp kar de.*" (This road comes under the jurisdiction of Delhi

national Capital. Presently, it has been decided to install flex boards on a pilot basis. Also, these boards will cost less and money can be used from PWD maintenance. While the normal type directions boards situated across the city will cost much, approximately ₹8000 per board while flex boards will cost ₹300," said an official.

Further, there are 392 spots where construction works by various agencies are in progress. "I have called a meeting of all the concerned departments and agencies on 23rd October, and the deadline for completion of construction work will be given to them in the meeting. There are also some spots where the construction work has been completed, but the roads have not been repaired yet due to a lack of coordination between different agencies. We will ensure that the restoration of roads is done at a faster pace and construction deadlines are given to all the agencies," said Kejriwal.

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Snatchers are on the prowl in the national Capital. As a reporter of a national daily I have reported several snatching stories until I became a victim around 8.30 pm on Wednesday at New Ashok Nagar Metro Station in East Delhi.

The incident left me shocked and had my journalist colleague Chandan Prakash not been with me I shudder to think how I would have informed police about the incident immediately.

I also called one of my friends working with a news agency, who informed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of East Delhi about the incident.

A police team, including Station House Officer (SHO) of New Ashok Nagar Police Station, came to the spot within 15 minutes and the DCP called me on Prakash's phone.

Meanwhile, I kept on calling on my mobile number but



there was no response. A police official advised me to send messages on my phone so that it could be traced as the mobile was still switched on. A police team also scanned CCTV footages but it seems that the luck was with the snatcher as he could not be identified.

Meanwhile the DCP informed me that my phone location has been traced in Shakarpur area and a special staff team has been put on the job. However, it came to a nought as sleuths failed to locate the snatcher's exact whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the SHO of New Ashok Nagar police station also contacted SHO of Shakarpur and shared my phone's location with him. SHO told me that a team of Shakarpur police station will also scan the area and they will try to nab the culprit.

I along with Prakash went to my home and kept on sending messages on my mobile. We also called on my phone number 6-7 times between 12.30 am and 3.30 am but around 4 am finally my phone was switched off.

Being hopeful that two police teams are looking for my phone and they will get it back as earlier on Wednesday Delhi Police had caught four person in 24 hours who had snatched metropolitan judge's phone.

When I asked about any

update in connection with my case, a police official said the phone was in Shakarpur area but the police could not find the culprit and phone as it is densely populated. The mobile was traced by police using Call Details Record (CDR).

About three months ago, my colleague Chandan's mobile phone was also snatched from Delhi's posh Civil Line area. Three months have passed but North district police has not done anything to recover his phone. Chandan had then met DCP North Nupur Prasad but he could do nothing.

Interestingly, the complaint given by Chandan at Civil Lines Police Station was registered as a case of theft (section 379 of Indian Penal Code). When Prakash questioned the police officials and stated that his phone was snatched and how could police register an FIR of theft? Finally after one and a half month FIR was updated under section 379/356/34 of IPC.

After short stint in BJP, ex-BSP leader joins AAP

Imran writes to Centre over onion crisis

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former BJP leader Chaudhary Surendra Kumar joined the Aam Aadmi Party in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday.

Kumar said he decided to quit the BJP because he was "deeply affected" by the alleged demolition of the Ravidas temple in Delhi. "Demolition of the Ravidas temple hurt my sentiments and I was very impressed by the work done by the AAP whether it was in the education sector or health. So I decided to join (the AAP)," Kumar said.

Kumar had joined the BJP



Ex-BSP MLA Chaudhary Surendra Kumar joined the Aam Aadmi Party in the presence of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

from 2008-13.

Welcoming him, Kejriwal said, "I am very happy that Kumar is joining the party along with all his supporters. Recently,

former Congress MLA Prahlad Singh Sahni had joined the party, leaving the Congress. This is happening as in the last five years, the people of Delhi are extremely happy with the development work being done in Delhi by the AAP Government," he said. "The AAP is the only party stands for the rights of the Dalit community. It is disappointed to see the BJP is constantly disrespecting Dalit saints," he added.

Citing the incident of the demolition of Sant Ravidas temple in Delhi, Kumar said that the way the BJP Government destroyed the temple shocked many.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain has written a letter to the Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, requesting him to direct NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) to supply 10 trucks of onions everyday for the next 10 days to avail it to the residents of Delhi at affordable rates.

Hussain has stated that Delhi government has put in place adequate infrastructure for the sale of onions at Rs



23.90 per kg; however, NAFED has not been able to match the demand of Delhi government for the adequate supply to ensure stabilisation of onion prices in Delhi.

The Minister also reviewed the supply and sale of onions with Commissioner, Food and

Civil Supplies (CFS), senior officers of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) and officers from NAFED.

The Minister directed officials of DSCSC and NAFED to intensify their efforts so as to ensure that adequate quantities of onions are made available to the residents of Delhi. It may be noted that Delhi Government has already decided to increase the number of mobile vans from 80 to 400 so as to cater the need of each municipal wards in Delhi.

Delhi government has also put in place the adequate infrastructure in terms of vans and

manpower for ensuring easy availability of onions in Delhi at the doorstep of people, the government said in a statement.

"The government is affecting sale of onion through 400 mobile vans at the rate of Rs 23.90 per kg in all corners of Delhi. During the meeting, the Minister directed that the teams of officers of the department and APMC should keep monitoring the availability of onion in Delhi and make regular field inspections and carry out enforcement activities in order to check the instances of hoarding, black-marketing, profiteering etc," it said.



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“A WOMEN BECAME A *FARISHTA* AND TOOK ME TO THE HOSPITAL. AND DELHI GOVERNMENT PAID FOR THE ENTIRE TREATMENT”

- Surender Bansal
West Patel Nagar



DELHI GOVERNMENT BEARS COMPLETE EXPENSES FOR TREATMENT OF ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS

UNDER THE DELHI GOVERNMENT'S *FARISHTEY* INITIATIVE:

- As soon as an accident takes place, take the victim to the nearest hospital, irrespective of the cost of treatment. The chances of a victim’s survival increases manifold if they are taken to the hospital at the earliest.
- Delhi Government will bear the complete expenses of the victim’s treatment, since every life is precious
- Victims of any road accident that happens within the boundaries of Delhi will be eligible for this scheme
- The person who takes a victim to hospital will be rewarded and felicitated with a Farishtey Certificate.
- Road accident victims will be admitted for treatment in any hospital without any questioning.

“I salute you - *Dilli ke Farishtey*”

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



‘India’s commitment on climate change one of the best in world’

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India’s commitment to fight the global challenge of climate change is bold and one of the best in the world, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

Interacting with global investors at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund here on Wednesday, Sitharaman said that in a bid to fulfill its commitment to tackle climate change, India has focused on generation of renewable energy.

“India’s commitment towards climate change was very bold in the way in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to Paris to COP21, Sitharaman said during the interactive session organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) along with the US India Strategic and Partnership



Forum (USISPF).

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Paris from November 30 to December 12 2015 that saw the participation of 195 nations.

The nations negotiated and adopted the Paris Agreement in which India made four commitments, including reducing greenhouse gas emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, under its Nationally

Determined Contributions (NDC).

Sitharaman said that while India can be found somewhere between 10th and 15th position or even further down in terms of carbon emission, it is the best among any set of countries in terms of commitment to fight against climate change.

“In order to fulfill the commitment given there, we have really focused on attention for generation of renewable energy. Solar takes the primary position on that. The awareness about building solar or renewable capacities is now down to every individual, rooftop solar set up are being built and everyone has given an opportunity to uplink to the grid,” she said.Nothing that major solar parks are coming all over the country, Sitharaman said that India’s commitment to climate change is unmatched.

Nirav Modi further remanded to custody till November 11

London: Fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi, who is fighting extradition to India on charges over the nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, on Thursday was remanded to prison until November 11 after he appeared via videolink from his London jail for a regular remand hearing.

Westminster Magistrates’ Court Judge Nina Tempia confirmed that Modi’s extradition trial is scheduled between May 11 and 15 next year and that he must reappear via videolink every 28 days for “call-over hearings” until the case management for the trial kicks in from February next year.

The court was told that the 48-year-old, who spoke only to confirm his name and date of birth, faces fraud and money laundering charges in India.

Modi has been lodged at

Wandsworth prison in south-west London, one of England’s most overcrowded jails, since his arrest in March on an extradition warrant executed by Scotland Yard on charges brought by the Indian government, being represented by the UK’s Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in court.

Since his arrest, his legal team, led by solicitor Anand Doobay and barrister Clare Montgomery, have made four bail applications, which have been rejected each time due to Modi being deemed a flight risk.

In her judgment handed down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on his last bail appeal in June, Justice Ingrid Simler had concluded there were “substantial grounds” to believe that Modi would fail to surrender as he does possess the means to “abscond”.

Reiterating similar concerns as those previously raised by Westminster Magistrates’ Court during earlier bail attempts, Judge Simler ruled that after considering all the material “carefully”, she had found strong evidence to suggest there had been interference with witnesses and destruction of evidence in the case and concluded it can still occur.

The High Court judge stressed that while it was not for her to take a “definitive view” on the evidence, she had proceeded on the basis that the government of India has acted in good faith in what is “undoubtedly” a serious case and a “sophisticated international conspiracy” to defraud, together with money laundering.

Modi was arrested by uniformed Scotland Yard officers on an extradition warrant on March 19 and has been in prison since. **PTI**

1,169 candidates in fray for 90 seats in Haryana polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1,169 candidates—with 10 percent of them women - are in the fray for the 90 seats in the Haryana Assembly elections, scheduled for October 21.

According to the Election Commission (EC) data, of the total 1,169 candidates in the fray, 1,064 are men and 104 are women. One candidate is a Transgender. Hansi has a maximum of 25 candidates in the running, while Ambala Cantt and Shahbad have just six. Narnaul is the smallest constituency in terms of voters, with just 1,44,066 electorate, while Badshahpur is the largest, with 3,96,281 voters.

As per the EC, one constituency has less than 1.5 lakh voters, some 47 constituencies have between 1.5 lakh and 2 lakh voters and 42 constituencies have more than 2 lakh voters.

The State has 19,578 polling stations, which will use 27,611 VVPATs. The main contest is between the Congress and the BJP, which has set a target of winning 75 seats for itself riding on the hype of the abrogation of special status to J&K under Article 370 and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The Congress is focusing on issues like the economic slowdown, rising unemployment and farmers distress in its campaign. While Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has so far addressed a rally in Nuh. Another one is scheduled to be addressed by the party’s interim chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday.

The Chautala clan-led Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) as well as its offshoot Dushyant Chautala’s Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) are also trying to make a dent in the votes of the two parties. Some seats are likely to have a triangular contest.

PG medical students must serve in district hospitals to be eligible for final exam

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Satisfactory completion of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Brexit...

From Page 1

In a letter recommending the deal to European Council President Donald Tusk, Juncker wrote: “It is high time to complete the withdrawal process and move on, as swiftly as possible, to the negotiation on the European Union’s future partnership with the United Kingdom.”

Both leaders have urged their respective Parliaments, in the UK and EU, to back the new deal - which is heavily similar to the agreement struck by Johnson’s predecessor Theresa May.

The crucial difference lies in the missing controversial backstop, which hard Brexiters had opposed as a threat of being tied to EU rules long after Brexit.

A Downing Street spokesperson confirmed the deal gets rid of the backstop - the “insurance policy” to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland, which saw Theresa May’s version of the deal defeated several times in the House of Commons.

But almost immediately the DUP made it clear that it cannot sign off on the deal as it stands due to concerns that Northern Ireland would be treated differently from the rest of the UK on customs and VAT.

“We have been involved in ongoing discussions with the Government. As things stand, we could not support what is being suggested on customs and consent issues, and there is a lack of clarity on VAT,” a DUP statement said.

“We will continue to work with the Government to try and get a sensible deal that

works for Northern Ireland and protects the economic and constitutional integrity of the UK,” it added.

The Opposition parties are equally opposed to the deal, with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn saying the deal sounded “even worse” than what was negotiated by Theresa May, and “should be rejected” by MPs.

“This sell out deal won’t bring the country together and should be rejected. The best way to get Brexit sorted is to give the people the final say in a public vote,” said Corbyn, as he called for a second referendum.

Anti-Brexit Liberal Democratic leader Jo Swinson added her party would not support the deal as it was bad for the UK economy. “The next few days will set the direction of our country for generations, and I am more determined

than ever to stop Brexit,” she said.

Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Nicola Sturgeon also said her party’s MPs would vote against the deal and anti-EU Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage also called for the deal to be rejected.

The House of Commons will sit on Saturday, the first weekend sitting in 37 years, to discuss the proposal following the EU summit in Brussels. The Government will put forward the new agreement for a vote, which it said had the support of the UK Cabinet.

Michel Barnier, the EU’s chief negotiator on Brexit, said the deal agreed would last until the end of the transition period, which is due to finish at the end of 2020. The UK has also agreed to pay its financial commitments to the EU - the so-called divorce bill - estimated to be 39 billion pounds.

“This text should provide legal certainty in every area where Brexit, like any separation, creates uncertainty,” he said of the agreed text.

The new deal rests on the fact that Northern Ireland will remain aligned to a limited set of EU rules, notably related to goods. The region will be in the UK’s customs territory, but will “remain an entry point” into the EU’s single market - the point of contention for the DUP.

And, Northern Ireland representatives will be able to decide whether to continue applying such rules for the region every four years. That decision would be based on a simple majority, rather than requiring a majority of both unionists and nationalists - those for closer alignment with the UK and those opposed to it - to support the rules in order for them to pass.

The DUP has been in a confidence and supply agreement with the Conservative Party since the 2017 election, which, in the past, gave the Government a working majority. But after resignations and the removal of the party whip from more than 20 Tory MPs in recent weeks, Johnson now faces an extremely unfavourable arithmetic in the Commons to get any bills through.

Johnson took charge on the central pledge of getting Brexit done within the deadline, with or without a deal, but his hands have since been slightly tied after the Parliament voted to bind him to seek an extension unless a deal had been agreed in time for a crucial EU summit in Brussels this week.

Britain had voted to leave the EU in a referendum in June 2016 by 52 per cent to 48 per cent.

Mumbai BJP chief digs up ghosts of 1993 blasts during campaign

Mumbai: Addressing a campaign rally, Mumbai BJP chief Mangal Prabhat Lodha purportedly associated a minority-dominated area with the riots and 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. Lodha was campaigning from Shiv Sena candidate from Mumbadevi in central Mumbai, Pandurang Sakpal, on Wednesday.

In an audio clip of the purported speech, he is heard as saying, “In the 1992 riots, remember the blasts that took place and many bullets were fired, they were fired in lanes that are just five km (away) here. Serial blasts ripped through the city in March

1993, killing over 250 persons, after the Mumbai riots. “How a person winning with their votes will come to your aid?” Lodha purportedly added, without naming Congress candidate Amin Patel, a Muslim.

Mumbadevi includes localities such as Dongri and Nagpada which have sizeable population of minorities. He further said, “After the collapse of old buildings here, residents are shifted to Mankhurd and Dharavi. It is as if these areas (Mankhurd and Dharavi) are allotted to a particular community. But the Hindu-Marathi brothers have to go to transit camps in distant places.” **PTI**

B’desh guards kill BSF man as meet goes awry

From Page1

Martyred Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh, born in 1968, joined the BSF in 1990 and is survived by two sons. Singh hailed from Chamari Sadupur, Siklwabad under Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

The incident has shocked the BSF as relations between the two forces that guard the 4,096-km long international border have been very cordial and no bullet has been fired between them for decades. Prima facie, the incident seems to be an aberration and efforts are being made to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate further, sources said.

The incident has triggered an alarm here even as the BSF briefed the Ministries of Home and External Affairs.

The incident occurred under the Kakmarichar border post of the BSF in Murshidabad district on Thursday morning when the three fishermen were nabbed by the BGB. The fishermen

were allowed to fish within the international border, that runs through the middle of the 3-km-wide Padma river. The Padma river is rich hilsa variety of fish.

A BGB jawan identified as Sayed fired from behind when the six-member BSF party started to return on their motor-boat after seeing “aggressiveness” and an intention to “surround” them by the Bangladeshi personnel.

While Singh died on the vessel, injured constable Yadav managed to prevent the boat from drowning and brought it safely to the Indian side.

Meanwhile, fisherman Pranab Mandal of Shirochar village of Murshidabad continues to be in BGB custody.

Following the incident, the BSF has stepped up vigil along the Indo-Bangla border.

The two forces meet biannually and the last DG-level talks took place between the two border guarding forces in June at BGB’s headquarters in Dhaka.

Delhi’s odd-even rules announced

From Page 1

The ban will also apply on all non-goods vehicles entering Delhi from other States.

“Private vehicles ferrying schoolchildren in uniform will be exempted from the odd-even scheme. Such vehicles, however, will be allowed only during school timings,” Kejriwal told reporters.

“The Delhi Government had decided to implement the odd-even scheme in November due to the pollution caused in the city from stubble burning in the neighboring States. The restriction will be implemented from 8 am to 8 pm everyday, except on Sundays. It will also be applicable to vehicles entering Delhi from other States. Vehicles having odd and even last digits of registration numbers are allowed to run on alternate days,” said the CM.

According to Government officials, air pollution level in the national Capital increases enormously after the Deepawali festival due to fire crackers.

“The Government this year has taken various measures along odd-even scheme such as a laser light show on the festival to be celebrated in Connaught Place to stop people from bursting crackers,” they said.

Besides, the Government will also distribute face masks (N-95) to residents across the national Capital. These masks are quite effective in mitigating the ill-effects of pollutants, an official said.

Emergency vehicles such as ambulance, fire brigade, hospital, prison and hearse vehicles, and enforcement vehicles will also be exempted. Vehicles of police, Delhi transport department vehicles, and vehicles authorised by GNCTD and paramilitary forces will be exempted from the scheme.

The AAP Government will conduct a study in collaboration with Washington. A centre has been next to DPCC office near India Gate which will take the samples of air and will analyse for one year. After that the base data of air quality in Delhi will be prepared.

“From next April onwards, we’ll be able to provide the details of air pollution and sources in an interval of every four hours. That’s real-time monitoring. The machine has already been installed. But, for specific outcome, one year of a base-level study is required,” said the CM. Kejriwal said the staggering office timings are being discussed and the decision will be announced by next week.

UP alert ahead of Ayodhya verdict

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Supreme Court set to give its verdict on the vexed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in the first half of November and intelligence inputs suggesting that terror suspects could sneak into India through Nepal, the entire state has been put on high alert and security in Ayodhya has been beefed up to avert any untoward incident.

Confirming tightening of security in Ayodhya to foil any

subversive activity, ADG (Law and Order) PV Ramashastri said on Thursday that the police force was on alert in the state to ensure peace and to tackle subversive forces.

However, he did not confirm any specific input about terror suspects sneaking into UP through the Indo-Nepal border. Sources confirmed that Ayodhya has been put on high alert after security agencies suspected a possible terror attack in the aftermath of the apex court pronouncing its judgement on

the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in November.Sources said that all trains and buses coming to the city were being searched and hotels, lodges and guests houses had been put under the scanner. “We are taking security measures as the verdict in Ayodhya issue is set to be delivered soon,” said a senior officer in Ayodhya. “All outposts set up to check flow of crowd near Ram Janmabhomi have been reactivated by deploying more forces. **PTI**

Man jumps into lion enclosure in Delhi zoo, rescued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old mentally unstable man jumped inside the enclosure of a lion in the Delhi zoo on Thursday. The man escaped unhurt after the zoo staff acted quickly and tranquillised the big cat.

The man has been identified as Rehan Khan, a native of Bihar’s East Champaran district and presently living in North East Delhi’s Seelampur area. According to a senior police official, the incident happened at beat number 17 at around 12.30 PM on Thursday.

“The situation is under control now. Rehan Khan was rescued by the zoo staff and handed over to the police. Khan did not sustain any injury and seems to be mentally disturbed,” said the senior police official, said the senior police official adding that police teams are question-

ing him. A zoo official said the man went near the animal, sat down and started teasing it. The feline, however, did not attack him.

The onlookers kept shouting, asking him to come back, but he did not pay any heed, the official said.

When the zoo staff entered the enclosure to save the man, he started running towards the lion, another official said.

A video of the incident, which occurred around 12:30 pm, soon became viral. The video clip showed the man squatting down on a plank in front of the animal. He lied down and quickly rose to a sitting position again. The lion moved around man before pushing him lightly with its paws.

In September 2014, a white tiger had mauled a man to death after he had jumped inside the animal’s enclosure

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Corrigendum No. 1 to the tender notice No. 160 of 25.09.19 (e-Procurement Tender Notice).

Tender Notice No. & Date : Tender notice no. 160 of 25.09.19. **Tender No. :** TMC2019003. **Description :** Due date is changed from 24.10.19 to 08.11.19.

Tender Notice No. & Date : Tender notice no. 160 of 25.09.19. **Tender No. :** TMC2018109. **Description :** Due date, quantity, Specification are changed.

Tender Notice No. & Date : Tender notice no. 160 of 25.09.19. **Tender No. :** TMC2018109. **Description :** Due date, quantity, Specification are changed.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



repeatedly criticising the Bihar Government for its "inept" handling of water-logging in several parts of Patna following heavy rainfall to which he also received an acid retort from the JDU leaders who sought him to mind his own central Ministry. "The JD(U)-BJP alliance is 'atal' (firm) and that it will fight the Bihar Assembly elections next year under Kumar. Shah asserted that their alliance is 'atal' (firm) and that it will fight the Bihar Assembly elections next year under Kumar. Shah asserted that their alliance is 'atal' (firm) and that it will fight the Bihar Assembly elections next year under Kumar.

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

end of next year, on its own. Shah played down the unease in the alliance, saying it is natural for some differences to crop up at the local level and that this is an indication of a healthy alliance. "Matbhed" (difference of opinion) has not changed into 'manbhed' (change of heart), he said. JDU has been on an uneasy term with the BJP after it opted out from the Modi Government for it not including two of its leaders in the union cabinet and making space for only one cabinet berth for its alliance partner. JDU has also not been backing triple talaq bill and objected to the criminalization clause in it. The discord between the two had at one time set off speculations of Kumar again drifting to the opposition camp.

Let 7L jawans spend 100 days with families annually: MHA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



stable gets to stay with his family for about 100 days, they said. The directive, when implemented, will ensure that the jawans will be posted to their nearest units and they can travel and stay with their families when there are no operational exigencies, an official said.

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

and deploy their troops. The digital format will also help in ensuring that a large grievance of personnel regarding their transfer and posting to a place near to their parents or family home will be addressed up to a limit, he said. The forces have been given a deadline of two months to implement the directive. According to reports, an average jawan spends 75 days with his family in the BSF. Similar situation prevails in other forces due to lack of reserve component and continuous deployment. Lack of family connect has been attributed to one of the many reasons putting the jawans under stress. Stressed out jawans also. At times, tend to indulge in fratricidal incidents even leading to casualties. The move will give a significant relief to the jawans.

Cut road construction costs: Road Ministry to NHAI

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The PMO in August this year had questioned the

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

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

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

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

model on build-operate-transfer (toll) basis. The stretches have been selected after consultations with bidders in States including Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

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

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

Action sought against Dhavan for tearing Ayodhya map

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Arguing for Chidambaram, noted lawyer

Fadnavis Govt fulfilled over 96% poll promises, claims BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

INSHORT

RAHUL ACCUSES MODI OF SELLING PSUs



New Delhi: Using the moniker 'BechendraModi', Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that he is sharing the "spoils" of PSUs with his "suit-boot" friends. He posted a cartoon of the Prime Minister 'selling' Air India, BPCL and India. "#BechendraModi" is sharing spoils (bandar baant) of PSUs with his suit-boot friends. He posted a cartoon of the Prime Minister 'selling' Air India, BPCL and India. "#BechendraModi" is sharing spoils (bandar baant) of PSUs with his suit-boot friends. He posted a cartoon of the Prime Minister 'selling' Air India, BPCL and India. "#BechendraModi" is sharing spoils (bandar baant) of PSUs with his suit-boot friends. He posted a cartoon of the Prime Minister 'selling' Air India, BPCL and India.

IAF EXERCISES WITH OMANI AIR FORCE

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

SC TO HEAR JAYPEE GROUP'S APPEAL

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

Govt banks on researchers to end malaria by 2030

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collegium recommends transfer of Patna High Court judge

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

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

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

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

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

and had ordered a CBI probe and an inquiry by the Patna district judge into how a former IAS officer, whom he had denied anticipatory bail in a corruption case last year, was granted regular bail by a trial court.

Justice Kumar had also directed that copies of his August 28 order be sent to the Chief Justice of India, the apex court Collegium and the Prime Minister's Office besides the Union Law Ministry.

Later, a full bench of the Patna High Court, headed by Chief Justice A P Sahi, had set aside Justice Kumar's order, terming it as an instance of judicial and administrative overreach and a complete nullity.

Justice Kumar was divested of his judicial work by the high court administration on the day he had passed the order. However, a day later his judicial work was restored by a special 11-judge bench. **PTI**

Collegium recommends names for elevation as CJs of Jharkhand, Meghalaya HCs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN WAKE OF POTENTIAL THREATS

Bengal Guv accorded ‘Z’ class security cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has accorded West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar ‘Z’ category VIP security cover in the wake of “potential threats” to him.

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

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

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

The CRPF guards a number of VIPs



including Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

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

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

Forced NRC will give mileage to Didi: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

good governance at the Centre.

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

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

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

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

Bengal Govt committed to alleviating poverty: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

“Yesterday, I spent time with the family of our very own Nobel Prize winning economist, Abhijit Banerjee. His contribution to the experimental theory of poverty alleviation will go a long way in helping people #Bangla is very proud of him!”, Banerjee tweeted.



ed.

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

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

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

India (CPI).

The CPI was formed on 17 October 1920 at Tashkent in Uzbekistan, then part of USSR.

Yechury said the updation of the NRC in the rest of the country after Assam is against the interests of the people as BJP intends to use it for its “divisive communal agenda”.

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

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

The Citizenship (Amendment)

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

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

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

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

Will take over BJP controlled Bhatpara municipality soon: TMC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“They (the coucillors) had joined BJP as they were fed up with TMC’s functioning. Since then they are being threatened by the police and goons. TMC is now forcing them to rejoin it. The same has been done in other municipal bodies too”, he added.

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



Sadhus look at stone slabs, carved-out for the construction of Ram Temple, at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Karyashala (workshop) in Karsewakpuram, Ayodhya on Thursday

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

PTI ■ VARANASI

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

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

Shah said had it not been for him, the rebellion of 1857 would have become history and India would have seen it from the British point of view.

His remarks came two days after the Maharashtra BJP

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

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

“It was Savarkar who gave the name First War of Independence to the 1857 ‘kranti’, otherwise, our children would have known it as a revolt,” he said, inaugurating a two-day international seminar here on ‘Guptvanshak-Veer: Skandgupta Vikramaditya’ at Banaras Hindu University



(BHU).

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

Referring to eminent historians in the audience and on the dais, he said, “It is my request to all that there is a need to rewrite the Indian history

from India’s point of view but without blaming anyone.”

“It is our responsibility to write our history. How long are we going to blame the British? We don’t have to dispute anyone, only write what is truth and it will stand the test of time,” the Union Home Minister said.

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

Shah also praised Madan Mohan Malaviya for founding a university where “Hindu dharma and sanskriti” were propagated even after so many years.

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

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

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

PTI ■ VARANASI (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the officials concerned to initiate a campaign to ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s parliamentary constituency Varanasi is the cleanest in the country.

Modi had won the seat in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year by a huge margin of 4.79 lakh votes. He had not only retained the seat, but also saw his victory margin increase by nearly 1 lakh votes as compared to the 2014 general elections.

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

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

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

Do something special so that Kashi



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

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

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

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

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

Democracy in danger under BJP rule: Gehlot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ IMPHAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting that all disputes can be settled through dia-

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

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

“The Centre has implemented the Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) for states with hilly topography like Manipur. Tamenglong district in the state is among the 82 districts across the country where the scheme would be implemented in the first phase,” he said.

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

Mentioning that around Rs 600 crore would be spent on improving road connectivity in Ukhrul district, the Chief Minister said around ₹250 crore has been sanctioned for construction of roads between Kamjong and Tengnoupal districts.

Truck drivers living in fear in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Truck drivers, camping in Kashmir valley to ferry apple boxes outside the State, are living in constant fear after the terrorists carried out second ‘surprise’ attack on two apple traders hailing from Punjab late Wednesday night in Shopian district.

One of the apple trader identified as Charanjeet Singh succumbed to his fatal injuries while another, identified as Sanjay Churaya, is undergoing treatment in Srinagar. Both hailed from Fazilka in Punjab.

Before this, a truck driver from Rajasthan was also killed in cold blood by terrorists in Shopian on Monday evening. Later, his truck was also set on fire to spread terror in the area.

After these attacks, fresh wave of terror has gripped the area. The main markets, where apple growers were bringing their crop from different orchards in the region, wore a deserted look on Thursday.

To instil confidence among



the truck drivers, stranded in the vulnerable pockets, the local police authorities beefed up security deployment by way of area domination. Posters of terrorists, believed to be behind the targeted killing of apple traders was also pasted at different places so that they can be tracked down and neutralised.

Meanwhile, interacting with local media in Shopian several truck drivers raised the issue of their safety.

Without identifying themselves in front of media, the truck drivers said, “we are worried for our own safety. “we are here to ferry apple boxes and

earn our livelihood”. “We really don’t know why are these terrorists targeting us. We are sole bread earners of our families and they are dependent on us”, truck drivers told local reporters.

In the recent weeks, more than 30,000 trucks have ferried large quantities of apple crop outside the state. Commenting on the targeting killing of apple traders and truck drivers,

Governor Satya Pal Malik Thursday said, terrorists are targeting apple traders and truck drivers to spread terror. He said, “we are after them and we will finish them”.

State admin orders abolition of J&K Legislative Council

PNS ■ JAMMU

The State administration in Jammu & Kashmir has set in to motion the process of bifurcating the State of Jammu & Kashmir in to two Union Territories. Late Wednesday evening, the State administration issued a formal order for abolition of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council.

The 36-member Legislative Council was established in 1957 after an act was passed by the Parliament. The Council functioned as an upper house for the 87-member State Assembly. According to the order, the 116-member staff of the Council has been asked to report to the General Administration Department (GAD) by October 22.

Jammu & Kashmir will be a Union Territory with a State Assembly. The Centre had on August 5 abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which granted special status to Jammu & Kashmir for residency and

Government jobs.

The order issued by Secretary to the State Government, Farooq Ahmad Lone, also directed transfer of all vehicles purchased from time to time to the Director of State motor garages and handing over of the building of the Council along with furniture and electronic gadgets to the Director of estates.

“Consequent to the abolition of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council in terms of Section 57 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, it is ordered that all the staff of the State legislative council shall report to the GAD by October 22,” the order said. All records pertaining to the Council Secretariat including related legislative business shall be transferred to the Department of Law, Justice Parliamentary Affairs by the Secretary, the order added.

JK administration orders abolition of legislative council, asks its staff to report to GAD by October 22,” the order said.

Former PDP leader, several others join BJP in Jammu

PTI ■ JAMMU

Former State president of PDP’s Scheduled Caste wing Vijay Anand on Thursday joined the BJP along with six others here, a party spokesperson said.

Anand accompanied by Sanjay Kumar, Himanshu, Ravi Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Ajay Kumar and John Sotra joined the BJP’s Scheduled Caste wing in presence of its state president Jagdish Bhagat and state spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan. Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Bhagat said the BJP has relieved ‘Valmiki Samaj’ of the sufferings which they had to bear during the last 70 years due to Article 370.

“These people were not treated as citizens of the state and their educated children could not apply for the government jobs or other benefits,” he said, adding the BJP abrogated the provisions of Article 370 to benefit the weaker sections of the society.

Shops briefly open in Srinagar, private transport on roads

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Shops opened for few hours Searly Thursday morning in some areas here including in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk but main markets and other business establishments remained shut, officials said.

Few vendors had set up stalls on the TRC Chowk-Polo View road, they said.

Private transport was plying unhindered in the city here and elsewhere in Kashmir, the officials said, adding auto-rickshaws and few inter-district

cabs were also seen plying in few areas of the valley.

However, the other modes of public transport were off the roads.

Schools and colleges were open, but students stayed away as parents continued to keep their wards at home due to apprehensions about their safety, the officials said. Mobile services were restored in Kashmir on Monday, but the SMS facility was snapped once again later that night due to apprehensions of the services being misused.

BJP disqualifies 8 leaders for ‘anti-party activities’ in J&K

Jammu: The BJP’s Jammu & Kashmir unit on Thursday disqualified eight party leaders for filing their nominations as Independents against the official candidates for the Block Development Council (BDC) elections, scheduled to be held on October 24, a party spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the State Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) also discharged its

senior leader Aqib Mir from his present party post of State secretary due to “breach of party discipline”, he said.

“Taking strong note of the filing of nominations as Independents by party leaders against the official candidates of the BJP for the BDC elections, the State BJP has disqualified them for indulging in anti-party activities,” PTI

History will take note of those who ridiculed abrogation of Art 370: PM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Averring that history would take cognisance of statements by all those who ridiculed the Government’s decision to abrogate Article 370 of Constitution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday demanded to know if the country— after its much-discussed decision —had been “ruined” or “has the country lost” Kashmir as predicted by a few Congress leaders.

Addressing an election rally at Parli in Beed district of Marathwada region, Modi offered to “make arrangements” to all those who desired to go Jammu & Kashmir.

Castigating the Congress and other Opposition leaders for mocking the BJP-led NDA Government’s decision to annul Article 370, Modi said: “Whenever debate takes place in future about the abrogation of Article 370, history will take cognisance of statements made by the leaders ridiculing the decision taken in the national interest.”

Exhorting the people to “punish” all those mocking the Government’s decision on Article 370, Modi said: “One Congress leader said that the Kashmir issue not the country’s internal matter. Will agree with it? Can the leader saying such thing be pardoned? Will you not punish those who said such things in the election? ... One leader said it’s a black day for Indian politics. Another said it’s against democracy, danger to national security...A senior Congress leader said that after the abrogation of



Article 370, the country will be ruined. It is going to be three months since we abrogated Article 370, has the country been ruined?”

“Another Congress leader said that by annulling Article 370, we have lost Kashmir. I would like to ask you: has the country lost Kashmir? If you want to go Kashmir, tell me I will make arrangements... Does it behave well of all those leaders who ruled for such a time to make such statements? I have a long list of questionable statements made by the Congress leaders in this regard,” the Prime Minister said.

Modi, who was campaigning for campaigning for late Gopinath Munde’s Minister-daughter Pankaja Munde at Parli, said that Parli gave friends like Gopinath Munde and Pramod Mahajan.. “Both Munde and Mahajan are no longer there. People from the younger generation like Devendra Fadnavis and Pankaja Munde are trying to fulfil their dreams.

Modi said that the Assembly elections were a battle between BJP’s “karyashakti” (power of development) and opposition’s “swarth shakti” (selfishness).Lotus (the BJP symbol) has always bloomed in Beed. Pankaja will win the Assembly polls with a record

margin,” he said.

Modi, who subsequently addressed rallies in Satara and Pune,urged the voters to punish the Congress and its leaders for their involvement in scams and their questionable remarks. “All those who have looted the country will not be spared. They will be put behind the bars. I will not rest till all the money looted from the State exchequer returns”.

“If the entire Maharashtra is behind the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, it is because of the hard work put in by us during the last five years. See the contrast: on one side, you can get to see the work ethics of the safiron alliance Government, while on the other, the Opposition Congress and NCP leaders are working for selfish motives,” the Prime Minister said.

In Satara, Modi campaigned for sitting MP and 13th descendent of Chhatrapati Shivaji Udayan Rajhe Bhosale, who recently quit the NCP and joined the BJP, is contesting the Lok Sabha by-polls from Satara. The by-poll has been necessitated by the resignation of Bhosale from Lok Sabha.

In Pune, the Prime Minister campaigned among other for BJP’s State President Chandrakant Patil, who is contesting from the Brahmin dominated Kothrud constituency.

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Debunking Narendra Modi’s much-advertised “double engine” model of governance which “has utterly failed”, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday charged that the Government was “obsessed” with trying to somehow fix blame on its opponents and in the process, it had failed to revive the economy.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to town claiming that the “double-engine” governance involving him and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was a “super-hit” during the last five years and was giving a “eleven-fold” boost to the State’s development, Singh said: “The much advertised “double engine” model of governance on which the BJP seeks votes has utterly failed. Mumbai and Maharashtra have had to face some of the worst effects of the grave economic slowdown”.

Interacting with businessmen, professionals and the media at the Garware Club of the Wankhede Stadium here, Singh took a swipe at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman for her comment that Indian public sector banks had the “worst phase” under the combination of him as the then Prime Minister and Raghuram Rajan as the RBI Governor.

“I have just seen the statement by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, I won’t like to comment on that statement but I can merely point out that before one can fix the economy one needs a correct diagnosis of its ailments and their causes,” Singh said.

“The Government is obsessed with trying to somehow fix blame on its oppo-

nents, in the process it is unable to find solution that will ensure revival of the economy particularly strengthening of our banking system,” the former Prime Minister said.

Singh’s comment should be seen in the context of the remarks made by Sitaraman during a lecture Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs In in New York on Tuesday. “I have no reason to doubt that Rajan feels for every word of what he is saying. And I’m here today, giving him his due respect, but also placing the fact before you that Indian public sector banks did not have a worst phase than when the combination of Singh and Rajan, as Prime Minister and the Governor of Reserve Bank, had. At that time, none of us knew about it,” she said.

Maintaining that the Government’s “apathy and incapability” were affecting the future and aspirations of millions of our people, Singh said: “Manufacturing growth rate of Maharashtra has been declining for four consecutive years. Maharashtra has witnessed one of the highest factory shutdowns in the past five years”

“The industrial slowdown has been met with rising imports from China. In the last five years, imports from China have risen by more than Rs. 1,22,000 crores. Chemicals, fertilisers, electronic goods, and automobiles, products manufactured in Maharashtra, have seen rising imports from our neighbouring country,” he said.

Lamenting that the industrial slowdown was coming in India’s way to optimally utilise its demographic dividend, Singh said: “Only in the recent



UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AS MIGRATION INCREASES'

past, Maharashtra used to attract talent from around the country. Today there is a dearth of opportunities in this otherwise vibrant state.

“In urban areas, every third young person is jobless. Educated individuals have to face a higher rate of unemployment. It is thus no surprise that many of our young men and women are taking up low paying jobs. Investors are shifting to other states. The distress pervading our rural areas will only add to the unemployment problem as migration increases”

The former Prime Minister said that Maharashtra, from once being the number one in attracting investments, “it is today a leader in farmer suicide”.

“Despite the promises of doubling farm incomes, the rural areas of Maharashtra are witnessing nothing short of a crisis. Caught between low incomes and high debt trap, the suicide rate has doubled. The obsession with low inflation is inflicting misery of our farmers. The Central Government’s import-export policies are also hurting farmers,” he said.

Accusing the BJP Governments, both at the Centre and at Maharashtra, of

‘IN URBAN AREAS, EVERY THIRD YOUNG PERSON IS JOBLESS. EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS HAVE TO FACE A HIGHER RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT. IT IS THUS NO SURPRISE THAT MANY OF OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ARE TAKING UP LOW PAYING JOBS. INVESTORS ARE SHIFTING TO OTHER STATES. THE DISTRESS PERVADING OUR RURAL AREAS WILL ONLY ADD TO THE

not being willing to adopt people-oriented policies, Singh said: “As water shortages compound, the situation will become still worse if not addressed soon. People from Maharashtra are already grappling with low availability of clean drinking water and are resorting to digging up dried river beds. While we cannot control the vagaries of nature, we can ensure the mitigation of the damage if we are economically sound”

“A lot of problems facing Maharashtra today are man-made and the solutions lie in policies which are inclusive and welfare people-oriented,, he said.

“It is my sincere belief that we need to go back to these time-tested measures if are to ensure gainful employment for our young people, men and women, farmer welfare, and a better standard of living for all the people of Maharashtra,” he said.

Calling for a change in the Government in the State, Singh said: “I can say without a doubt that the State will progress much better under the leadership of Congress-NCP”

“During my time as the Prime Minister of India, I had the privilege to work with

many leaders from Maharashtra. I found that they were all committed to delivering good governance to the people of Maharashtra. The Bandra-Worli sea link is one example of the many spectacular works Congress could ensure. At a time of agri-distress, we delivered an effective loan waiver and ensured rural growth,” he said.

Among other things, the former Prime Minister said that while Maharashtra levied the highest VAT on petroleum products, “the high VAT coupled with Modi Government’s decision to levy excessive excise duties has punished the people despite low international crude prices”.

Replying to a question on the PMC Bank crisis, Singh appealed to Modi and chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to resolve the issue at the earliest. He indicated that the Congress would take up the PMC Bank issue in a big way in Parliament during the Winter Session beginning in mid November.

“I appeal to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister to resolve this matter at the earliest. The grievances must be solved,” he said.

Asked if he would intervene in the matter, Singh said: “The matter is coming up in the Supreme Court, so it is sub-judice I don’t want to comment much (on the issue). I am appealing to the Maharashtra Government, the RBI and the Centre to put the pragmatic hat and solve this at the earliest”

“I have heard your feedback. I assure you that when the Parliament convenes in mid-November, this issue (PMC bank and such cases) will figure very very prominently,” the former Prime Minister told a questioner.

WESTERN RAILWAY CANCELLATION NOTICE

Cancellation Notice is to be issued for Tender No. BCT/19-20/238, Dated: 30.09.2019, which was due for opening on 31.10.2019. The same may be treated as Cancelled.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed in the general public that my client Mrs. Rita Singh, W/o. late Sh. Brajesh Kumar, R/o. (1) 609/75, Sector-D, Pkt-6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 and (2) Raheja Revanta, Apartment No.IFI-03, Sector-78, Gurgaon, Haryana, admeasuring 1960-84 sq.ft. & 225-61, have debarred/ evicted her son namely Mr. Prabhat Singh and his wife Mrs. Alankasha Priya from claiming any right, title & interest whatsoever for all the purposes & intent. They are having no connection with any kind of Moveable or Immoveable properties of my client and any person dealing with him/her, monetary or otherwise, he/she shall do so at his/her own risk, costs & consequences. My client shall not be liable & responsible for the same and they are not liable to claim before any Court in the above mentioned properties.

Vijay Lakshmi (Advocate)
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU EXTENSION - II

Name of work : Const. of road by way of laying wet mix and 25mm thick OGPC on road from Tersha Talab to Mohalla Granthian. Reference : e-NIT No.83 of 2019-2020/Div-2 Dated 30-09-2019 Due to Nil Response, the changes to the critical dates of the above said works are hereby made as under:-

Please read	Instead of
Bid submission end date 19-10-2019 (1800 hours)	Bid submission end date 15-10-2019 (1800 hours)
Bid opening date 21-10-2019 (1400hours)	Bid opening date 16-10-2019 (1400hours)

All other terms and conditions remains same. Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II Jammu

ED has papers with Patel & Mirchi’s wife’s signatures: Goyal

Mumbai: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said the ED launched a probe against NCP leader Praful Patel after his signatures were found on the documents which were also signed by the wife of gangster Iqbal Mirchi.

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Patel on October 18 in connection with a probe into alleged illegal assets of Mirchi, who was an aide of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim. PTI

IT Dept seizes ₹15.5 crore unaccounted cash in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Income Tax Department officials have seized ₹15.5 crore of unaccounted cash from various places in Mumbai since the declaration of Model Code of Conduct for the Maharashtra Assembly polls by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on September 21.

“We have increased the strength of the Quick Response Teams, formed for this period, with additional manpower so as to ensure elections free from influence of cash and/or valuables,” a senior IT department official said.

“We will give special attention to the movement of unaccounted cash/valuables and also prohibition of distribution of cash/ valuables meant for wooing the electorate, particularly during the period when election campaign ceases on 19th October till the date of polling — October 21,” the official said.



According to the official, the IT department is responding to every call and information from police/public/other agencies and subject to the existence of credible information, search/ survey actions are being conducted almost on daily basis.

Set up to curb the use of black money and cash inducement in the ongoing Assembly Elections in the State, the Directorate General of Income Tax (Investigation) has since September 21 been working in close coordination with several law enforcement agencies and other Government departments, in order to contribute to the conduct of free, fair and smooth elections.

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS REPAIRS WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008, invites Tender for the following works: Sr. No. 1 Tender No.: BCT/19-20/255 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Navsari) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,84,30,283.33 EMD: ₹ 2,42,200/- Sr. No. 2 Tender No.: BCT/19-20/256 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Surat) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,99,07,713.66. EMD: ₹ 2,49,500/- Sr. No. 3 Tender No. : BCT/19-20/257 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Palghar) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,91,65,041.05 EMD: ₹ 2,45,800/- Sr.No. 4. Tender No.: BCT/19-20/258 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Dahanu Road) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,79,02,457.54. EMD: ₹ 2,39,500/- Sr. No. 5. Tender No.: BCT/19-20/259 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Vapi) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,97,43,614.55 EMD: ₹ 2,48,700/- Sr. No. 6 Tender No.: BCT/19-20/260 dt.15.10.19 Name of work: Virar-Surat Sec: Repairs to P-way under SSE (Valsad) Section for 12 months. Tender Cost: ₹ 1,90,47,198.05 EMD: ₹ 2,45,200/- Sr.No. 1 to 6: Completion Period: 12 months. Tender Fee: ₹ 5,000/- for each tender. Date of Opening: Sr. No. 1 & 2: on 11.11.19 at 15.30 hrs. Sr. No. 3 to 6: on 13.11.19 at 15.30 hrs. For more details please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

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“APPENDIX- IV-A”
[See Proviso to Rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor (Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Finance Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on “AS IS WHERE IS”, “AS IS WHAT IS”, AND “WHATEVER THERE IS” on 21st November 2019, for recovery of Rs. 4,45,00, 307.72 (Rupees Four Crores Forty Five Lacs Thirty Hunder Seven and Seventy Two Paisa) due to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited Secured Creditor from M/s Shalini Invest Private Limited, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Ms. Shalini Verma, Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Ms. Malini Verma, Mr. Siddhartha Sanjay. The reserve price will be For Property No. 1 is Rs 2,12,63,500/- (Rupees Two Crore Twelve Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only) and For Property No. 2 is Rs 1,50,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty lakhs Only) and the earnest money deposit will be For Property No.1 is Rs 21,26,350/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Only) and For Property No. 2 is Rs 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property No.1
All that Part and Parcel of the Property consisting of Apartment No. 301, Duplex on 3rd & 4th Floor, Block No. 2, namely, Heritage City and having super area 1849.00 Sq. feet (171.84 Sq. Meter) along with Terrace Area 230 Sq. ft., comprising of Drawing-Cum-Dining Room, One Bed Room with attached Toilet, Kitchen, Servant Room with W.C. & Terrace on 3rd Floor and Two Bed Rooms with attached Toilets and Terrace on 4th Floor. In the said group housing complex, Heritage City, situated at Village Sirhau, Tehsil & District, Gurgaon (Haryana). BOUNDED BY ON : North : Entry, South : Other Property, East : Other Property, West : Other Property

Property No. 2
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Apartment No. 302, on 3rd Floor, Block No. 43, namely, Heritage City and having super area 1195 Sq. feet (111.05 Sq. meter) along with Terrace Area 69 Sq. Ft., comprising of Drawing-cum-Dining Room, Two bed rooms with attached toilets, kitchen, lobby & terrace. In the said group housing complex, Heritage City, situated at Village Sirhau, Tehsil & District, Gurgaon (Haryana). BOUNDED BY ON : North : Entry, South : Other Property, East : Other Property, West : Other Property.

TARUN SHARMA (Mobile 9540178178)

AUTHORISED OFFICER

ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED

PLACE : New Delhi

DATE : 18-10-2019

Ayodhya closure

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



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

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

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

Still too hungry

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



Digest this! According to estimates by the United Nations Development Programme, nearly 40 per cent of the food produced in India is wasted or lost and this costs the country one lakh crore rupees every year. And, yet, according to the Global Hunger Index (GHI), that measures the level of hunger and under-nutrition worldwide, India has slipped from the 95th rank in 2010 to the 102nd in 2019, behind its neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The four indicators for the index are undernourishment, child stunting,

child wasting and child mortality. Alarming over one in every five children in India is "wasted" (low weight for height), the highest for any country. This damning report is full of irony as from being an importer of food in the 1960s, when India had to rely on shipments from the US, today the country has become the largest exporter of rice in the world. We are the second-largest producer of both rice and wheat. Between 2012 and 2015, three years, India exported 63 million tonnes of grains. Besides, now we have a smart buffering capacity to deal with shortages and crisis. Why then are we slipping on hunger targets?

First, we need to adopt better strategies for storage and avoid rotting. Latest data shows 4,135.224 metric tonnes of foodgrains were wasted. We could learn from advance food strategies of China, which has invested in state-of-the-art storage facilities. We need to curb food wastage at every level, right from harvesting, transporting, processing, packaging to consuming that is caused due to the loopholes in the transport and infrastructure system. Plus, we have the archaic public distribution system to blame for the inadequate and patchy supplies. Many times, even those who are the right candidates for the food subsidy are excluded on the basis of differential BPL (Below Poverty Line) status as the criteria for identifying a household is arbitrary and varies from State to State. Undoubtedly, several nutrition schemes are in operation but aren't properly implemented. For instance, in Bihar and Odisha, where the poverty ratio is very high, poor implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme has a major impact on food security. After 2024 we will have the largest population on this planet. The average household spends 40 to 45 per cent of its budget on food. So, for the next 30 years, the demand for food will spiral. If nothing is done at the policy level in terms of coordination and rationalisation, we will continue to hang our heads in shame and never be able to shed the tag of a nation with starving millions.

opinion08

Who is an Indian?

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



AJOY KUMAR

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

In doing so, Dastagir saved hundreds of lives. He did not, however, stop here. As terror spread across Bhopal, large crowds of the affected population descended on to the station in an attempt to escape the gas chamber. Dastagir went from platform to platform, attending to and consoling victims and sent an SOS to all nearby railway stations to send ambulances and doctors.

He himself suffered terribly due to the gas leaks. He died in 2003 and a large part of his life was spent in the hospital due to exposure to toxic fumes. He also lost his son in the tragedy. However, through his bravery and courage, he

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Senior Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh

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



Screenwriter —Javed Akhtar

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



UK Prime Minister —Boris Johnson

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



Congress leader —Shashi Tharoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bridge the gap

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

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

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Ganguly has an onerous task at hand

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

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



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

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

IRCT's market debut

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

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

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

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

Employment in the public

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

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Poll rhetoric

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


Swadha
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time for some ‘Freakonomics’

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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

—FINANCE MINISTER
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



THE GOVERNMENT IS OBSESSED WITH TRYING TO BLAME ITS OPPONENTS, THUS IT IS UNABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR REVIVAL OF THE ECONOMY.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER
MANMOHAN SINGH

A stirred and shaken India

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is most disturbing in this government’s

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



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

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

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

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

lar laws for other minorities intact.

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

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

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

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

Can Delhi GRAPple with pollution?

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report summarised the findings of 45 Right to Information (RTI) applications filed at 14 Government departments. Responses were sought from Central, State and municipal bodies to assess the effectiveness of GRAP. The analysis of data collected by URJA for 68 days showed that except for one day in Central Delhi’s ITO, the national Capital’s air quality was continually above permissible limits.

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

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



BREXIT DEAL NOT A GAME OF CHESS

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

(The Guardian editorial)

Sensex rallies 453 pts, Nifty tops 11,550

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

The broader NSE Nifty too spiked 122.35 points, or 1.07 per cent, to settle at 11,586.35. Yes Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 15.19 per cent, followed by Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Bajaj Auto, Asian Paints, Axis Bank, Tata Steel and Maruti, rising up to 9.82 per cent.



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

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

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Karnataka is the leader in the overall rankings in the cat-

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

According to the NITI Aayog, the index shows that the innovation ecosystem of the country is strong in south and western parts of India. In fact, three of the top five major states are from southern India. Delhi and Haryana seem to be an exception to this rule and seem to be doing well on the Index. “Thus, there seems to be a west-south and north-east divide across the country”, the index report said.

The index was released in the presence of Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science, Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH.

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

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

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

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

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

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

₹ strengthens 27 paise to 71.16 post Brexit deal

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gold falls ₹105 on stronger ₹, weak cues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

On Wednesday, gold closed at ₹39,090 per 10 gram. “International gold prices traded weak on Brexit hopes and the US-China trade deal optimism,” HDFC Securities Senior Analyst — Commodities Tapan Patel said.

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

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

Nadella earns \$42.9 mn in 2018-19 fiscal

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

CNN Business.

He received \$29.6 million in stock award, \$10.7 million in non-equity incentive plan compensation and around \$1,11,000 in other compensation.

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

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

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

In the 2017-18 fiscal, the Hyderabad-born business exec-

utive had got a pay of \$25.8 million.

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

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

Aviation regulator's nod to 5 firms to manufacture drones

New Delhi: In a push to domestic drone manufacturing, India's civil aviation regulator DGCA has given nod to the companies to manufacture Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The consumption slump, a major challenge afflicting the economy, cannot be attributed to the NBFC crisis as it predates the first default by infra lender IL&FS, says a broker-

age, which has also slashed growth forecast to 6 percent with a downward bias.

Many people attribute the deepening slowdown in con-

sumption to the NBFC crisis that began in September 2018 when IL&FS went belly up following which consumption financing — a forte of shadow banks, stopped with a chill in disbursements by these players.

According to Prachi Mishra, the chief economist at Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs, her analysis indicates that consumption has been falling since January 2018, which is much

before the end August 2018 default by IL&FS which triggered the liquidity crisis for NBFCs.

She said the fall in consumption is responsible for a third of the overall dip in overall growth, with the global slowdown coupled with funding constraints. “There is a slowdown and the growth numbers have fallen by 2 percentage points,” Mishra said, speaking at an event by The Economist.

SIAM supports draft guidelines on authorised vehicle scrapping facility

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

Welcoming the draft guidelines released by the

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

“The draft guidelines will help in establishing organised vehicle scrapping facilities in

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

BUSINESS CORNER

DIVYANGJANS TO GET ASSISTIVE DEVICES



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

TRAINING FOR VIGILANCE, INVESTIGATING OFFICERS



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

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

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

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

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

Reliance Jio has accused old operators including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea of “illegally” masquerading wireline numbers as mobile numbers for “undue enrichment” and has exhorted Trai to slap

“severest penalty” on them for violating regulations and licensing norms. After the fresh set of allegations surfaced, Bharti Airtel immediately hit back saying Jio was trying to misguide the regulator ahead of the crucial consultation on call connect charges (also called IUC or interconnect usage charges).

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



Sapna
area of PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 26.09.19. In this regard a case FIR No. 678/19 dated 28.09.19 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

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

E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 **PS: Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph.: 25946700, 25946710**

DP/2784/OD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

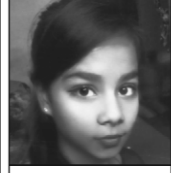
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Johny Patel S/o** Aanand Kumar, **R/o** H.No. 900, Type-IV, Sector-12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 138/19 u/s 498A/406/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Mehrauli,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

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

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

DP/5776/SD/19-(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shagun D/o Suresh Kumar, R/o H.No. 53 C-2nd, Raju Park, Khanpur, New Delhi, Age : 16 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Thin, Wearing : Black Colour Jeans and Red Colour T-Shirt,** has been missing / kidnapped since **14.09.2019** from the area of PS. Neb Sarai. In this regard a case **FIR No. 320/19 dated 14.09.2019** u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Neb Sarai, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

if anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in,
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

DP/5768/SD/19. **SHO**
PS. Neb Sarai, Delhi
Ph.: 011-29551597, 8750870835

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Narendra Singh Chauhan S/o Kaptan Singh Chauhan R/o** H.No.494 Devli village, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped the area of P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi. In this regard, a case **DD No. 65-A dated 25.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi.** The description of the missing person is as under.

Age: 48 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** white colour shirt and matmela pant. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website:

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi
Ph. 011-29551597

DP/5761/SD/19



NARENDRA SINGH

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Rani, W/o** Sh. Chander Shekhar, **R/o:** B-38, Shubham Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Delhi, **Age:** 28 years, **Height:** 4'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, wearing Yellow Suit-Salwar, **I/D Mark:** A tattoo make name "Sanju" on left hand, has been missing since 20.09.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 56-A, dated 20.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Paschim Vihar East,**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Delhi**
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **Ph: 011-25263471, 25267286**
DP/2750/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



DEVKI TYAGI

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely : Devki Tyagi W/o Bhagwandin R/o** H.No. B-489, Friends Enclave, Rajdhani Park, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 25.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 28-A** dated 26.09.2019 has been lodged at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under :-

Age : 38 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Wearing : Orange colour saree.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing/ kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail Id – cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
Phone: **P.S. Nangloi, Delhi**
011-24368638, 24368641 **Outer Distt., Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Ph. No. 011-25947225, 25949470**
DP/2777/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Aarti Bhatia, W/o: Lokesh Bhatia, R/o:** 2/B, 3rd floor, Gali No. 11, Vikas Vihar, Chander Vihar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since **03.10.2019** from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 52-A** dated **03.10.2019** has been registered at P. S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing lady are as under: **Age:** 32 years, **Height:** 5' 2", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Blue colour suit-salwar and chappale in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this lady kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **Tel.No. 011-25946710, 7065036129**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **DP/2786/OD/19**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

if anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in,
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
PS. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/3364/RD/19.

LITTLE ONES WILL DO BIG WONDERS WE WILL DEFEAT DENGUE TOGETHER



Dip/shabdarth/d/0191/19-20

Kids, do you all remember your Sunday homework?
Are you all ready to defeat Dengue?
You have to make sure that everyone spares 10 minutes
at 10'o clock on Sunday, to defeat Dengue
All children need to check their homes to ensure that
clean water has not accumulated anywhere.
If it has, then remember to pour it out!
And this Sunday homework is not just for you,
but for your parents and neighbors too.
Remember to knock at your neighbors' door and
remind them about the Sunday 10'o Clock check.

And yes, do not forget to put the sticker
outside your home and your neighbour's home
that you will get in school.

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi



US asks Turkey to stop Syria op, Erdogan defiant

AFP ■ CEYLANPINAR (TURKEY)

US President Donald Trump has dispatched his deputy Mike Pence to Turkey to demand a ceasefire in Syria, as Ankara rebuffed international pressure to curb its deadly offensive against Kurdish forces. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed on Wednesday that Turkey's operation -- which has been facilitated by the withdrawal of US troops from northern Syria -- would continue.

That came as an extraordinary letter emerged in which Trump warned Erdogan: "Don't be a fool".

Sent the day Turkey launched its incursion into northeastern Syria, Trump said history risked branding him a "devil".

On Wednesday, Kurdish forces struck a desperate deal

with Damascus and stepped aside to allow Syrian regime troops and allied Russian soldiers enter the border town of Kobane, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Kobane is a highly symbolic town for Syria's Kurds, whose forces had in 2015 wrested it from the Islamic State (IS) group in an epic battle backed by the US-led coalition.

Days after American troops abruptly began withdrawing, clashes continued across the region, with Kurdish fighters in the border town of Ras al-Ain burning tyres in a bid to blind Ankara's warplanes and digging in against a ground offensive by Turkish-backed Syrian rebels.

The Turkish operation, now in its second week, has triggered a flurry of diplomacy among major powers.

Trump sent Pence along

with his top diplomat Mike Pompeo to Turkey amid the greatest crisis in relations for decades between the NATO allies, with talks due in Ankara early Thursday.

Facing a barrage of criticism in Washington for abandoning the Kurds, Trump has imposed sanctions on three Turkish ministers and raised tariffs on its steel industry.

Pence's office said the US would pursue "punishing economic sanctions" unless there was "an immediate ceasefire".

In the missive to Erdogan dated October 9 -- whose authenticity was confirmed to AFP by the White House -- Trump wrote: "You don't want to be responsible for slaughtering thousands of people, and I don't want to be responsible for destroying the Turkish economy -- and I will."

Kurdish commander: Trump approved deal with Russia, Damascus

AP ■ CEYLANPINAR (TURKEY)

The US President Donald Trump did not oppose a deal struck between the Syrian Kurdish-led forces, Russia and the Syrian government in Damascus to protect against a Turkish offensive in northeastern Syria, the commander of the force said as his fighters battled a new push by Ankara-backed fighters to seize a strategic border town.

The commander of the Kurdish-led forces, Mazloum Abdi, said Trump essentially gave the go-ahead for the deal in a phone call Monday.

The Kurds' deal, announced Sunday, came after Trump ordered US troops to step aside as Turkey launched its attack last week.

Under the agreement, forces of Syrian President

Bashar Assad effectively replace the US troops on the ground in the border areas, with Moscow guaranteeing the deal.

"We told (Trump) that we are contacting the Syrian regime and the Russians in order to protect our country and land," Abdi, better known by his nom de guerre Mazloum Kobani, told a local TV station, Ronahi TV.

"He said, 'We are not against that. We support that.'"

Vice President Mike Pence, heading a US delegation that includes Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, is set to arrive in Turkey Thursday afternoon, aiming to press Turkey to accept a cease-fire in its offensive.

Before their arrival, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met with White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien.

Pro-democracy HK lawmaker dragged out of his chamber



Security officers pursue pro-democracy lawmaker Au Nok-hin as he leaps across desks to chase Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam as Lam leaves a question and answer session with lawmakers at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Thursday

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Pro-democracy lawmakers were dragged out of Hong Kong's legislature by security guards on Thursday after they heckled the city's pro-Beijing leader for a second day running, the latest outburst of political rancour in the strife-torn city.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam has faced an outpouring of anger from her opponents since the legislature opened its doors for a new session on Wednesday, three months after the building was trashed by masked protesters.

Lam was unable to give a State of the Union-style policy speech on Wednesday after pro-democracy lawmakers, who form a minority on the pro-Beijing-stacked legislature, repeatedly interrupted her.

Angry emojis flood Hong Kong leader's Facebook Live chat

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's embattled leader took to Facebook Live late Thursday in a bid to reach out to citizens after months of political unrest -- and the emoji count was far from kind.

Carrie Lam -- the city's unelected Chief Executive -- currently boasts record low approval ratings as the financial hub convulses with more than four months of huge, increasingly violent pro-democracy protests.

Aid groups scramble to reach Syrians as battle lines shift

AP ■ BARDARASH

Humanitarian groups in northeastern Syria are scrambling to provide aid to hundreds of thousands of people as rapidly shifting battle lines make it increasingly difficult to reach them.

Nearly all foreign aid workers have been evacuated because of security concerns, and there are fears that local staff could face reprisals, either at the hands of Turkish-led

forces pushing in from the north or Syrian troops fanning out across territory held by the embattled Kurds.

The front lines are being rapidly redrawn as more than 160,000 people flee the fighting, including many who were displaced by earlier battles in Syria's eight-year civil war.

The offensive has created a new refugee crisis in a region where some 1.6 million people already rely on humanitarian aid.

US politics at new low as Trump, Pelosi indulge in war of words over Syria

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

American domestic politics has experienced a new low with President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi engaging in an unprecedented war of words on the issue of pull out of US forces from Syria, a move that paved the way for Turkey to launch cross-border military operations against US ally Kurdish forces.

The war of words on Wednesday between the two leaders started after the White House had invited the leadership and top committee members of both Democrats and Republicans, and the Congress to brief them about their policy on Syria.

Emerging out of a meeting at the White House, the two leaders accused each other of a serious meltdown.

Trump denies giving Turkey 'green light' for invasion

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his decision to pull US troops out of Syria, calling it "strategically brilliant," and denied giving Turkey a "green light" to launch operations against Kurdish militants.

"President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan's decision didn't surprise me because he's wanted to do that for a long time," Trump told reporters at the White House.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)
NIFT Campus, SIDCO Electronic Complex,
Rangreth, Srinagar-191132, J&K

Recruitment of Group-C posts on Long Term Contract Basis
NIFT Srinagar invites applications for the various posts of Group-C. For more details, please log onto NIFT Srinagar website www.nift.ac.in/srinagar/. Last date for receipt of application is **30.11.2019**.

Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
"It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Kamaljeet Kaur and Mr. Amardeep Singh acquired the property i.e Property bearing No. D-4/12 Model Town Phase-III, Delhi, vide Relinquishment Deed dt. 20.02.2015 executed by Mrs. Meenal Kumar, regd. as document no. 1576, and Sale Deed dated 30.12.1974 by Mrs. Raj Rani Bhandari in favour of Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon for 200 Sq. Yds, Sale Deed dated 30.12.1974 by Mrs. Raj Rani Bhandari in favour of Mr. Hira Singh for 82 Sq. yds., Registered General Power of Attorney dated 20.09.1975 executed by Mr. Hira Singh in favour of Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon along with ATS and will for 82 Sq. yds., Sale Deed dated 09.10.1975 executed by Mr. Hira Singh through his attorney Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon in favour of Mr. Ishar Dass Kumar for 82 Sq. yds, Sale Deed dated 19.11.1975 executed by Mr. Mangal Sain Tandon in favour of Mr. Ishar Dass Kumar in respect of area measuring 200 Sq. Yds., are lost in Original.
OR
Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.
"H.No. 26/161, LGF, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024"
Ajay Kumar Giri
Advocate
Ph.:40513964, 42444932

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	93195643B
Name of work and its location	AFTC Tuning unit style T1 21 for frequencies A/6 =6 Nos., B/6 =6 Nos., C/6 =6 Nos. & D/4 =4 Nos. Make -Bambardier or similar
Approx Cost of work	With Approximately cost is Rs. 2808786.86/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 56180/- (Note : It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.
Quantity	22 Nos.
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93195643/2019	Date :-16.10.2019 3320/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	93195449A
Name of work and its location	AFTC End Termination unit (ETU) style T1-21 for different frequencies A/4, B/6, C/6 & D/6, Make-Bambardier or similar.
Approx Cost of work	With Approximately cost is Rs. 37,77,911/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 75,560/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.)
Quantity	23 KMS
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No.: Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93195449/2019	Date: 16.10.2019. 3319/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ON LINE BIDDING
01) Name of Area: MM Deptt, ECL (HQ). 02) Tender No. & date: ECL/HQ/Pur/ Open/21953060-RC/2019-20/IV Fluid/061. 03) Name of Work: Conclusion of Rate Contract for 2 years for supply of IV Fluids (Infusions). 04) Estimated Cost: Rs.71,71,447.80. 05) Tender document download start date: 25.10.2019 (From 11.00 hrs IST). 06) Tender document download end date: 18.11.2019 (11.00 hrs IST). 07) Tender opening date & Time: 19.11.2019 (11.00 hrs IST). NB: Details of tenders can be seen in ECL website www.easterncoal.gov.in or <https://eprocure.gov.in> or <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>.

VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

N Ireland's DUP oppose UK Govt's Brexit plan

AFP ■ LONDON

Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party announced Thursday it cannot support Boris Johnson's current Brexit plan, dealing a major blow to the British prime minister just hours before a crunch EU summit.

"As things stand, we could not support what is being suggested on customs and consent issues, and there is a lack of clarity on VAT (value added tax)," the DUP, which backs Johnson's Government, said in a brief statement on Twitter.

"We will continue to work with the government to try and get a sensible deal that works for Northern Ireland and protects the economic and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom." The statement was seen as a major setback for Johnson, who would most likely need the support of his DUP allies in parliament for any deal agreed in Brussels.

It came as British and EU negotiators worked late into the night in the hopes of presenting a last-minute Brexit deal to

leaders meeting for a European summit.

Both sides said they were close to finding a basis for a treaty to ensure Britain heads for a managed withdrawal from the European bloc it has been part of for nearly half a century.

EU's Juncker says no need for more delay

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker congratulated Prime Minister Boris Johnson on their Brexit withdrawal deal Thursday and said it meant there should be "no further delay".

"We have a deal, and this deal means there is no need for any kind of prolongation," Juncker told reporters as he welcomed the British leader to EU headquarters ahead of summit talks. British MPs are expected to vote on the deal on Saturday.

But officials had to iron out details on how Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, would remain under the European scheme for sales tax.

The pound fell 0.5 per cent against the dollar and the euro within minutes of the announcement.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	93195645B
Name of work and its location	AFTC End Termination unit (ETU) style T1-21 for different frequencies A/4, B/6, C/6 & D/6, Make-Bambardier or similar
Approx Cost of work	With Approximately cost is Rs. 3523174.82/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 70460/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.
Quantity	22 Nos.
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 11.11.2019, Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93195645/2019	Date:- 16.10.2019 3321/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age** : Approx. 45 years, **Height** : 5'7", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face** : Round, **Identification** : A tattoo of Dil alike on right side of chest, tattoo alike a star on right hand and tattoo SP written on chest, wearing black colour printed shirt and fauji colour pant, was found dead on 10.10.2019 behind Libaspur bus stand, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 57-A dated 10.10.2019 has been lodged at PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.
SHO - P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.
Tel. No. 011-27854799, 27854757

DP/709/ON/19

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Sale Deed registered on 21.10.2005 in favour of Mr. S.P Garg Document No. 7222 for First Floor of Property No. 48, Block -A, Pkt-2, Sector 5, Rohini Delhi has been misplacated from the custody of the owners, Public are warned not to deal with the Document and any person dealing with the said Document would do so at their own risk, responsibility & liability and Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Arora has agreed to create mortgage of the Property in favour of our client, IDFC First Bank Limited, off at Rajendra Place, N.D.-8. Any person(s) coming into possession/ Knowledge of the aforesaid Document having any claim against the Property, are hereby requested to intimate the under signed at the under mentioned address below within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.
Vishal Diwan, Advocate
For Diwan and Company LLP, Advocates and Solicitors
H No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex N.D.-19 M 9818399999

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No. S/Tender/07/2019, dt. 16-10-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways-E-Procurement portal (IREPS)-www.ireps.gov.in For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective bidders are advised to get their registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials: **SN.1. Tender No.:** 30/19/1089/OT/020/19. **Brief Description:** Shock absorber. **Quantity:** 462 Nos. **Closing/Opening Date:** 08-11-2019.

NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Envoy key to Ukraine debate is due up in impeachment inquiry

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US ambassador to the European Union is expected to tell House lawmakers conducting an impeachment inquiry that he was merely repeating President Donald Trump's reassurances when he told another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in the administration's dealings with Ukraine. Gordon Sondland, scheduled to appear Thursday, would be the latest in a series of witnesses to be interviewed behind closed doors by House lawmakers.

Trump blocked his appearance last week, but Democrats promptly subpoenaed Sondland.

His appearance is especially anticipated since text messages and other witness testimony place him at the center of a foreign policy dialogue with Ukraine that forms the basis of the impeachment inquiry and that officials feared circumvented normal channels.

Part of that effort involved pushing the former Soviet republic to commit to political-charged investigations sought by Trump, including into a gas company connected to the son of Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Iran warns to reduce nuclear commitments

IAN S ■ TEHRAN

Iran on Thursday said it would further reduce its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, unless its interests are secured by the signatories.

Iran is determined to take further steps to suspend its nuclear commitments under the pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the policy "will remain unchanged until the desired conditions are met and Iran's economic interests from the JCPOA are ensured," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi was quoted as saying by local media.

Araqchi made the remarks in a meeting on Wednesday with his Swedish counterpart Anika Soder in Tehran, Xinhua reported.

He said despite Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA and reimposition of sanctions, "Iran tried to keep the windows of interaction and diplomacy open, while Europe has only relied on political support and refused to keep the accord alive".

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Vineeta Kumar w/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o B-1 1001, Uniwold City, Sector-30, Gurgaon-122001 Haryana do hereby solemnly affirm that I have got Flat No. 03 from Late Mrs. Kuashalya Singh W/o late Mr. R.P. Singh in the Cooperative Group Housing Society popularly known as Upkar Apartments, through the instrument of a Registered Will. That I confirm that, I shall abide by the Bylaws of the Society applicable to the members. That I also undertake to share liability if any of the original member in respect of the dues towards the society past or present. That I hereby indemnify the society from any claim on account of original share certificate or any other documents of the original member.
Vineeta Kumar

CORRIGENDUM

ICICI Bank Limited
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No.7, Community Centre, S D Towers, Sector 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085.

Notice is hereby given for the addition of terms in tender cum auction for sale of secured asset of Ms SAIGAOIN INFRA TECH PRIVATE LIMITED (Lan No. LQMOD00035280620) as published on page no 13 The Pioneer (Eng) (Delhi/ NCR) Edition on Oct 11, 2019. For E-Auction fixed for secured asset on November 04, 2019.

1. Last date/time for submission of tender- November 03, 2019, Before 05:00PM.
Dated: 18-10-2019
Place : Delhi/NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
On behalf of secured creditor

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, 1. Praveen Kr. Jain S/o Late Sh. M.P. Jain, Smt. Sneha Jain W/o Sh. Praveen Kr. Jain R/o E-4/67, Sec-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085 and 2. Arun Kr. Jain S/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain, Manisha Jain W/o Sh. Arun Kr. Jain, Sagar Chand Jain S/o Late Sh. Bhullani Singh Jain, Smt. Sushila Jain W/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain and Manish Jain S/o Sh. Sagar Chand Jain are the owner of the Built Up Property area 90Sq.Mtr. in Block and Pocket A-22, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085 having three floors. We have lost previous original three chains / papers notary files of all the three floors of the above said property. If any person found the same pls. contact 9250539198 or send the papers by post on the address mentioned herein above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Ravi Sahni S/o Late Satpal Sahni and Mrs Neeta Sahni W/o Ravi Sahni R/o H.No. E-3/140, Sultanpuri New Delhi-110086, My clients have disowned their son Rahul Sahni and Daughter in law Heena W/o Rahul Sahni from all their movable/ immovable properties and severed all their relations both legal & social with them due to disrespectful behavior. Any person dealing with them, they shall be going so at his/her own risk, and my clients shall not be responsible for the same.

ADVOCATE : KULDEEP KUMAR
B-22, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public at large that my client, **Md Shoab S/o Md Mohsin, R/o S-9, Nafees Road, Palhalwan Chowk, Jogabai Ext, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-25** along with his wife and all their relatives have refrained all of their relationships with their own son Aamir Khan and disowned (AAQ) him and his wife Subi Naaz and debarred them from all of their movable and immovable properties. He or any of his family member is not liable for any of their mis-deeds.

(On behalf of Md. Shoab)
Nehal Siddiqui (Adv)
Delhi High Court
Office: I-97, Batla House, Jamia Nagar Okhla, New Delhi -110025

ICICI Bank Limited

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(G)	(H)
1.	Bhoopendra Singh (Borrower), Renu Singh (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00002141352	Apartment No.1609,16th Floor, Block Maple, Paramount Symphony Group Housing Polt No. 06, Crossing Republic Dundaheera, Ghaziabad, UP. Area-1465 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 55,77,655/- as on Oct 10, 2019	Rs. 40,00,000/- From 03:00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M.	Nov 12, 2019, From 11:00 A.M. to Onwards	Nov 26, 2019, From 11:00 A.M. to Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link "<https://eauctions.samil.in>"), of our auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd.** The Mortgageors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **Nov 25, 2019, before 5:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to **ICICI Bank Limited, 2 nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055** or to our marketing agent **Shriram Automall India Ltd at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034** on or before **Nov 25, 2019** before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/ PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindlycontact ICICI Bank Limited on **8657549734/ 9650193259** or **Shriram Automall India Ltd on 9910453434**. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/ e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4pds

Date: October 18, 2019
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Trend Blazer

Kartik has no time for love

Actor **KARTIK AARYAN**, who will be seen in *Pati, Patni Aur Woh*, says he has no time for love and his sole focus is on his Bollywood career.

Kartik's assertion came in the wake of constant media reports linking him to various co-stars, from Sara Ali Khan to Ananya Panday. Asked if plans to settle down soon, the *Luka Chuppi* star preferred turning mamma's boy.

"I have to ask this to my mother. Now, I am focusing on my career," he said.

His next film *Pati, Patni Aur Woh* is incidentally a comedy based on marital tension.



'Acting has never been the end of my life because I have always had different interest

areas. Acting has enabled me to do different things, whether it is my political career, social activism, entrepreneurship and enthusiasm as a fitness advocate. It has given me all that because I started living a public life as an actor.' —**Gul Panag**



While inaugurating the Shoppers Stop store and unveiling the brand *Disha Patani by Glam*, actor **DISHA PATANI** said, "I am very excited to partner with the brand and Glam to launch a collection that will be fabulous, fun and flirty which is a true representative of who I am."



She added that it is the go to destination for fashion and beauty and can't wait for her fans from all over the country to wear the collection.

Kidman and Alexander re-unite

Director Robert Eggers' next film *The Northman* will star **NICOLE KIDMAN** and **ALEXANDER SKARSGARD**.

The film is described as a viking revenge saga set in Iceland at the turn of the 10th century. In talks to join Kidman and Skarsgard are Anya Taylor-Joy, Bill Skarsgard and Oscar nominee Willem Dafoe.

Eggers will direct the film from a script he co-wrote with Icelandic poet and novelist Sjon. Skarsgard and Kidman have previously worked together in the popular show *Big Little Lies*. Skarsgard will next be seen in his forthcoming film *Kong vs Godzilla*. He recently booked the plum part of Randall Flagg in CBS All Access' adaptation of Stephen King's *The Stand*.



Manufacturers are doing their bit to promote sustainability and upgrading their equipment to help people gear up for rising pollution levels, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

THE SKY IS GREY

Of late, how often have you seen people wearing masks in metros, local markets and malls? Yes, the trend is corroborated by recent surveys which suggest that as awareness about air pollution is spiking, more people are queuing to buy protective gear. And considering that Diwali is round the corner along with the annual menace of stubble burning, is it even surprising? For it's that time of the year when people retreat to their homes because of the smog that wraps the city like a blanket. Move over gold and electronics, anti-pollution products are emerging as the latest trend in the Diwali must-haves. So private players have stepped in and have on offer equipment that can fight the poisonous air.

Delhi-based environmental activist and entrepreneur Jai Dhar Gupta runs Nirvana Being, an anti-pollution tools company. It manufactures specialised air pollution masks and provides indoor air quality solutions too. Talking about '*Kalyug Ki Khidki*', a new concept being launched this month, he says, "We stay

in our bedrooms for eight to 10 hours with air conditioners on. This blocks the circulation of fresh air. As the AC takes in the air from a room, cools it and releases it back there is an excess of carbon dioxide. If we inhale it for prolonged periods, it is poisonous. So what is the option that we are left with? This equipment provides a solution to this problem by bringing in filtered outdoor air into your room to maintain the oxygen level. It needs to be installed on a window or wall, which then constantly refreshes incoming air through a hepa-filter."

Other private companies are coming up with innovative equipment. Rohit Bansal, founder of AQI India & Purelogic Labs India Private Limited, says that now more efforts are being made by citizens to set up air quality monitors. "So we have come up with a Prana air motion mask, which not only protects a user from more than 99 per cent of the pollutants but also monitors the air. With that, they will know when to protect themselves. This year we have also launched a junior mask for



children and teenagers, specially designed keeping their sensitivity in mind," he adds.

As per the recent statistics, released on October 16, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has crossed 300. Vikas Bagaria, founder of Pee Safe, says, "Poor air quality has been a consistent public health concern in Delhi for the past few years. To fight this issue, we have launched modern-style anti-pollution dust masks, which ensure that air pollution does not disrupt people's lifestyles. These are capable of filtering out 95 per cent of the toxins present in the air and have the perfect facial fit with earlobes and valves that facilitate easy breathing, alongside reducing build-up of heat or humidity. They filter out dust, microbes, and also help to combat serious respiratory problems like asthma."

Amway has gone a step further through its recently-launched atmosphere mini air purifier. Says CEO Anshu Budhbra, "Air Pollution is a serious issue in India where majority of people are breathing air which is 10 times or more over the WHO-safe limit. Therefore, there is a growing need for air purification solution to breathe better and stay healthy. Ours is a next-generation air purifier equipped with better membranes than the HEPA grade filter that removes particles as small as 0.0024 microns with a single pass efficiency of 99.99 per cent

'POOR AIR QUALITY HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN IN THE CAPITAL FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. TO FIGHT THIS ISSUE, THE PRIVATE PLAYERS HAVE LAUNCHED MODERN-STYLE ANTI-POLLUTION DUST MASKS'

and comes with allergy UK seal of approval."

Among other things, organisations are also making efforts to first research and understand the problem at the grassroot level. AirOk Technologies Private limited CEO Deekshith Vara Prasad says that they first analysed the data before moving on with launching the equipment. She adds, "The dirty air with particulate matter, which is pretty large, can be trapped with HEPA filters. However, pollutants stick on their surface, creating a perfect environment for microbial growth to feed and multiply. Studies show that in the indoor environment, HEPA filters can become a breeding surface for pathogens, in as little as six days. So the air becomes unhealthy when it is contaminated with viruses and bacteria. To fight this, there is the EGAPA (Effective Granular Particulate Arrestor) solution that controls all these parameters along with PM 2.5 (particulate matter), which can be integrated into any building to create a clean air zone throughout the year."

Though the equipment claim a marginal improvement in the air quality, a lot of effort has to be put in to combat pollution. Gupta says, "The real problem lies at the roots. So we need to cut the pollution level at the source. There should also be a regulation on the emissions from vehicles."

'Strive for better'

Actor **DARSHEEL SAFARY** talks about his forthcoming play, *Kaise Kareenge?*, which depicts a conflict between ambition and family duty. By **CHAHAK MITTAL**



When life throws lemons at you, make lemonade,' is a philosophy that 21 year old Saurav Parasrampria (played by Darsheel Safary) follows, whose only dream is to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). As he nears his dream, he faces a crisis — his brother, 27-year-old Kapil Parasrampria (played by Abhishek Pattnaik) develops a Multiple Personality Disorder. He chooses to stay. What follows is mayhem. Thus begins Saurav's journey to help his brother make this disorder a boon for him.

After doing *Can I Help You?* and *Two Adorable Losers*, Darsheel's next play, *Kaise Kareenge?* depicts a conflict between ambition and family duty. Excerpts:

How did you land this role?

I was watching TV at home when Abhishek contacted me and wanted to meet me. Though I was feeling lazy but since the place was nearby, I went. I had no idea that I was going for a meeting that would be about working in theatre. And then when I met them, they narrated me the script. It sounded funny. But I thought that I should be a part of it because it will be a new experience. I thought for a while and agreed on the spot.

How has the experience of performing live for theatre been?

Honestly, it has been a transitional experience, because it's the first time I was learning about theatre and its technicalities. I adapted to the situations and as soon as I got the hang of it, I started discovering its multiple facets. For instance, in theatre, when the audience is in front of you, their reactions are visible. I enjoyed that feeling. Incidentally, we were doing comedy, so watching people laugh, enjoy and connect with us felt so good. My co-actor Abhishek keeps describing this. He says, 'It's like a high that you get when you perform for an audience and entertain them thoroughly.' I think that's one of the many learnings I have had. It has made me a better actor, a more confident person and has showed me a very different way of approaching a role. People ask me, 'For how long will you do theatre?' 'When are you getting back to films?' Now, even if I get back to films or whatever I do in the future, I will continue doing theatre because it makes you a consistent learner.

What was the research work involved to get into the skin of your character? How did you understand the problems and

nuances of a person with multiple identity disorder?

I was told that in the play, I will be playing a role that I have never played before, that is, the role of a genius. It was not easy because I was struggling to add my own flavour. But that's how you become more comfortable with your character. Our director Suketu was very open to us changing, improvising and adding our own flavour to roles. Even Abhishek was very supportive of this. So it's like a mix and that way you get the best of all the worlds. And probably that's how we locked up Saurav's character.

Since you have been a part of both theatre and cinema, how do you think that cinema is different from theatre? What do you find more challenging?

I think theatre is definitely more challenging. You have to really live the character and make it believable. So if you are not really crying on the stage, you are not feeling it. Even the audience won't feel it. *Film mein kar sakte ho* as there are all sorts of tricks and techniques there to make it look natural or believable. You have a lot of support when you are doing films. But in theatre, the support vanishes. That is why people say that the-



atre is the best art form. Not denying the fact that films are challenging too. But in a different way. So for me, here you have to make things believable and if you get those aspects in films as well, it automatically elevates your performance. It helps both ways.

How have you evolved since the time of *Taare Zameen Par* to now?

I started in 2006 when I followed everything I was told to do. Sometimes they would ask me to enjoy myself and they would ask me what would you do in this situation, and what would come out organically was what I would do. Throughout the years, I worked with different people and I grasped as much as I could. But there were certain limitations, which got changed in every step that I took. For instance, when I did TV for the first time (reality TV show *Jhalak Dikha Jaa*) — I learnt something new and very different. Post that, I joined theatre, which changed my perception towards acting even more. I

usually marked my performances on a scale of up to 10 — 8/10, 9/10, etc., — but theatre dissolved that scale for me. Now the scale doesn't exist because it's like a never-ending ladder for me. That's what the main concept of theatre is — you learn everything from every play that you do. That way when my thought process changed. Also, I learnt the fact that every day is a learning opportunity. You cannot stop learning, especially when doing theatre. I never think of the medium or the fact that whether I have to act in films or TV or do theatre. I just keep the story as my priority. Earlier, for me, anyone would decide how big my character is or how long the role is. Now, I just decide that the story is good and I can be a part of it. And it automatically becomes something nice. Now, I just want to act more. One of my other perceptions that has changed is that the line between theatre, films and TV has just blurred for me. I only want to act and enjoy myself. It increases my love for acting as well.

Twelve years down and people still remember you as 'Ishaan Awasthi'. Do you think that the role had been the most iconic one in your acting career?

If people still remember me as Ishaan Awasthi, it just shows the impact and the value of that performance. I am very thankful. It's something that happens once in a lifetime. I don't really remember real acting. It was, in a way, me only. I remember that there was no stress or tension. I was just nine years old and busy enjoying myself. It's a memorable one for sure. People can remember me as Ishaan for as long as they can. I love it. It motivates me to do more works like Ishaan, performing in that way and strive for better. This is what such roles motivate us to do.

There's a huge similarity between your roles in *TZP* and *Kaise Kareenge?* In both, you deal with a certain psychological disorder. What is your take on mental health and the changing scenario of people accepting such people?

I personally feel that acting is also very psychological. You are re-channelling your emotions and a certain thought process. In a way, actors have the edge over other people. They have better control on their emotions. And people doing method acting, they have the ability to step into a different character altogether, although it's by choice. I feel that because of this, I have learnt the fact that communication is very important while facing any kind of mental or psychological problem. The more you communicate it out, the more it will help.

Two Adorable Losers is also about communication. Akshay, the character that I play suffers from inferiority complex. Even the teacher, who teaches him suffers from a certain type of inferiority complex, and both of them communicate it to each other in the most hilarious of ways and very genuinely too. And gradually, the audience watches them becoming more confident as they have understood how to react to society.

Same goes with *Kaise Kareenge?* Once you are aware about what's happening, because you can never know how people may react, you should take them on the side and have a genuine, heartfelt conversation about the problems they are suffering with. Sharing is key. If you have a problem, you can always share it with your best friend, parents especially, or with your sibling, because I don't think there is anything better than a clear understanding. Once you have communicated the problem, the best will come your way. I believe in the oldest saying, 'God helps those, who help themselves.' When you are facing any issue, just believe in this saying and get yourself out of it. No one but only you can get yourself out of this. Keeping yourself in a better mindset is always important. These are the few elements that I have understood because all of us go through a certain emotional or psychological problem at some point in our lives.

People have seen very less of your films post 2012, do you plan to do more films and roles in future again? Any other forthcoming projects?

Of course, I am open to doing films as long as the story is great, there talks in the pipe line, so you'll be seeing me soon. Also like I said, I'll be doing films and theatre side-by-side. But nothing as of now.

(Out of the Box Productions eighth, the play will be staged on October 20 at 6.30 pm at Kamani Auditorium.)

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

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

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

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



CLOUD OF HOT AIR

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

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

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



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

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

tastiest dish of the evening.

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

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

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

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

Fussy little burger

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

It all started with a fictional Turkey burger.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

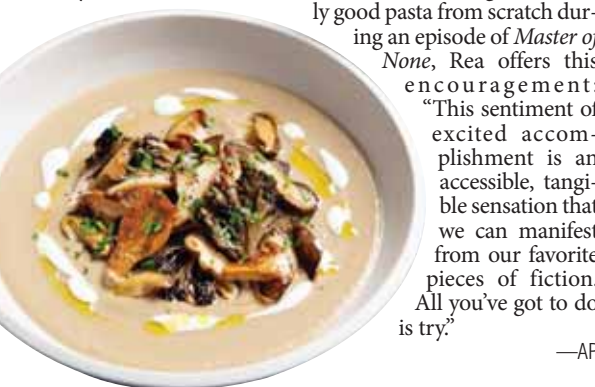
The focus is on the food. And the more tangential a recipe's connection to pop culture — like the beef Wellington only casually mentioned in a flirtatious riff delivered by John Slattery's Roger Sterling on an early episode of *Mad Men* — the more determined Rea seems to be to offer the best and most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

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

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

The verdict on that one, according to Rea: "Dothraki Blood Pie is pretty gross."

But the "prison gravy" from *Goodfellas* will elevate your next spaghetti dinner. And Rea swears by his



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

In this much longer followup to his 2017 cookbook *Eat What You Watch: A Cookbook for Movie Lovers*, Rea has included nods to just about every genre of film and TV. You'll find Lake Trout and Pit Beef from *The Wire*, followed on the next page by Principal Skinner's favorite coconut-based seafood stew from *The Simpsons*.

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

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

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

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

—AP



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



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

WHOLE SOME WALNUT BREAD

WHAT YOU NEED

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

METHOD

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



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

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

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

Courtesy: Cicchetti by Mr Beans.

gorgeous



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



Live up to the vibrancy of the festive season as The Westin Gurgaon presents an array of thoughtfully crafted bespoke Diwali hampers. There is a range of these specially curated treats like truffle chocolates, enticing Indian sweets, macarons and cookies, chocolate bars, baklava, nuts and more. There is also the Tea Hamper, which is an aficionado's treat, curated with some of the finest teas. **Price:** ₹950 onwards



Honey & Dough presents its special Diwali hampers with an array of items like oatmeal raisin cookies, chocolate chip cookies, cheese straws and French hearts, H&D Gourmet Gift Box that has garlic soya sticks, chocolate chunk brownies, chocolate almonds, cheese straws, blueberry tea cakes and more. **Price:** ₹580 to ₹2,300



RECIPES



BRATHENDL (ROASTED CHICKEN)

WHAT YOU NEED

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

METHOD

- Clean and wash chicken, and then allow it to dry. You can also use kitchen towel for this.

- Mix salt, pepper, paprika powder, garlic paste, olive

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

- Pre-heat oven to 220-425 degree, brush chicken with melted butter and place it on the grid with the breast side down. Let it cook until it turns brown. Try to keep the chicken wet until its roasted fully.

- Pass the juice through a sieve and adjust the seasoning by adding salt, pepper and mustard sauce. Chop parsley, add heavy cream to it and serve hot with chicken, parsley potato and red cabbage slaw.

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

Pogba, De Gea out of Liverpool clash

Manchester United manager confirms the duo will miss Sunday’s game at Old Trafford

AGENCIES ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United will prepare for Sunday’s Premier League clash against leaders Liverpool without the injured Paul Pogba and David De Gea, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Wednesday.

Goalkeeper De Gea was forced to leave the field during Spain’s Euro 2020 qualifier against Sweden on Tuesday.

“David needs a scan,” Solskjaer told *Sky Sports*. “I think he’ll be out. It certainly looked like it anyway judging on last night so it’s just one of those things.”

France midfielder Pogba has missed five of United’s last seven matches with an ankle injury, and after spending part of the international break recuperating in Dubai, Solskjaer said the 26-year-old is still not ready for first-team action.

“Paul had an injury, he came back, he worked really hard. He came back and played a couple of games, maybe played through the pain barrier,” Solskjaer added.

“He had a scan after the Arsenal game and maybe needed a few weeks’ rest in a boot so hopefully he won’t be too long, but he won’t make this game, no.”

United have recorded two wins in their opening eight league matches this season and sit two points above the relegation zone in 12th place.

Anthony Martial, Luke Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka are likely to return from the treatment room but Solskjaer is yet to make a decision on their availability.

“Hopefully, Aaron and Anthony will last the training this week and be available for selection,” the Norwegian coach added.

“If it’s for half a game or 30 minutes I don’t know but let’s see where they’re at.”

Liverpool have made a perfect start to the season with 24 points from eight matches and will look to equal Manchester City’s record of 18 consecutive top-flight victories when they visit Old Trafford.



Manchester United's Paul Pogba battles for ball possession with Liverpool's Joel Matip during Premier League 2018-19 season match AP/File Picture

REINFORCE SQUAD

Manchester United will try to sign one or two players in the January transfer window to improve their chances of finishing in the top four but will not spend big on transfer fees and wages, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

United are 12th in the Premier League ahead of Sunday’s home game against league leaders Liverpool after a poor start to the season that has been further disrupted by injuries to key players.

Solskjaer sanctioned the departures of forwards Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez in the close sea-

son without reinforcing United’s attack.

“We’re looking at one or two new signings. We’re one or two players light,” Solskjaer told *Sky Sports*. “If the right ones are available in January then we might do something. If not, these players will give everything (for a top four finish).”

“I’m not going to go down the route of bringing players in on big contracts and big fees if they’re not the right ones for the whole group and for the future. The money is there to strengthen in January and in the summer.”

United started the season with a

4-0 win over Chelsea but have scored five goals in seven league matches since and Solskjaer said an injury to forward Anthony Martial, who has not played since August, was a factor in their struggles.

“There’s many reasons, but one of them is injuries to Anthony,” the 46-year-old former United player said. “Creating chances has been a challenge for us with teams dropping deep.”

“But we’re practising patterns every single week. When we play the players fit, I’m going to make Marcus and Anthony score those scruffy goals, as that’s what I did.”



Pochettino rules out big changes in Jan

LONDON: Mauricio Pochettino does not want to make major changes at Tottenham in the January transfer window despite a poor start to his sixth season in charge. Spurs have won just three of their opening 11 games in all competitions, crashing out of the League Cup and suffering a humiliating 7-2 defeat at home in the Champions League. That has led to suspicions that the current Tottenham squad has grown stale, with little movement in the transfer market in recent years. However, Pochettino retains faith in the players that have helped the club make huge strides over the past five years, reaching the Champions League final in June.

“I don’t believe (there will be any signings),” said Pochettino on Thursday. “I believe in the players that we have. “If it is my decision I am going to stick with my players because I know they have the quality. “It is only to unlock some situation that is going on in their minds. I know we have the quality to be fighting for the things we expect to fight for.”



AFP



Reid happy with India’s consistency

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Coach Graham Reid is impressed with Indian hockey team’s all-round growth and wants his players to play at the highest level while tackling Russia in the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

The Indian team won the FIH Men’s Series Finals Bhubaneswar in June and followed that with victory in the Tokyo Olympics test event in August.

The team remained unbeaten on its recent Belgium tour, where it won all five matches against the world champions hosts and world number eight Spain.

Reid said he had a lot “good takeaways” from the Belgium tour.

“Our GPS numbers were great, which means that the running, effort, speed and intensity was actually even higher than last year’s World Cup. So they were very good numbers for us to see, and for the players to understand that to play at that level, you need to be achieving those consistently,” said Reid.

“Another part was the consistency of our performances against Belgium and Spain, and it was good to see that we kept building momentum as the tour progressed.”

Reid, who took over as the chief coach in April 2019, said while taking on Russia in the the FIFA Qualifiers on November 1 and 2, his wards will be focused on doing the

INDIA PRESENTS BID TO HOST MEN’S WC IN 2023

LAUSANNE: India is among the three nations who have presented their bids to host the next edition of the men’s World cup, the International Hockey Federation said on Thursday.

India, who have hosted the men’s World Cup thrice, wants to conduct the event in the January 13 to 29, 2023 window.

Belgium and Malaysia are the other two nations who have also sent their bidding dossier to conduct the men’s event but they prefer to host the event in the July 1 to 17, 2022 window. For the Women’s World Cup, five countries have presented their bids, the FIH said in a release.

PTI

right things.

“There is always the concern about playing a team like Russia and it is, that they hold the ball very well, they like to be in possession. Trying to get the ball off them is always difficult, so that is something we need to keep an eye on, and make sure that our tackling, interception, and pressing skills are at the highest level.

“We want to make sure that we are playing at our best, and there will be no complacency. It does not matter who we play, we will approach the game in the same manner, that is, in a professional and respectful way.”

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यांत्रिक खाण्ड, उ०१० जल निगम, मेरठ
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
एन.आई.टी. संख्या 1212/निविदा/252
दिनांक 15.10.2019
उ०१० जल निगम की ओर से मेरठ नगर निगम के अन्तर्गत **SITC OF 2 Nos. CHANGE-OVER PANEL WITH COMPLETE CABLING AT CIRCUIT HOUSE AND TWIN-HALL ZPS** कार्य के लिए **"Electrical & Mechanical works including Supply and Installation of Pumping Plant Or Specialty in Instrumentation & PLC/SCADA "** में A/B श्रेणी के पंजीकृत टेकदारों से प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।
प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 04.11.2019 को अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यांत्रिक खाण्ड, उ०१० जल निगम, मेरठ के कार्यालय में निविदा समिति द्वारा उपस्थित टेकदारों के समक्ष पूर्वाह्न 03.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को उ०१० की **E-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>** पर दिनांक 24.10.2019 से 02.11.2019 तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य रू० 2000.00 (+18%) GST है। निविदा सूचना से सम्बन्धित विवरण जल निगम की वेबसाइट **jn.up.sdc.gov.in** पर एवं कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण **E-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>** पर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Nikhath writes to Rijiju, demands trial bout against Mary

NEW DELHI: Former junior world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen has written to Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, demanding a trial bout against the celebrated M C Mary Kom before India’s squad for next year’s Olympic Qualifiers is decided.

Mary Kom (51kg) claimed her eighth world medal at the recently-concluded championships in Russia. She was selected for the event ahead of Zareen, who was refused a trial by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), which decided to go by Mary Kom’s consistent performances while making the choice.

The BFI now also plans to send Mary Kom for the Olympic qualifiers on the back of her Bronze-winning show at the world championships, moving away from the previous decision

to give direct selection only to the Gold and Silver winners.

The qualifiers will be held in China in February next year.

“Sir, the very basis of sport is fairplay and need to keep proving oneself each and every time. Even Olympic Gold medallists have to fight again to qualify to represent the country,” she wrote in the letter.

“I have been inspired by Mary Kom since I was a teenager. The best way I can do justice to this inspiration was to strive to be as great a boxer as her. And Mary Kom is too big a legend in sport to need to hide from competition and not actually defend her Olympic qualification,” she said.

“After all, if 23-time Gold-medallist Michael Phelps has to re-qualify every time for the Olympics, the rest of us should

do the same.”

Mary Kom has maintained that she would follow the BFI guidelines on selection trials and will compete if asked by the federation.

The Sports Ministry is not entitled to intervene in selection matters of any national federation unless requested by the parent international body as any such unilateral move is considered a violation of the Olympic Charter.

Zareen said even if she were to lose the trial bout, should she get one, she would feel content about at least getting a chance.

“I look for no favours, just fairplay. And whether Mary Kom or any other boxer qualifies after the trial, we can at least sleep at night knowing that every one of the candidate for the best possible opportunity to make India proud at Olympics,” she said.

PTI



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WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited ,under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical possession of the properties mortgaged with the Bank described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.


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[A]	[B]	[D]	[C]	[E]	[F]
1.	(Loan Account No. XOHEHDE00001322529 & XOHEHDE00001322517 of Our Delhi Branch) BHARAT BHUSHAN (BORROWER) RITA SHARMA, MRS SUCHETA, SEEMA SHARMA (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at :- C-411 GALI NO-17 BHAJANPURA GARHI, MENDU NORTH EAST, NEW DELHI-110053	10-10-2017	Rs.98,71,946.46/- (Rupees Ninety Eight Lakh Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six and Fourty Six Paise Only)	PROPERTY ADMEASURING 189 SQ. YDS, BEARING PROPERTY NO-C-411, OUT OF KHASRA NO-361,SITUATED AT VILLAGE GHONDA GUJRAN KHADAR, IN THE ABADI OF C-BLOCK, GALI NO-17, BHAJAN PURA, SHAHDARA, NEW DELHI-110053.	14-10-2019

Place : Delhi-NCR Date : 18/10/2019
Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited


REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS
E-Procurement Notice
(Two-Envelope with e-Procurement Bidding Process)
Employer : Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Etah
Service title : Hiring services of an agency for providing Human Resource to Strengthen Divisional PIM Cell.
RFQ No : 05/EE/2019-20
Date : 11-10-2019
1. The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project-II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards eligible payments under the contract for which this request for quotations is issued. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Etah invites quotations electronically from eligible bidders for the following Service.

S. N.	Brief Description of the service	Qualification Technical qualification	Unit & Quantity	Assignment period	Earnest money (in Lac.)	Place of assignment	Tender Cost (in Rs) with GST
1.	PIM Executive	As per ToR	05 nos.	12 months	1.60	Under jurisdiction of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Etah	350.00

2. This e-Procurement notice includes the terms and conditions applicable to submission of quotations; criteria for qualification, evaluation, and for award of order(s); and relevant forms to be filled by the bidders. Implementing Agency has not issued a separate RFQ document for this purchase. The e-Procurement notice including the terms and conditions etc. can be downloaded free of cost by logging on to the website <https://etender.up.nic.in>.
3. For submission of Quotation, the Bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorized by Government of India for issuing DSC. Bidders can see the list of licensed CAs from the link (www.cca.gov.in).Bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the website: <https://etender.up.nic.in>.
4. Quotations, both Technical Part and Financial Part shall be Download/upload on <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 21.10.2019 after 10:00 hours to 25-10-2019 before 17:00 hours. Any quotation or modifications to quotation received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. The electronic bidding system would not allow late submission of quotations. The 'Technical Part' of the Quotations will be opened online on 26-10-2019 at 10:00 hours, this can also be viewed by the bidders online. The electronic summary of quotation opening of technical part will be generated and uploaded online.
5. If the Employer's office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the Quotations as specified, the 'Technical Part' of the Quotations will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The Financial Parts of the Quotations shall remain unopened in the e-procurement system, until the subsequent online opening, following the evaluation of the Technical Parts of the Quotations.
6. This is being invited in anticipation of the tender/quotation budget.
7. Other details can be seen in the RFQ document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. A Bidder requiring any clarification of the RFQ Document may notify the Employer online or may visit the office of the Employer at the address given below.
Office Address:- Office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Etah.
U.P.: 144712, Date : 15.10.2019
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division, Etah



MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2019




In addition to already announced Festival Special Trains, Railways have decided to run additional Festival Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-

Spl Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Frequency/ Day	Dates of Run	Accommo- dation	Stoppages
04016	New Delhi	15:30	Varanasi	07:00	Friday	25.10.2019	Sleeper	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Sultanpur
04015	Varanasi	09:50	New Delhi	00:50	Saturday	26.10.2019		
04018	New Delhi	22:45	Lucknow	09:40	Friday	25.10.2019	AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Chandausi & Bareilly Cantt.
04017	Lucknow	17:15	New Delhi	05:20	Saturday	26.10.2019		
04626	Amritsar	13:10	Saharsa	Open Time	Friday	18.10.2019	General	Jalandhar City, Ludhiana, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Panyahwa, Bagaha, Narkatigani, Bettiah, Sagauli, Raxaul, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Rusera Ghat, Hasanpur Road, Khagaria, Mansi & S Bhakhtiyarpur
82416	Anand Vihar (T)	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Thursday	31.10.2019	AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Sitapur Cant Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn. Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Purnea, Arariya Court, Arariya & Forbesganj
04093	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar (T)	16:05	Saturday	02.11.2019		
04048	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Gaya	22:30	Tuesday	22.10.2019	AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Dd. Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram & Dehri On Son
04047	Gaya	17:15	Anand Vihar (T)	13:00	Thursday	24.10.2019		
04042	Anand Vihar (T)	00:10	Jaynagar	23:45	Tuesday	22 & 29.10.2019	AC-3 Tier	Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Allahabad, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani
04041	Jaynagar	01:35	Anand Vihar (T)	00:45	Wednesday	23 & 30.10.2019		
04920	Ferozpur	16:45	Darbhangha	10:30	Friday	18.10.19 to 01.11.19	General	Faridkot, Kot Kapura, Bhatinda, Mansa, Jakhal, Jind, Rohtak, Shakurbasti, Delhi Jn., Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Dd. Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur & Samastipur
04919	Darbhangha	15:30	Ferozpur	04:55	Sunday	20.10.19 to 03.11.19		
04090	Anand Vihar (T)	12:45	Bhagalpur	10:10	Mon, Tue, Fri	22, 25, 28.10 & 01.11.19	AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Kanpur, Allahabad, Dd. Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur, Mokama, Kiul Jn., Jamalpur & Sultanganj
04089	Bhagalpur	11:30	Anand Vihar (T)	13:15	Tue, Wed, Sat	23, 26, 29.10 & 02.11.19		
04034	Anand Vihar (T)	00:10	Jaynagar	23:45	Wednesday	30.10.2019	AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Allahabad, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani
04033	Jaynagar	01:35	Anand Vihar (T)	00:45	Thursday	31.10.2019		

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Eye opener

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

PTI ■ RANCHI

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

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

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

“It’s always a good learning curve coming to India.”

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

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

“We can still get 40 points by fol-



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

AP

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

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

“It’s no secret that it’s been a bit

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

which is an immensely proud moment for every player.

“We still motivate everyone within our squad. It has been a challenging few weeks but it’s still not too gloomy for us. We are upbeat, the

morale in the camp is still very good.

“We still have one game and we can actually change quite a lot. We are still pretty hopeful and pretty positive going into the last Test,” he asserted.

Self destruction

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

his injury.”

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

He left for South Africa on

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

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



Indian pace attack reminds Lara of old Windies

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Asked what makes Indian team special, Lara said: “It’s the Indian pace attack. Unbelievable. I saw them in the West Indies. When you look at the quality — (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Shami, (Umesh) Yadav — all these guys, and the guys on the sidelines, like Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) are unbelievable.”

“It reminds me a little bit of the (pace bowling) strength that the West Indies had in the 80s and 90s. The reserve strength is very important in assessing a team’s ability. It means that your attack has quality,” Lara added.

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

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

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

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

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

“To exclude a player like that (from the Test team) will be very difficult, with the talent that I see. So, hopefully, he will be successful. He is a gifted batsman,” said Lara.

Lara, who holds the record for highest individual run scorer in Tests, also welcomed the ICC move of Test Championship, saying it has provided contest to the game.

“I think (World Test Championship should have started earlier). In terms of Test Championship, where there is an end, it culminates into a team becoming Championship, that is something that should have happened a long time ago and happy to see it now. Even if you play against the minnows—Afghanistan, Bangladesh — it means something.

Al-Amin back in B’desh T20 team

PTI ■ DHAKA

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

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

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

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



Al-Amin Hossain in a file picture

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

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

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

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

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

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

Score heavy in 1st innings: Faf tells SA batsmen

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

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

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

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

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

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

India sans Kohli sweat it out at optional practice

PTI ■ RANCHI

Skipper Virat Kohli and opener Rohit Sharma skipped the optional practice session but spinner Kuldeep Yadav looked to hone his batting skills ahead of India’s third and final Test against South Africa here on Thursday.

Kuldeep, who sat out of the first two Tests, made full use of the net session displaying some elegant cover drives in their afternoon practice which was also attended by Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal and Ishant Sharma among others.

Earlier chief coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharat Arun had a close look at the pitch which wore a dry look, indicating that it would have something for the spinners.

Spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have been the key bowlers for India, bagging 14 and 10 wickets each and Kuldeep’s inclusion will only be at the cost of a pacer.

The pacers too have made crucial contributions with Mohammed Shami claiming eight wickets at a strike rate of 41 and Umesh snapping six wickets at an even better strike rate of 21 and it remains to be seen if Kohli tinkers with his winning combination.

The Proteas trained in the morning session with focus on their batsmen.

South Africa’s training was attended by skipper Du Plessis, Temba Bavuma, Theunis de Bruyn, Qunitor de Kock, Senuran Muthuswamy as they faced the net bowlers.

Vernon Philander was seen among the bowlers but the new-ball bowler was mostly seen honing his batting skills.



Marsh set to miss Pak Test

AFP ■ SYDNEY

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

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

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

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

“It’s my middle finger, just below the wrist — a fracture straight through



the bone,” Marsh, who was sporting a cast on his arm, told reporters.

Marsh had only been recalled to the Test side for the final game of the Ashes against England last month after a long period out of favour and there are no guarantees he will win a spot back.

“It’s a good lesson for me. Hopefully it’s a good lesson for other people as well,” added Marsh, whose blunder could open the door for Marcus Stoinis in Brisbane.

“At the end of the day, it’s a game of cricket. Sometimes you get beaten, sometimes you get out, and you can’t be punching walls.”

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Reputed coach can help Indian sprinters: Carmelita

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



in the 100 meters.

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

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

India’s campaign ends in Denmark

PTI ■ ODENSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wawrinka reach Antwerp quarters



Stan Wawrinka celebrates after win

AGENCIES ■ ANTWERP

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

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

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

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

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

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