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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 Dangre allowed the Adani Enterprises Ltd's (AEL) writ petition which questioned the procedural legality involved in issuing the LR. The petitioner pointed out that LR 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 over-valuation 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 a BGB soldier 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.

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

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UP on high alert over Ayodhya issue

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. All vehicles going towards Ramkot area without passes have been diverted, barriers have been repaired or replaced with new ones, the entire area has been divided into three zones, the makeshift structure where the idol of Ram Lalla has been placed has been isolated and is being covered by central security forces," the officer confirmed.

He went on to claim that outside the 70 acres of acquired disputed land, three-tier barricading has been erected and the Panchkosi area has been declared Yellow Zone, where district police personnel have been deployed.

A total of 10 ASPs, 25 DySPs, 25 inspectors, 125 sub-inspectors, 700 constables, 45 women sub-inspectors, 100 women constables and six additional companies of PAC, two companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF), and one company of PAC flood battalion have been requisitioned.

At present, 10 companies of Central Para-Military Force are stationed at Ayodhya besides police forces from neighbouring district.

Last Tuesday, Chief Secretary RK Tewari had led a high-level team comprising Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi and DGP OP Singh to Ayodhya to review security and law and order. Senior officers were asked to remain alert and avert any untoward incident during Deepotsav or after the apex court judgement on Ayodhya issue next month.

The DGP had directed officers to ensure that security arrangement were put in place and no compromise be made on law and order front.

Action sought against Dhavan for tearing 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.

Dhavan had created a flutter in the packed courtroom on Wednesday when he tore the pictorial map provided by senior lawyer Vikas Singh, representing AIHM.

"Rajeev Dhavan, senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India has committed highly unethical act by tearing into pieces a copy of the map submitted before the Supreme Court... This act of Dhavan scandals and brings disrepute to the Supreme Court Bar.

PTI

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-Junker 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.

Junker 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."

Detailed report on P11

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

PTI

No relief from 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 melon (karela) is being sold at ₹50 a kg while Bottle gourd (lauke) at ₹30 a kg. Capsicum (Shimla mirch) is being sold at ₹70-80 a kg, cluster beans (gwar 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.

CAPSULE

BENGAL GUV ACCORDED 'Z' CLASS SECURITY COVER

New Delhi: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar has been accorded a 'Z' category VIP security cover by the Union Government in the wake of "potential threats" to him, officials said on Thursday.

COURT ALLOWS ED TO QUIZ PC TILL OCT 24

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday sent former Finance Minister P Chidambaram to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till October 24 in the INX Media money laundering case. Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar allowed the ED to quiz Chidambaram and also granted the former Finance Minister permission to have home cooked food, western toilet, medicines in the ED custody.

PAK SCRAMBLES F-16S TO 'HIT' DELHI FLIGHT

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.



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

AP

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

PNS ■ VARANASI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that there was need to rewrite the glorious history of India on the basis of truth. Crediting Savarkar for calling the 1857 rebellion as India’s First War of Independence, 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 unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party 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.

“We have to come forward and the historians have a big role in this. If we were not able to revisit our history till now, it is our weakness,” Shah said, inaugurating a two-day international seminar on ‘G u p t v a n s h a k - V e e r : Skandagupta Vikramaditya’ at Banaras Hindu University on here Thursday.

He appealed to historians to stop cursing and abusing British historians and leftists for writing a wrong history of India. “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, referring to eminent historians in the audience and on the dais.

“Write in detail on 200 such great personalities and 25 kingdoms who were forgotten in our history. Do not get into controversy about what history was written earlier, forget it and write history anew,” he added.

The Union Home Minister pointed out that the Gupta period was called the golden period of Indian history and Skandagupta was known for fighting against Hunas.

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. Skandagupta re-formulated the revenue collection method, administration and municipality, Shah said, adding that it is believed that the Gupta ruler stayed at Ghazipur in the Purvanchal region and worked from here. He urged the historians to write more about great rulers like Skandagupta and Chandragupta, who had not been given “enough due in the



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer

Ensure PM’s constituency is cleanest in country: CM

Varanasi: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to launch a campaign to ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s parliamentary constituency Varanasi was the cleanest in the country. Modi had won the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Varanasi by a margin of 4.79 lakh votes. Holding a review meeting of development works and law and order in the state here on Wednesday night, the Chief Minister directed the officials to make “Kashi number 1 in the country” in terms of cleanliness. He asked the officials to launch special cleanliness drives in villages as well as urban areas before Diwali.

Roads, parks and vacant plots of land

should be included in the campaign, he said, adding that in view of Chhath Puja, the ghats of the Ganga should also be cleaned.

“Do something special so that Kashi remains illuminated from Diwali till Dev Diwali,” he said, adding that the government was committed to the makeover of Kashi.

The Chief Minister told officials that government schemes should not be misused and only eligible candidates should be extended their benefits. Stray cattle should not be seen on the streets, he said, and asked the officials to solve water-logging problems within three days and organise health camps in the affected areas. PNS

existing documented history”. Shah said the greatest success of the Gupta Empire was bringing unity in the nation by ending the conflict between Vaishali and Magadha empires forever.

Shah, who released a book based on the life of Skandagupta, regretted that the today’s generation was “not aware” of the contribution and valour of Skandagupta because of lack of documentation.

He said the Indian boundary extended up to Afghanistan during the reign of Skandagupta and this was the golden era in terms of art.

“Literature, military, culture and art were world-class and we should acknowledge it. The country got the best astrologers during this period and India was freed of invaders from Kashmir to Kandahar. We need to establish the contribution of Skandagupta to our history,” he said.

While dwelling at length on the role and relevance of the Gupta ruler, Shah spoke on the political future of the nation and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making India “regain” its respect in the world.

“Respect for the country

has increased under him. The world pays attention to our point of view. The world listens when our PM speaks on international developments,” Shah said.

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

“Whatever might have been on the mind of Madan Mohan Malviyaji at the time of the establishment of the BHU, this university has played a key role in propagating the Hindu culture and has stood tall to protect it,” Shah said.

After hundreds of years of slavery, it was very difficult for any person to reinstate the pride, only a university could do this, he said, adding that these universities are the reason why we are happy with the present day image of the country and are assured of its future too. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey were also present on the occasion.

In his address, Yogi Adityanath referred to the abrogation of Article 370 and termed it a historical and brave

step. “It (Article 370) was invoked due to the stubbornness of (Jawaharlal) Nehru while Sardar Patel was unhappy with it,” Yogi Adityanath said, adding that Patel had then stated that only the one who had a firm resolve would be able to scrap it.

Pandey said it was the vision of Madan Mohan Malaviya that a university like the BHU was established.

He said the country was proud of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Shah.

The seminar was presided over by BHU Vice-Chancellor Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar.

Earlier, when Shah landed at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Babatpur in the morning, he was welcomed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh, Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey and several others. From Babatpur airport, Shah along with Yogi Adityanath reached BHU by a helicopter.

In view of Union Home Minister’s visit, elaborate security arrangements were made on BHU campus.

CM Yogi sets deadline for making roads pothole-free

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Showing his displeasure over the bad condition of roads, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to make all roads pothole-free by November 15.

“Accountability should be fixed for the existing bad condition of roads and the officials responsible for it should be punished,” Yogi said during a review meeting in the state capital on Thursday.

The Chief Minister directed the officials of Urban and Housing Development department to expand the urban areas. He said that at present the state had 22 percent urban areas which should be increased to 30 percent in the next two years. This, he said, would enable the surrounding areas connected to urban area get better facilities.

At the beginning of the review meeting, the Chief Minister directed the Principal Secretary (PWD) to take strict action against

officials of districts where funds had been withdrawn without initiating any work. “FIR should be lodged against such officials,” he said. Yogi said that patchwork on roads should not be limited to completing a formality but special attention should be paid on quality.

He stressed on audit of all tenders issued by four departments, including PWD, Urban Development and Irrigation.

The Chief Minister said that the condition of national highways was also very bad. He pointed out that places where construction was in progress, no alternative arrangement had been made and this was causing a lot of inconvenience to the people.

He directed the officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to inspect Gorakhpur-Varanasi, Mau-Gorakhpur and Mau-Varanasi roads and prepare a report.

He asked Chief Secretary RK Tiwari to review the

report and take action against officials and contractors and also write a letter to the Union Road and Transport Ministry.

The Chief Minister asked all departments to use Prahari App made by the Public Works Department to maintain quality and time frame of works.

Yogi Adityanath also showed his displeasure over the condition of roads in rural areas.

He directed the Principal Secretary (Rural Development) to ensure that the roads in villages were completely repaired.

The Principal Secretary (Urban Development) was asked to prepare a plan for the colonies in urban areas and to ensure renovation and repair of roads in industrial areas.

The Chief Minister directed widening of the road along the Ganga canal to four lanes. He said that as Kumbh would be organised in Haridwar in 2021, all work should be finished before it so that there was no problem in movement of devotees.

BJP trying to win bypolls by deceit: SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that the Bharatiya Janata Party was trying to win the bypolls to 10 assembly seats by deceit and by threatening officials and voters of dire consequences.

“Reports coming from the ground are very alarming. Officers are working under duress as they are being intimidated by the ruling party leaders. They have been asked to favour BJP candidates. In spite of all this terror tactics, the situation is very bad for the BJP,” Akhilesh Yadav said in a written statement issued in Lucknow on Thursday.

The SP chief said that gram pradhans and block pramukhs were being threatened with

dire consequences if they did not support the BJP candidates in the by-elections.

Akhilesh said that people were still talking about development works done by the Samajwadi Party regime.

“The BJP has failed to impress the people with its work as it has been exposed that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has only inaugurated the previous government’s projects,” the SP chief said.

“In this scenario the onus is on the Election Commission to ensure free and fair polls in UP. The Election Commission should also ensure that officers work with freedom,” he added.

The SP chief further said that the BJP leadership was aware that anger was brewing against them. “The law and

order situation in the state is going from bad to worse. Prices of essential commodities have sky-rocketed. The poor are being killed in fake encounters while farmers are being deprived of remunerative prices

of their produce,” he said.

The SP chief is scheduled to visit Rampur on October 19 and address an election rally in favour of party candidate Tanzeem Fatma, the wife of SP MP Mohammad Azam Khan.

डॉ० शकुन्ताला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वासि विश्वविद्यालय
मोहान रोड, लखनऊ-226 017
वेबसाइट <http://dsmru.up.nic.in>

निविदा सूचना
विश्वविद्यालय में स्थापित 990 केंबीएफ़ ट्रॉसफ़ॉर्मर (मेक-यूकॉन) की मरम्मत/सर्विसिंग का कार्य किये जाने हेतु अर्ह फर्मों से मुहारबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
निविदा दिनांक 31.10.2019 को अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक टेण्डर बॉक्स में जमा की जा सकती है। प्राप्त निविदाएं तद्दिनांक अपराह्न 03.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।
निविदा प्रपत्र विश्वविद्यालय के कैशियर से धनराशि रु० 2,00,00/- नकद जमा कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र की शर्त एवं अन्य विवरण वेबसाइट <http://dsmru.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। फार्म शुल्क वापस नहीं किया जायेगा।
कुलसचिव

उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय: 34ए, निकट संत तुलसी पब्लिक स्कूल,
गेट नं०-2, इन्दिरा नगर, चित्ला रोड, बाँदा

पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु आयोजित की जाने वाली लोक सुनवाई सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई के सम्बन्ध में प्रस्ताव उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, लखनऊ को प्राप्त हुए हैं जिससे सम्बन्धित लोक सुनवाई का आयोजन निम्नलिखित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार किया जाना प्रस्तावित है।

क्र० सं०	परियोजना एवं आवेदक का नाम	प्रोजेक्ट का नाम	परियोजना स्थल का पता	क्षेत्रफल	स्थान	दिनांक व समय
1	मैसर्स आरएसआई स्टोन वर्ल्ड प्रा०लि० द्वारा श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह जादौन निवासी ई-7, एम 708 एरिया कालोनी, भोपाल, (म०प्र०)	उपखनिज साधारण बालू/मोरम	गाटा नं०-2/1, 2/2 एवं 2/4, ग्राम खैरई, तहसील पैलानी, जनपद-बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 5.80 हे० क्षमता-1,16,000.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	परियोजना स्थल	18.11.2019 03:30 बजे
2	मैसर्स अंकुर इण्टरप्राइजेज द्वारा श्री भागवती शिवहरे पुत्र श्री रामदयाल शिवहरे निवासी-421/4, सी०पी० मिशन कम्पाउण्ड, थाना सिपरी बाजार तहसील व जनपद-झाँसी (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-587 संख्या-04, ग्राम-नहरी तहसील, नरैनी जनपद-बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 2.0 हे० क्षमता-20,000.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	18.11.2019 12:30 बजे
3	मैसर्स हर्षित इण्टरप्राइजेज द्वारा श्री हर्षित सिंह पुत्र श्री मान सिंह निवासी-मोहल्ला कालू कुआ, थाना-कोतवाली नगर, जनपद-बाँदा (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-45 ग्राम-खलारी तहसील, नरैनी जनपद-बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 3.68 हे० क्षमता-36,800.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	19.11.2019 11:00 बजे
4	मैसर्स जय माँ शारदा ट्रेडर्स द्वारा श्री राम मिलन पुत्र श्री राम गोपाल, निवासी-गोण्डा मोड थाना-कर्वा, जनपद चित्रकूट (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-587 खण्ड संख्या-01, ग्राम-नहरी तहसील नरैनी, जनपद-बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 0.80 हे० क्षमता-8,000.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	19.11.2019 11:30 बजे
5	मैसर्स माँ कामाख्या ग्रेनाइट द्वारा श्रीमती सरोज सिंह पत्नी श्री शैलेन्द्र सिंह, निवासी-महोबा रोड क्योटरा, जनपद - बाँदा (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-1073 खण्ड संख्या-02, ग्राम-जरर तहसील नरैनी, जनपद-बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 2.0 हे० क्षमता-20,000.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	19.11.2019 12:30 बजे
6	मैसर्स माँ कामाख्या ग्रेनाइट द्वारा श्रीमती सरोज सिंह पत्नी श्री शैलेन्द्र सिंह, निवासी-महोबा रोड क्योटरा, जनपद - बाँदा (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-1073 खण्ड संख्या-01, ग्राम-जरर तहसील नरैनी, जनपद-बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 2.0 हे० क्षमता-20,000.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	19.11.2019 12:30 बजे
7	मैसर्स श्री नागेन्द्र सिंह पुत्र श्री शैलेन्द्र सिंह द्वारा श्री नागेन्द्र सिंह पुत्र श्री शैलेन्द्र सिंह, निवासी-महोबा रोड क्योटरा, जनपद-बाँदा (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-144 ग्राम-खलारी, तहसील नरैनी, जनपद - बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 3.75 हे० क्षमता-37,500.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	19.11.2019 02:00 बजे
8	मैसर्स श्री संग्राम सिंह पुत्र श्री जयवन्त सिंह द्वारा श्री संग्राम सिंह पुत्र श्री जयवन्त सिंह, निवासी-ग्राम पहरा तहसील व जनपद-महोबा (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज ग्रेनाइट (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-1876 खण्ड संख्या-01, ग्राम-गिरवां तहसील नरैनी, जनपद - बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 2.02 हे० क्षमता-20,200.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	20.11.2019 12:00 बजे
9	मैसर्स माँ शारदा एसोसिएट्स द्वारा श्री आकाश खत्री, पुत्र श्री ओम प्रकाश खत्री, निवासी मोहल्ला मडियानाका, थाना-कोतवाली नगर, जनपद-बाँदा (उ०प्र०)	अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (खण्डा गिट्टी एवं बोल्डर)	गाटा नं०-587 खण्ड संख्या-06, ग्राम-नहरी तहसील नरैनी, जनपद - बाँदा उ०प्र०	क्षेत्रफल 2.0 हे० क्षमता-20,000.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष	नरैनी तहसील सभागार जनपद-बाँदा	20.11.2019 12:30 बजे

बोर्ड द्वारा पर्यावरण वन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या-एस.ओ. 1533 दिनांक 14-09-2006 यथा संशोधित-एसओ. 3067 (ई) दिनांक 01-12-2009 के अनुपालन में उपरोक्त परियोजना की लोक सुनवाई उपरोक्त सूची में अंकित वर्णित स्थान, दिनांक एवं समय के अनुसार आयोजित की जायेगी। उक्त परियोजना की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनता के सुझाव, विचार, टीका एवं टिप्पणियाँ आदि आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। परियोजना से सम्बन्धित ई.आई.ए. एवं संक्षिप्त अभिलेख निम्नांकित कार्यालयों में उपलब्ध है।

- जिलाधिकारी, कार्यालय जनपद- महोबा।
- महा प्रबन्धक जिला उद्योग केन्द्र, महोबा।
- क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड, ए-39 आवास विकास कालोनी, चित्ला रोड, बाँदा।
- उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड टी०सी०-12 वी. विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ।
- कार्यालय जिला पंचायत, महोबा।
- क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय मध्य क्षेत्र, पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार, पंचमतल केन्द्रीय भवन, सेक्टर-एच अलीगंज लखनऊ।

अतः समस्त सर्व साधारण को इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त प्रस्तावित सैण्ड/गौरम माइनिंग एवं उपखनिज ग्रेनाइट, गिट्टी बोल्टर खण्डास प्रोजेक्ट की पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति से सम्बन्धित प्रकरण हेतु उपरोक्त वर्णित स्थान, दिनांक एवं समय के अनुसार आयोजित लोक सुनवाई में उपस्थित होकर अपने आक्षेप/सुझाव प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा सुझाव एवं आपत्तियाँ आदि लिखित रूप से प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के अन्दर प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

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House of politician’s son raided

Joint action by Mahanagar cops, Delhi police: Sophisticated weapons, cartridges recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Expediting the probe into the case against mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Abbas’s son Abbas Ansari for illegal possession of weapons, a joint team of Mahanagar police and Delhi police searched his house in Basantkunj in New Delhi on Thursday and recovered six sophisticated pistols of foreign make and 4,431 cartridges of different bores. However, Abbas Ansari could not be traced.

Mahanagar SHO Ashok Kumar Singh said the police had registered a case against

Abbas Ansari on October 12 for forgery in securing arm license and under Arms Act after it was revealed that he had misled police about possession of weapons.

Singh said a team of crime branch worked on the case and sections 467/468/471 were added to the case against Abbas on revelation that he had also tampered with the documents. “We sought court’s permission to carry out a search at Abbas’s residence in New Delhi and later went ahead with it,” he said.

The SHO said that the recovery of weapons included

two Berreta guns imported from Italy and Slovenia, a rifle with seven spare barrels (all imported from Slovenia), two slides/pistol barrels imported from Austria, and arms manufactured in India. “Abbas is on the lam and police teams are hunting for him. We will track him down soon,” the SHO said.

Abbas, a resident of Metro City Compound in Mahanagar, came on police radar following a tip-off about misuse of license after the police started a drive against those possessing arm licences. The police swung into action following the murder of

a property dealer in Mohanlalganj, killing of a puri vendor in Cantonment, murderous assaults on a realtor in Ansal City in Gosainganj, and realtor brothers in Hazratganj. The sources said the police had interrogated several of henchmen of mafia in the business of contracts or house construction in the city. “The lead came during the interrogation of these suspects. Though these suspects were not involved in the said crime cases, their revelation came as a big surprise for the police. The police worked on the case and it surfaced that Abbas misused the gun license

and this followed registration of a case against him,” the sources said.

They said the police failed to ascertain Abbas’s motive for foreign make. “The weapons are very costly and possessed by a select with proper licence for the same. Besides, Abbas is also a marksman. It is also surprising how Abbas ducked the law earlier and how he could he purchase these weapons even as rules regarding possession of weapons of foreign make are very strict,” they said. The SHO said the motive would be clear after Abbas was arrested.

RSS advocates ‘garbh sanskar’ for sanskari kids

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has started a campaign to inform young couples that if they want ‘sanskari’ (cultured) and intelligent kids, then they should adopt the process of ‘garbh sanskar’ before the woman conceives and continue it during the period of pregnancy. Videos of ‘garbh sanskar’ are in circulation in RSS offices of Uttar Pradesh. In the videos, being shown by pracharaks and sanchalakhs (office-bearers), two girls – Rashi (8) and Kriya (4) – are seen reciting Sanskrit shlokas and mantras. The mother of the girls is seen explaining that her daughters are intelligent as she and her husband followed ‘garbh sanskar’.

“You can see today’s generation and how uncultured they are. Recently, a few videos were in circulation in WhatsApp showing how ignorant our youths are about India, its history and culture. This is because they do not have the right ‘sanskari’. Now, the RSS has taken up the onus of providing good ‘sanskari’ to children,” said RSS leader Mahesh Sharma.

“I am not saying anything new. It is a science that existed in the country since Vedas. There are many instances in Hindu scriptures of women being blessed with babies of their choice following the wisdom received from sages,”



Sharma said. RSS volunteers Vinod Bharati and Ayurvedacharya Neeraj Singhal have set up the first of its kind Vedant Garbh Vigyan Evam Sanskar Kendra in Meerut. The kendra carries the tagline: ‘Baby by choice, not by chance.’

Both RSS leaders have undergone training in Gujarat-based Garbh Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra. These ‘kendras’ advocate a programme based on Ayurveda that guarantees couples a ‘perfect progeny’. People running these kendras even claim that this could upgrade and repair hereditary dysfunctional genes.

Dr Singhal said that women should follow ‘garbh sanskar’ before conception and through the pregnancy. Garbh sanskar are a set of rituals revolving around regulated diet and practice of Yoga.

“The high point of this is

‘sanskari vidhi’ — a three-stage ‘havan’ performed over nine months. The process begins three months before conception and later the pregnant woman is provided a diet plan that is nutritious and ‘satvik’ (simple),” he said.

“In the next phase, pregnant women are trained in breathing techniques as per their choice of progeny. They regularly recite Hanuman Chalisa and Durga Chalisa and listen to heroic stories of Shivaji and Maharana Pratap. Over a dozen couples have benefited from the procedure,” Dr Singhal said. Ayurvedacharya at RML Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow, Dr SK Pandey, said that it was recorded in history that ‘satvik’ food and regular pranayam could transform one’s line of thinking and make the body pure, and thus help in conceiving a good soul.

BTech student killed in road mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Student of a private engineering college died in a road mishap in Gosainganj on Wednesday night. The incident triggered protests by his fellow students and locals, giving the police a tough time.

As per reports, Aishwarya Vyas (20) was staying in the hostel of the college and was going to a nearby tea stall on a bike. He was hit by a speeding unidentified car soon after he came on the road. The errant driver sped off the scene. Commuters rushed him to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. After the news reached the college, a huge number of students also flocked to the scene and created a ruckus. Following the protests, a heavy police force was sent to the place and the situation was controlled later.

Victim’s uncle Jitendra of Orail lodged a case in this connection. He said Aishwarya was a native of Jalaun and was enrolled at the college last year. Police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigations.

FIRE

A fire broke out at a house in Pratapnagar locality under Ghazipur police station area on Thursday afternoon. The fire was doused later and no casualty was reported in the mishap. According to police, women members of the family of Chhuni Lal were preparing food when the fire broke out and later engulfed an LPG cylinder. The flames were later doused,” the police said.



Women celebrating Karwa Chauth in Lucknow on Thursday

Woman seeks justice for deceased son

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A woman of Thakurganj is running from pillar to post seeking justice for her son Shadab Ali, whose body was recovered from thickets alongside Gullala Ghat bridge in the area on September 28.

The woman, identified as Rehana, alleged that the Thakurganj police were not registering a case on her complaint. “Shadab left the house in the night on September 28

saying he would return soon but never did. We were informed of the recovery of his body from the thickets. We saw that blood had oozed out from his mouth. The Thakurganj police are claiming that Shadab committed suicide but not explaining the reason,” she said. Rehana further said she petitioned her case to the SSP, Lucknow, at his camp office on Wednesday. “We hope we will get justice,” she said.

Other family members said

a woman was regularly calling Shadab since afternoon on September 28. “We suspect that woman killed Shadab and dumped his body in the thickets. But the police are not ready to hear our complaint and pressing for withdrawal of the complaint,” they alleged.

The police have no details about the investigation made in the case. “We are collecting evidence related to the incident. If there was any foul play, a case would be registered,” a police

spokesman said. He added that the Thakurganj SHO had been asked to conclude the probe soon.

Sources said the Thakurganj police were in a habit of ignoring victims’ complaints. They said the police were delaying the probe owing to some pressure,” they said. They further said that the autopsy report had failed to ascertain the cause of death following which the police sent viscera for forensic test.

UPPSC exams (Main) from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Provincial Civil Services (Main) examinations-2018 are scheduled to begin from October 18. UPPSC officials, while talking to The Pioneer, said that a total of 8,635 students will be appearing for the examination at 17 centres in the city. The successful candidates will be later called for interviews.

A UPPSC official said: “All arrangements have been made for the examination which will be conducted in two shifts — from 9.30 am to 12.30 am and from 2 pm to 5 pm.” District administration officials said both the sector and static magistrates have been deployed.

“A total of five sector and 17 static magistrates have been deployed for the various cen-

tres and the arrangements are complete but details cannot be shared because they are confidential,” he said.

The examinations (Main) were slated to be held in June earlier this year, but were postponed to October. UPPSC has declared the results of 2016 & 2017 examinations and on Thursday, it also invited applications for the examinations to be held in 2019. The prelims of the 2018 examinations were held in September last year.

The examinations are significant for the fact that they are on the same pattern as IAS examination, wherein candidates will be selected for both administrative as well as the forest services.

“The examinations were supposed to be held in June and I did not appear for the 2019

prelims because the dates clashed with these examinations, and later the examinations were postponed to October. In the 2017 examinations (Main) last year, one paper was cancelled because of the distribution of second shift paper and we had to appear for the exam again. I hope we do not have to face the same problem again,” an aspirant said.

Incidentally, the papers will be held consecutively from October 18 to 20. No papers will be held on October 21 because of the Cantonment bypoll. “The papers for Hindi and Essay will be held on October 18, General Studies 1 & 2 on October 19, and General Studies 3 & 4 on October 20,” a UPPSC official said.

Woman knocked down by vehicle in Kakori

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 32-year-old man identified as Ram Vilas of Unnao died when a speeding unidentified vehicle knocked him down at Hardoiya road in the area on Thursday afternoon. Reports said the commuters rushed for the help of the victim after the incident took place around 2 pm and informed the police. A police team reached the place and the man was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. The police traced his house address on basis of his bike’s registration number and contacted the family. “The bike is registered in the name of deceased’s wife,” the police spokesman said.

FORM No. - 5

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007

(Areas of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION

O.A. No. 1172 of 2019 Date: 16.10.2019
(Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules, 1993)

BANK OF INDIA VERSUS ...APPLICANT

SMT. REKHA SHARMA & OTHERS ...DEFENDANTS

To,

1. Mrs. Rekha Sharma W/o Mr. Rajesh Sharma R/o 636/92, Hanuman Nagar, Takrohi, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, U.P.
Also at:- House No. 638/59, Faridi Nagar, Post CIMAP, Lucknow.
2. Mr. Rajesh Sharma S/o Babu Lal Sharma R/o 636/92, Hanuman Nagar, Takrohi, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, U.P.
Also at:- House No. 638/59, Faridi Nagar, Post CIMAP, Lucknow.
3. M/s Aditya Enterprises Through Prop. Rekha Sharma, SBI Plaza, Takrohi Bazar, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

...DEFENDANTS

In the above noted application, you are required to file/reply evidence in Paper Book from in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 20.12.2019 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

FORM No. - 5

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007

(Areas of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION

O.A. No. 1173 of 2019 Date: 16.10.2019
(Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules, 1993)

BANK OF INDIA VERSUS ...APPLICANT

MR. SHYAM JEE BAJPAI & OTHER ...DEFENDANTS

To,

1. Shri Shyam Jee Bajpai s/o of Late Rajaram Bajpai, resident of House No. 4/743, Sector-H, Jankipuram, Lucknow.
2. Smt. Chhama Bajpai wife of Shri Shyam Jee Bajpai, resident of House No. 4/743, Sector-H Jankipuram, Lucknow.

...DEFENDANTS

In the above noted application, you are required to file/reply evidence in Paper Book from in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 20.12.2019 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India

BOI

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest, Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 13 (4) of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates mentioned hereunder. And the borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India for an amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers & Guarantors	Description of Immovable property mortgaged / Owner of the property	Amount o/s (as mentioned in the Notice u/s 13(2) Date of Demand & Possession Notice
BRANCH : Jankipuram Vistar Branch			
1	Borrowers: Mr. Rajesh Kumar S/o Shri Manohar Lal, 1. House No. H-4/15, Sector-H 4, Awasthi Vikas Parishad, Amrapali Yojana, Barawan Khurd, Hardoi Road, Lucknow. 2. Village Chanda Kodar, Near St. Lawrence School, Asti Road, Post-Bakshi Ka Talab, Distt. Lucknow. & Smt. Suman Gautam W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar 1. House No. H-4/15, Sector-H 4, Awasthi Vikas Parishad, Amrapali Yojana, Barawan Khurd, Hardoi Road, Lucknow. 2. Village Chanda Kodar, Near St. Lawrence School, Asti Road, Post-Bakshi Ka Talab, Distt. Lucknow.	Equitable Mortgage of House Property House No. H-4/15, Sector-H 4, Awasthi Vikas Parishad, Amrapali Yojana, Barawan Khurd, Hardoi Road, Lucknow. Owner: Mr. Rajesh Kumar S/o Shri Manohar Lal & Smt. Suman Gautam W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar. Area: 40.74 Sq. Mtrs. Boundaries: East- 6 Meter wide Road, West- House No. H-4/18, North- House No. H-4/16, South- House No. H-4/14	₹ 22.41,308/- + Interest & other charges 23.04.2019 16.10.2019

Date: 18.10.2019, Place: Lucknow **Authorised officer, Bank of India**

Cong shying away from action against Aditi?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Is the Congress shying away from taking action against its MLA Aditi Singh fearing that the move could dent the party's prospects in chief Sonia Gandhi's citadel Rae Bareilly, as it has already lost another pocket borough, Amethi, in the last general elections?

Aditi Singh had flouted the Congress whip and participated in the 36-hour special session of Uttar Pradesh legislature held from October 2 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary and was served a show-cause notice. Despite Aditi Singh refusing to file any reply, the party leadership has so far taken no action against her and has pushed the matter under the carpet. Sources in the Congress confirmed that senior leaders were in a dilemma over acting against Aditi Singh, as they fear losing a potential leader from Rae Bareilly.

Rae Bareilly assumes signif-



icance as earlier sitting Congress MLC Dinesh Pratap Singh and his MLA brother Rakesh Singh parted ways with the grand old party and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The UP Congress brass is ostensibly waiting for a 'go ahead' from party's nationals general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra before acting against Aditi Singh, as the

former is almost certain to replace her mother and contest from Rae Bareilly in the next general elections. Earlier, newly-appointed UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar 'Lallu' had served a show-cause notice on the MLA from Rae Bareilly Sadar, Aditi Singh, asking her to submit her reply within 48 hours regarding her anti-party activities. The UPCC chief even told media persons that if Aditi did not reply, stern action will be taken against her. But despite Aditi not filing a reply and the deadline of show-cause notice expiring a week back, no action has been initiated against her.

Besides, no disciplinary action has been taken by the Congress against another MLA from Rae Bareilly, Rakesh Singh, or his brother MLC Dinesh Pratap Singh, who are now supporting the BJP. The party only filed application in both Houses seeking disqualification of these two legislators under anti-defection law.

BJP MP takes to Twitter to take on police over 'high-handedness'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

BJP MP Kaushal Kishore's tweet about alleged 'wrongdoings' in Malihabad created a flutter as social media users and activists started pounding the police. Realizing hafta and terrorizing the victims in Malihabad has become police work. Seniors officers are not paying heed to complaints made to them," the BJP MP tweeted. As the tweet went viral, the social media activists started flaying the government and police's working style. The visibly perturbed MP said the police do not help the victims in Malihabad.

"The cops send back the victims from Malihabad police station instead of hearing their cases. I also get complaints regarding 'hafta' from several persons and have talked to several officials, but in vain. The goons enjoy the patronage of the police and they terrorise small-time businessmen in the area," Kishore alleged.

He said he will bring the issue to the notice of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "The



BJP government works for the poor and people from weaker sections of the society. It is our USP and the BJP workers and leaders always stood firmly behind such people. This is the arrogance of the police that they don't care for government's concern," he said.

The controversy erupted on Wednesday when a woman of Malihabad complained to the BJP MP about the alleged high-handed approach of the Malihabad SHO and some policemen. She complained to the BJP MP about an incident in which some miscreants had attacked her and her daughter but the police refused to act.

The tweet went viral and social media activists started flaying the government and police's working style. The MP said the police do not help the victims in Malihabad

As per woman's claim, the miscreants, who are her neighbours, passed lewd comments on her daughter and clicked her pictures in their mobile phones. The girl complained to her mother who went to the house of the accused to confront them. The woman and her daughter were beaten by the accused and when the woman went to the police station to lodge a complaint, the cops shooved her away. A representative of the BJP MP talked to Malihabad SHO Siyaram Verma and the latter told him that he was not bound to attend calls from any person and that he could not help.



Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia at an art exhibition in Aliganj Kala Strot Gallery

Pioneer




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



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

E-Tender Notice No.: Sr.DEERS/ELS/CNB/2019-20/ET-06 Dt. 12.10.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/RS/N.C. Rly./Kanpur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following open E-Tender for the following work up to Tender Opening Date & Time. The details of the tenders are as under-

Tender No.	Name of work	Advertised Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)
ELS-CNB-2019-20-ET-06	Modification for provision of trap chamber for dust particle in BP pipe of 3 phase Loco as per MS No. RDSO/2017/ EL/MS/0465 Rev '0' dated 18.10.2017, Qty. 53Locos.	7,52,693.28 (₹ Seven Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred ninety Three & Twenty Eight Paise only)	15,100/- (₹ Fifteen Thousand One Hundred only)

Completion period of Work : **12 months**, Tender Document Cost (Rs.) : **2000/-** (Rs. Two Thousand only), Tender Opening Date & Time : **08.11.2019 & 11.30 hrs.**

Note-1. The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tenders is available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to due date & time of tender opening. 2. Bids, other than in the form of E-Bids, shall not be accepted against, above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Offer rates quoted in the form of e-tender schedule & duly signed digitally shall be final. No other documents related to offer rates shall be entertained. Tenderers are advised not to attach any document related to offer rates (except undertaking(s) asked). These documents shall be treated as NULL and void and shall not be considered for evaluation of offer. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **1490/19 (S)**

E-Tender Notice No. NCR-SBH-ALD-2019-2 Dated : 11.10.2019

E-TENDERING NOTICE

For & on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (Plg.)/NCR Allahabad invites the following E-Tenders in prescribed form reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work up to 07.11.2019 on 15.00 Hrs. The details of tender are under-

SN	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of Work (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form	Duration of Work
1	Hiring of School Buses for School Children of Officers & Employees living in RailGaon Colony, Subedarganj, Allahabad. (06 Nos.-40 seater Bus, 01 No.-24 seater Bus, 01 No.-12 seater Mini Bus & 01 No. TATA Magic or similar)	2,15,13,600.00	2,57,600.00	Rs. 10,000/-	36 Months

Note- Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 07.11.2019 at 15.30, **Minimum Eligibility Criteria :** Applicable, **Note**-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available/uploaded since of 11.10.2019 and shall remain on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs on due date **07.11.2019** of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other Financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be personally signed by the Tenderer with firm seal 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ireps.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDS) in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Tender on line can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on 07.11.2019. 9. The said supplier of goods and/or services would be subjected to GSTACT and Rules as applicable from time to time (As per railway board letter no. 2016/AC-III/1/6 dated 12 May 2017). **1491/19 (S)**

Notice No: 230-Elect/TRD/ALD/E-Tender Notice/2019/426 & 427 Dated: 15.10.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer/TRD/N.C. Rly./Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No.	Description of Work												
230 Elect TRDALDWC-792-2019	25 KV OHE Electrification & Modification work at Kanpur area in Allahabad Division. (IInd call)												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Advertised Value</td><td>Rs. 6,15,60,300.94</td><td>Tender Document Cost</td><td>Rs. 10000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Earnest Money</td><td>Rs. 457800.00</td><td>Completion Period</td><td>09 Months</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tender Closing Date & Time</td><td>11.11.2019 & 14.00 Hrs</td><td>Bidding system</td><td>Single Packet</td></tr> </table>	Advertised Value	Rs. 6,15,60,300.94	Tender Document Cost	Rs. 10000.00	Earnest Money	Rs. 457800.00	Completion Period	09 Months	Tender Closing Date & Time	11.11.2019 & 14.00 Hrs	Bidding system	Single Packet
Advertised Value	Rs. 6,15,60,300.94	Tender Document Cost	Rs. 10000.00										
Earnest Money	Rs. 457800.00	Completion Period	09 Months										
Tender Closing Date & Time	11.11.2019 & 14.00 Hrs	Bidding system	Single Packet										
230 Elect TRD ALDWC-793 -2019	Design, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV OHE Electrification for Railway network for coal and Fuel oil transportation at Harduaganj Thermal Power station siding in Allahabad Division. (IInd call)												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Advertised Value</td><td>Rs. 12,33,62,142.44</td><td>Tender Document Cost</td><td>Rs. 10000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Earnest Money</td><td>Rs. 766800.00</td><td>Completion Period</td><td>09 Months</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tender Closing Date & Time</td><td>11.11.2019 & 14.00 Hrs</td><td>Bidding system</td><td>Two Packet</td></tr> </table>	Advertised Value	Rs. 12,33,62,142.44	Tender Document Cost	Rs. 10000.00	Earnest Money	Rs. 766800.00	Completion Period	09 Months	Tender Closing Date & Time	11.11.2019 & 14.00 Hrs	Bidding system	Two Packet
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Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on Website www.ireps.gov.in **21 days** prior to the date of opening of the tender. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **1501/19(S)**

GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL
EDUCATION & TRAINING
JAWAHAR BHAWAN,
6th FLOOR, ASHOK MARG, LUCKNOW
No. ME-1/2019/3158 Dated 15 October, 2019

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM

The E-Tender notice invited by Principal, Medical College, Meerut by letter no.PC/2019/7454, dated 20 September, 2019 to select the service provider agency for housekeeping and sanitation at Government Medical College, Meerut. This two bid system invited E-tender is hereby extended further due to some unavoidable circumstances. The dates are now as follows 1- Date of pre bid meeting at DGME, U.P. offices-18-10-2019 at 3:00 pm. 2- Date of submission of bid and providing hard copy-04-11-2019 at 5:00 pm. 3- Date of opening of technical bid- 05-11-2019 from 3:30 pm onwards (DGME, UP Lucknow) The rest of tender conditions will remain same.

UP 144772/2019 Dt. 16.10.2019
रिज़ान वेंकटारै (K.K. Gupta)
www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। Director General

SCHOOLSCAN



An 8-member delegation of German teachers is at City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II, studying the education and methods being used by teachers to impart a holistic education to students based on universal values and global understanding.

First coin auction in Lucknow on Sunday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow will witness the first coin Lauction on Sunday. Malcom Toddywalla from the Frank Toddywalla Group, which is organising the auction in association with Awadh Nuismatic Society, said they have over 300 coins which will be auctioned. "Amongst the oldest coins is the gold coin of Nawab Naseruddin Haider and it is expected to fetch over Rs one lakh," he said. He pointed out that it is their 128th auction and will offer a rare and magnificent collection of coins, medals, paper money and lithographs of the views of Lucknow after the Mutiny of 1857. "This auction encompasses 2500 years of India's variegated and rich culture & heritage," he added.

He said amongst the earliest collections are the coins of India minted around 600 to 400 BC during the Gandhara Janapada, followed by gold coins of Gupta Emperors Chandra Gupta and Samudra Gupta which will go under the hammer on Sunday.

"Also on offer are rare gold and silver coins of the great Mughal emperors Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan etc, followed by gold and copper coins of Tipu Sultan. The highlight of the auction is a silver Zodiac rupee struck by Emperor Jahangir from the Leo constellation struck by the ruler in the city of Agra showcasing the best of Mughal art and calligraphy," he said. He said that perhaps most noteworthy in this auction are gold and silver coins of the Nawabs of Awadh such as Naseruddin Haider, Amjad Ali Shah, and Wajid Ali Shah. Malcom said his father started the business of setting up the auction of coins when he got a handsome profit after he sold some of the coins of his grandfather. "My father got a hand-

some profit and since then, we have been into this business. The advantage of having this auction is that the buyers get authentic coins," he said.

Asked as to why are the collectors willing to sell their coins, he said there may be several reasons, like for finances, getting rid of old collection or to start a new one. He also said that rare early lithographs of the city of Lucknow will be offered for sale for the first time ever. "These views of Lucknow which are 150 years old showcase how the city looked in its former glory. Views such as Chhattar Manzil, Residency, Gomti river, Dilkusha Palace, Nobut Khana Gateway and Alambagh bear testament to how Lucknow has evolved as the capital of UP," he said.

Malcom said that in the current economic scenario, the Indian numismatic market is getting stronger. Indian collectors and investors are buying coins and banknotes, thereby ensuring that India's rich monetary heritage and culture does not lose its shine or its investment potential.

"In the current financial climate and with the uncertainty in the financial sector, especially banks and institutions, investments in coins and paper money is a safe and secure choice with strong returns and great potential for capital appreciation. At the same time, it is an enjoyable hobby that allows the collector to own and safeguard a part of India's rich and glorious history," he added. He said people can bring their collections of gold and silver coins, medals, old paper money and banknotes for a free evaluation from October 18 to 20. Asked as to what is the market scene in Lucknow, he said they have only a selected group of people interested in the auction.

CITYBRIEFS



Shilp Kumbh-2019 at NABARD regional office in Vipin Khand

WORKSHOP

The Mass Communication and Journalism department of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University organised a six-day film-making and film appreciation workshop. Shalini Shah, a National Award winning filmmaker was the resource person of the workshop. "Cinema is the form of story telling, and in order to make a film, we need to understand narration," head of the department Govind Pandey said while interacting with the participants. He welcomed Shalini and participants who have come from different parts of the country. "This workshop will help the participants the understanding of cinema with-

in all the participants, and by the end of this workshop you all will evolve from a layman to a filmmaker" said Shalini Shah at the inaugural session of the workshop. Earlier, Pandey introduced the structure of the workshop to the participants.

ANNAPURNA RASOI

On the occasion of 'World Food Day,' 'Annapurna Rasoi' was organised by Prithvi Innovations for patients' attendants staying in the 'rain basera' of Vivekananda Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Science, with the collaboration and support of the hospital. The programme was a part of Prithvi's Annapurna Yagya to minimise



Joint meeting of PNB, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India

wastage of food of any kind, at any place and also to provide healthy food to the needy and hungry people in line with sustainable development goals (SDGs). 'Tehri' was served to all patients' attendants by Swami Muktinathananda, secretary of the institute, along with others.

SHILP KUMBH

NABARD 'Shilp Kumbh - 2019' was inaugurated by chief general manager Shankar S Pandey at the regional office in Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, on October 16. Other guests were BIRD director TS Rajigain and principal of National Bank Staff College SV Sardesai. The fair will be open till October 20 from 11 am to 8 pm. Artisans from different parts of Uttar Pradesh are participating to showcase their handloom & handicraft products, including GI products. The exercise is aimed at providing market access to these artisans.

MEETING

After the announcement of the merger, a joint town hall meeting was organised in Lucknow by Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India on Wednesday. Top officials from all three banks attended the meeting. Executive director of Punjab National Bank Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi, executive director of Oriental Bank of Commerce Vijay Dubey, and general manager of United Bank of India

Vinay Kumar Gandotra attended the meeting as distinguished guests. In addition, more than 1000 members from all three banks attended this town hall meeting.

LOAN UTSAV



Kotak Mahindra Group (Kotak) announced the launch of 'Kona Kona Khwaab Loan Utsav' in Lucknow, a festive celebration across India with attractive rates and offers across their whole range of products in the consumer, agri and tractor loan segments. Kotak is betting big on half a billion Indian women who are the real decision-makers for all home and household purchases. Senior executive vice-president & head of consumer assets (Kotak Mahindra Bank) Ambuj Chandana said, "We are a large consumer-focused bank in the business of lending money prudently across geographies and customer segments. With sufficient liquidity in the system, the need of the hour is to reach out to consumers across the length and breadth of our country with easier access to credit to stimulate demand. Various research studies have shown that women are better at managing money.

E-Tender Notice No. NCR-SBH-ALD-2019-2 Dated : 11.10.2019

E-TENDERING NOTICE

For & on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (Plg.)/NCR Allahabad invites the following E-Tenders in prescribed form reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work up to 07.11.2019 on 15.00 Hrs. The details of tender are under-

SN	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of Work (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form	Duration of Work
1	Hiring of School Buses for School Children of Officers & Employees living in RailGaon Colony, Subedarganj, Allahabad. (06 Nos.-40 seater Bus, 01 No.-24 seater Bus, 01 No.-12 seater Mini Bus & 01 No. TATA Magic or similar)	2,15,13,600.00	2,57,600.00	Rs. 10,000/-	36 Months

Note- Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 07.11.2019 at 15.30, **Minimum Eligibility Criteria :** Applicable, **Note**-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available/uploaded since of 11.10.2019 and shall remain on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs on due date **07.11.2019** of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other Financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be personally signed by the Tenderer with firm seal 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ireps.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDS) in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Tender on line can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on 07.11.2019. 9. The said supplier of goods and/or services would be subjected to GSTACT and Rules as applicable from time to time (As per railway board letter no. 2016/AC-III/1/6 dated 12 May 2017). **1491/19 (S)**

Notice No: 230-Elect/TRD/ALD/E-Tender Notice/2019/426 & 427 Dated: 15.10.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer/TRD/N.C. Rly./Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No.	Description of Work												
230 Elect TRDALDWC-792-2019	25 KV OHE Electrification & Modification work at Kanpur area in Allahabad Division. (IInd call)												
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Tender Notice No.: 6320192020 **E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE** Dt. 11.10.2019

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites **E-TENDERS** on prescribed form for the following work up to **13.30 hrs. on 06-11-2019**. The details of the Tender are as under:-

SN	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of tender Form	Compl- etion Period	Date of Opening of tender	Eligibility Criteria for similar work
1	176	Heavy repairs to Railway Quarters at MKP, KTDD, LOG, MFX and IDGJ Station, Railway Colony in MKP-NYN section under ADEN/NYN.	₹ 10110807.63	200600/-	₹ 5,000/-	07 Months	06-11-2019	Any Civil Engineering work
2	177	Sale of abandoned structures of NYN-MKP section under ADEN/NYN jurisdiction on as and where basis excluding wooden, serviceable AC sheets and ferrous material including disposal of unusable material as directed by Engineer-in-charge.	₹ 989502.10	₹ 19800/-	₹ 2,000/-	06 Months	06-11-2019	NII

Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in, up to 13.30 hrs. on the due. to date of tender opening i.e. **06-11-2019**. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose,- vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) The tenderers shall submit a notarified affidavit on a non judicial stamp paper of ₹100/- as given in tender document in standard format for all items except for SN-2 i.e. Tender No. 177, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (5) The supplier/contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (6) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (7) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (8) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (9) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (10) Tender on line can be submitted up to 13.30 hrs. on **06-11-2019**. **1495/19 (S)**

f North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in **@CPRONCR**

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 JDU-BJP alliance would contest Assembly polls together under the leadership of incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

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

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



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

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

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

end of next year, on its own.

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

'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: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Shah was given a presentation last month about the functioning of the Forces in the Ministry, 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.

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.

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 per cent.

"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 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).

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 Uganada (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 headon.

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 percent), 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**

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. The PSUs (public sector undertakings) were set up by the country after years of hard work," he said in a tweet in Hindi, using 'Bechendra' as a play on the Hindi word 'bechna' or selling.

IAF EXERCISES WITH OMANI AIR FORCE

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in a 10-day bilateral exercise with its Omani counterpart at the Air Force base Masirah from Thursday, the IAF said. The IAF contingent comprises MiG-29 fighter jet and C-17 transport aircraft. It is for the first time that the 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For the purpose of the proposed programme, a district hospital will be defined broadly as a functional public sector or publicly-funded hospital of about 200 beds or more, with facilities for specified specialities, 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**

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**

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 Raveesh Kumar said both India and Pakistan reached an agreement on the corridor except on the matter of the service fee.

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

grims," he said.

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

"We hope that the agreement can be concluded and signed in time for the great event," said Kumar. Pakistan has been insisting on levying the service fee of USD 20 per pilgrim to meet the operational costs of the corridor linking the historic Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district in Punjab. **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 alleged-



ly 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



“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 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.

U. P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited
Obra Thermal Power Station, OBRA, Sonebhadra, Extension Notice E-Tender No. 06/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/ 2019-20, NAME OF WORK : Work of Cleaning of Boiler Oil Guns and Routine checking of Boiler of Unit No. 9, 10 & 11, 3x200MW. BTPS, Obra. **Tender No.:** T-06/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20 **Estimated Cost of Work :** Rs 5.37 10 & 11, 3x200MW. BTPS, Obra. **Tender No.:** T-06/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20 **Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial)** : (Rs. Five Lac Thirty Five Thousand Only) **Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial)** : 24.10.2019 Up to 18:00 Hrs. **Last Date and Time for Submission of uploaded requisite Hardcopy of Tender Fee, Earnest Money and Tender Documents in the Undersigned Office :** 25.10.2019 Up to 17:00 Hrs. **Date And Time of Opening of e-Bids:** 26.10.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. **Place of Opening of e-Bids** : Office of Superintending Engineer Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I 'B' Thermal Power Station, Obra Sonebhadra. **Address for Communication:** Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-I, BTPS, Obra-Sonebhadra, U.P. 231219. **E-mail Address:** se.ommc.i.btps.obra@uprvnl.org, **Bid Document Cost :** Rs. 500.00+90.00 (G.S.T.) = Rs. 590.00, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 10,74,000 (Rs. Ten Thousand Seven Hundred only). **NOTE :** The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tender will be accepted online only. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-I, 'B'TPS, OBRA.**

Extension Notice E-Tender No. T-07/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/ 2019-20, NAME OF WORK : Work of radiography of HP weld joints during breakdown maintenance of Boiler of Unit No. 9, 10 & 11, 3x200MW. BTPS, Obra. **Tender No.:** T-07/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20 **Estimated Cost of Work :** Rs 5.37 10 & 11, 3x200MW. BTPS, Obra. **Tender No.:** T-06/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20 **Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial)** : (Rs. Five Lac Thirty Seven Thousand Only) **Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial)** : 24.10.2019 Up to 18:00 Hrs. **Last Date and Time for Submission of uploaded requisite Hardcopy of Tender Fee, Earnest Money and Tender Documents in the Undersigned Office :** 25.10.2019 Up to 17:00 Hrs. **Date And Time of Opening of e-Bids:** 26.10.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. **Place of Opening of e-Bids** : Office of Superintending Engineer Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I 'B' Thermal Power Station, Obra Sonebhadra. **Address for Communication:** Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-I, BTPS, Obra-Sonebhadra, U.P. 231219. **E-mail Address:** se.ommc.i.btps.obra@uprvnl.org, **Bid Document Cost :** Rs. 500.00+90.00 (G.S.T.) = Rs. 590.00, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 10,74,000 (Rs. Ten Thousand Seven Hundred only). **NOTE :** The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tender will be accepted online only. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-I, 'B'TPS, OBRA.**

U. P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited
Obra Thermal Power Station, OBRA, Sonebhadra, Extension Notice E-Tender No. T-05/OH11/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20, NAME OF WORK : Overhauling work of Boiler structures Platform, D.P. Test and Cleaning of Boiler during proposed overhauling of unit no. 11, 3x200MW. BTPS, Obra, Distt. Sonebhadra (U.P.) **Tender No.:** T-05/OH11/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20 **Estimated Cost of Work :** Rs 8.50 (Rs. Eight Lac Fifty Thousand Only) **Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial)** : 24.10.2019 Up to 18:00 Hrs. **Last Date and Time for Submission of uploaded requisite Hardcopy of Tender Fee, Earnest Money and Tender Documents in the Undersigned Office :** 25.10.2019 Up to 17:00 Hrs. **Date And Time of Opening of e-Bids:** 26.10.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. **Place of Opening of e-Bids** : Office of Superintending Engineer Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I 'B' Thermal Power Station, Obra Sonebhadra. **Address for Communication:** Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-I, BTPS, Obra-Sonebhadra, U.P. - 231219. **E-mail Address:** se.ommc.i.btps.obra@uprvnl.org, **Bid Document Cost :** Rs. 500.00+90.00 (G.S.T.) = Rs. 590.00, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 17,00,000 (Rs. Seventeen Thousand only). **NOTE :** The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tender will be accepted online only. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-I, 'B'TPS, OBRA.**

Extension Notice E-Tender No. T-06/OH11/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20, NAME OF WORK : Overhauling work of Coal & oil Burner and Drum Internals etc. during proposed overhauling of unit no. 11, 3x200MW. BTPS, Obra, Distt. Sonebhadra (U.P.) **Tender No.:** T-06/OH11/SE-1/BTPS/BMD-I/2019-20 **Estimated Cost of Work :** Rs 5.33 (Rs. Five Lac Thirty Three Thousand Only) **Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial)** : 24.10.2019 Up to 18:00 Hrs. **Last Date and Time for Submission of uploaded requisite Hardcopy of Tender Fee, Earnest Money and Tender Document in the Undersigned Office :** 25.10.2019 Up to 17:00 Hrs. **Date And Time of Opening of e-Bids:** 26.10.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. **Place of Opening of e-Bids** : Office of Superintending Engineer Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I 'B' Thermal Power Station, Obra Sonebhadra. **Address for Communication:** Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-I, BTPS, Obra-Sonebhadra, U.P.-231219. **E-mail Address:** se.ommc.i.btps.obra@uprvnl.org, **Bid Document Cost :** Rs. 500.00+90.00 (G.S.T.) = Rs. 590.00, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 11,00,000 (Rs. Eleven Thousand only). **NOTE :** The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Tender will be accepted online only. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-I, 'B'TPS, OBRA.**

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.

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

PTI ■ IMPHAL

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

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

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

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

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

Noting that all disputes can be settled through dialogue, 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.

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.”

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.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL MOTI LAL NEHRU MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender No. P.S/2019/ 15665-81 Dated : 15 October , 2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online E- tenders are invited for supply of following Machines/Equipment (Medical) in financial year 2019-20 from the reputed and genuine manufacturers/ authorized firm/authorized suppliers. Detailed description and tender documents are available and can be downloaded from [https:// etender.up.nic.in](https://etender.up.nic.in) on payment of non-refundable tender cost of Rs. 1180.00 (Rs. One thousand one Hundred Eighty only) through NEFT/RTGS/INTERNETBANKING.

Sl No.	Department	Equipment	Qty	E.M.D	Starting date of online Downloading of tender Documents 10.00 AM	Last Date for online Submission of Tender up to 5.00 PM	Date & Time of Bid opening 10.00 AM
1	Anatomy	Band saw for sectioning body parts	1	1500	18-10-2019	08-11-2019	11-11-2019
2	Physiology	Sherrington staring kymograph (Electrically driven)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
3	-do-	Muscle lever	2		-do-	-do-	-do-
4	-do-	Heart lever (simple & starting)	2	3500	-do-	-do-	-do-
5	-do-	Wintrobe's pipette for ESR and PCV with stand	6		-do-	-do-	-do-
6	-do-	Thermo-aesthiometer	2		-do-	-do-	-do-
7	-do-	Algotometer	5		-do-	-do-	-do-
8	Blood Bank	Blood Collection monitor	3	4500	-do-	-do-	-do-
9	Forensic Medicine	Weighing machine, dial type human	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
10	-do-	Balance, single pair weighing fests	1	1500	-do-	-do-	-do-
11	-do-	Folding metal scale to measure up to 7 ft	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
12	-do-	Steel tape role	2		-do-	-do-	-do-
13	Medicine-1, Cardiology-1, ICU-2	Bi-Pap machine	4	15000	-do-	-do-	-do-
14	Medicine	5 para Monitor	3	4000	-do-	-do-	-do-
15	Surgery (Trauma Orthopaedic (Trauma)	ECG Machine Single Channel	2	1500	-do-	-do-	-do-
16	ENT	Nerve Monitor Sysytem	1	23000	-do-	-do-	-do-
17	Pediatrics	ECG Machine 12 Lead	1	1500	-do-	-do-	-do-
18	Cardiology-03 Orthopaedics (Trauma -01	E.C.G. Machine Three Channel	4	5000	-do-	-do-	-do-
19	Psychiatry	Draw a person test (DAPT)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
20	-do-	Sentence Completion test(SCT)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
21	-do-	Seguin form Board test (SFB)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
22	-do-	Wechsler intelligence scale for children (WISC)	1	2000	-do-	-do-	-do-
23	-do-	16 PF (Personality Factors)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
24	-do-	CPQ(Children personality Questionnaire)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
25	-do-	PGI-BBD (Battely of Brain Dysfunction)	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
26	-do-	Bio- feedback Machine	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
27	Orthopaedics	Battery Drill (Autoclavable)	1	19000	-do-	-do-	-do-
28	Orthopaedics (Trauma)	Pneumatic Tourniquet	1	3000	-do-	-do-	-do-
29	-do-	Electric drill with all attachment including sew and reamer	1	3000	-do-	-do-	-do-
30	-do-	Cervical Traction	1	1500	-do-	-do-	-do-
31	-do-	Lumbar Traction	1		-do-	-do-	-do-
32	-do-	Pulse Lavage	1	3000	-do-	-do-	-do-
33	Gastro Deptt.	Endoscopic Accessories(Consumable)	1	16000	-do-	-do-	-do-

Note:- All items should be quality approved by relevant organizations USFDA / European CE or equivalent norms with valid registration. In case the date mentioned above is declared Government Holiday, the date shall automatically be shifted to the next working day. Offers received within the stipulated period will only be considered. College shall not be responsible for any postal delay. The Principal Medical College reserves the right to accept or reject the tender as a whole or part without assigning any reason thereof. The items advertised in this tender only will be accepted. The previous tender of these items will stand cancelled. The authorized representative of the firm should present on the day of pre bid meeting, opening / downloading of technical bid and price bid. In case of absence they have to submit no objection for opening otherwise tender will liable to be rejected. The tenders are available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Detailed information is also available on www.mnmc.org

UP-144775 Dt. 16.10.19 दिवाचन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है (S.P.Singh) Principal

Modi Govt obsessed with fixing blame on opponents: Manmohan

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 opponents, 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 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 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 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

Shops briefly open in Srinagar, pvt 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 ply-

ing 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.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General, Hazratganj, DRM office, Lucknow for and on behalf of President of India, invites open Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work:

1	e-tender N.I.T no.	997-Sr-DEE-NR-LKO-2nd Call Dated 17.10.19
2	Name of Work	Electrical work for Provision of Escalators at Lucknow (06 Nos) & varanasi (02 Nos) over LKO division
3	Approximate Cost	Rs 36,53,132/-(Rs. Thirty six lacs fifty three thousand one hundred and thirty two only)
4	Earnest Money	Rs. 73,100 /-(Rs Seventy three thousand and one hundred only)
5	Completion period	06 Months.
6	Last Date and Time of Submission and opening of e-Tender	11.11.2019 upto 15:00 & opening on the same day at 15:30 hrs in office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Northern Railway, Hazratganj, Lucknow
7	Validity of Offer	45 days from the date of opening of the Tender.
8	Northern Railway Website	Additional relevant information may be checked on the website www.ireps.gov.in
9	Tender Cost.	Rs 3,000/- (Rupees Three thousand and only/-)
10	Technical eligibility criteria	Tenderer shall have a valid Electrical Contractor's License issued in the name of the firm by state government and shall furnish/attach all the particulars of the Electrical license along with the offer.

Note:- Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bid up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored/rejected.

No.997-Sr-DEE-NR-LKO 2nd Call Dated 17.10.2019

3338/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Office of the Executive Engineer Construction Division-4(Kumbh Mela), P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.) Notice Inviting E-Tenders

Date : 14.10.2019											
1- The Executive Engineer, U.P. P.W.D on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class A, B, C, and D as the case may be. The bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.											
2- List of Tender invited											
Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of bid Documents (Rs.)	Time of Completion (Month)	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of D.M.	Address of Chief Engineer	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1		Supply of P P rope (Polypropylene Fibrillated Film, Monofilament and Serrated Tape Ropes, 3-Strand, Hawser-Laid Confirming to IS 5175:1992) (28 mm average dia) for Magh mela 2019-20 at mela store, Prayagraj	31.40	314000.00	500+300/-+GST	20 Days	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-4 (Kumbh Mela), P.W.D., Prayagraj	Superintending Engineer, Prayagraj, Circle, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.)	D.M. Prayagraj (U.P.)	Chief Engineer, Prayagraj, Zone, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.)	
2		Supply of Nut bolt 65X12 & 14 mm MS Washer for Magh Mela 2019-20 at mela Store.	12.40	124000.00	500+225/-+GST	20 Days					
3	PRJ.	Supply of eucalyptus balli for Magh Mela 2019-20 at Mela Store Prayagraj.	1.83	183000.00	500+75/-+GST	20 Days					
3. Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no.7, including rainy season.											
4- Website http://etender.up.nic.in may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)4. Website http://etender.up.nic.in may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)											
5- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website http://etender.up.nic.in from 23-10-2019 to 30-10-2019 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of http://etender.up.nic.in on or before 12:30 Hours on 30-10-2019. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 31-10-2019 at 12:30 Hours											
6- The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.											
7- Supply of above mentioned and supply at mela store Prayagraj in first 5 days upto 25%, 2nd Five days upto 50%, 3rd five days upto 75%, last 5 days upto 100% .											
(S.K. Kathariya) Executive Engineer Construction Division-4(K.M.) U.P. P.W.D., Prayagraj											
U.P. 144782, Date : 16-10-19											
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।											

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Asserting 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 behove 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 saffron 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 descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Udayan Rajee 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 Kothurd constituency.

B'desh guards kill BSF man as meet goes awry

From Page 1

Martyred Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh, born in 1968, joined the BSF in 1990 and is survived by two sons. Singh hailed from Chamari Sadpur, 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 the DG-level talks took place between the two border guarding forces in June at BGB's headquarters in Dhaka.

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

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

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

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



क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड,
म०सं०-162, उत्तर मोहाल (निकट चण्डी होटल),
राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनभद्र।

पर्यावरणीय अधिसूचना दि० 14.09.2006 के अन्तर्गत 'लोक सुनवाई' हेतु आम-सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद मिर्जापुर में अवयस्क खनिज खण्डा, गिट्टी/बोल्डर/ (बिल्टिंग/ सैंड स्टोन) के खनन हेतु प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुये हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रख्यापित प्राविधानानुसार लोक सुनवाई का आयोजन तहसील सभागार चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर में दिनांक 20.11.2019 को अपराह्न 03:00 बजे किया जाना है, परियोजनाओं का विस्तृत विवरण निम्नवत है :-

क्रम सं०	आवेदक का नाम व पता	प्रोजेक्ट का नाम	परियोजना का स्थल व पता	क्षेत्रफल
1.	श्री विवेक महेश्वरी पुत्र श्री गोविंद दास महेश्वरी (पार्टनर), निवासी- हाऊस नं०-51, वार्ड नं०-21-तिलक वार्ड मोहता प्लाट, तहसील पिपरिया, जनपद-होशंगाबाद, म०प्र०	मेसर्स पैन जुरेक्स एलएलपी	आराजी संख्या-626, ग्राम-मुईली-I, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ०प्र०)	1.01 हेक्टेयर (10100.00 घनमीटर/ वर्ष)
2.	श्री रमेश सिंह पुत्र श्री गुरुहू सिंह (प्रोपराईटर). निवासी-ग्राम ईमरती कालोनी. राबर्ट्सगंज जनपद-सोनभद्र उ०प्र०	मेसर्स खाकी बाबा कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी	आराजी संख्या-732, ग्राम-भगौती देई, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ०प्र०)	1.01 हेक्टेयर (10100.00 घनमीटर/ वर्ष)
3.	श्री रमेश सिंह पुत्र श्री गुरुहू सिंह (प्रोपराईटर). निवासी-ग्राम ईमरती कालोनी. राबर्ट्सगंज जनपद-सोनभद्र उ०प्र०	मेसर्स खाकी बाबा कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी	आराजी संख्या-997 मि, ग्राम-सिधौरा तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ०प्र०)	4.451 हेक्टेयर (44510.00 घनमीटर/ वर्ष)
4.	श्री चन्द्र शेखर चौरसिया पुत्र श्री दीन दयाल चौरसिया (पार्टनर), वार्ड नं०-1, नौगाँव रोड बस स्टैंड, शेल्टर इन होटल के पास, बगौता. जनपद-छतरपुर, म०प्र०	मेसर्स यूफोरिया माईस एण्ड मिनरल्स	आराजी संख्या-626, क्र०सं०-17, ग्राम-मुईली-II, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ०प्र०)	0.909 हेक्टेयर (10000.00 घनमीटर/ वर्ष)
5.	श्री चन्द्र शेखर चौरसिया पुत्र श्री दीन दयाल चौरसिया (पार्टनर), वार्ड नं०-1, नौगाँव रोड बस स्टैंड, शेल्टर इन होटल के पास, बगौता. जनपद-छतरपुर, म०प्र०	मेसर्स यूफोरिया माईस एण्ड मिनरल्स	आराजी संख्या-626, क्र०सं०-18, ग्राम-मुईली-III, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ०प्र०)	0.909 हेक्टेयर (10000.00 घनमीटर/ वर्ष)
6.	श्री राज कुमार सिंह पुत्र श्री विजय प्रताप सिंह (प्रोपराईटर), निवासी- मोह-गऊघाट, तहसील-सदर, जनपद-मिर्जापुर, उ०प्र०	मेसर्स आर०के० कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी	आराजी संख्या-1क, ग्राम-सोनपुर, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ०प्र०)	2.02 हेक्टेयर (20200.00 घनमीटर/ वर्ष)

राज्य बोर्ड द्वारा पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या-एस०ओ०: 1533, दिनांक 14-09-2006 यथासंशोधित एस०ओ०3067(ई) दिनांक 01.12.2009 के प्राविधानों के अनुपालन में उपरोक्त परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई उपरोक्त सूची में अंकित परियोजनाओं हेतु उक्त वर्णित स्थान, दिनांक एवं समय के अनुसार आयोजित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। उक्त परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनता के सुझाव, विचार एवं टिप्पणियाँ आदि आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। परियोजना से सम्बन्धित ई०आई०ए० एवं इसका संक्षिप्त अभिलेख निम्नलिखित कार्यालयों में उपलब्ध है :-

- अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि०/ रा०), मिर्जापुर।
- कार्यालय जिला पंचायत, मिर्जापुर।
- उपायुक्त उद्योग, जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केन्द्र, मिर्जापुर।
- क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, मध्य क्षेत्र, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पंचम तल, केन्द्रीय भवन, सेक्टर-एच, अलीगंज, लखनऊ।
- उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टी०सी० 12वीं, विमुक्ति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ।
- क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, 162, उत्तर मोहाल, निकट चण्डी होटल, राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनभद्र।

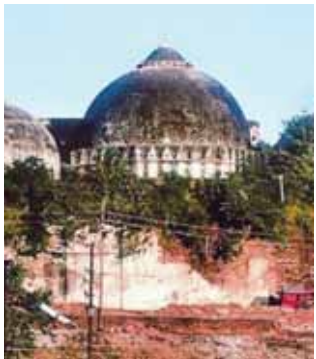
अतः सर्वसाधारण को इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रस्तावित अवयस्क खनिज खण्डा, गिट्टी/बोल्डर/ (बिल्टिंग/ सैंड स्टोन) के खनन हेतु पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति संबंधी प्रकरण के निस्तारण हेतु तहसील सभागार चुनार जनपद-मिर्जापुर में दिनांक 20.11.2019 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे लोक सुनवाई की कार्यवाही निर्धारित की गयी है, जिसमें आप उपस्थित होकर अपना सुझाव व आपत्तियाँ प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा सुझाव/ आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप से इस प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन की अवधि में उपरोक्त वर्णित कार्यालयों में प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

PAPER WITH PASSION

Ayodhya closure

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



A context effect is an aspect of cognitive psychology that describes the influence of environmental factors on one's perception of a stimulus. That's exactly what has happened in the Ram-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 Rashtira 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. Alarmingly over one in every five children in India is "wasted" (low weight for height), the highest for any country. This damning report is full of irony as from being an importer of food in the 1960s, when India had to rely on shipments from the US, today the country has become the largest exporter of rice in the world. We are the second-largest producer of both rice and wheat. Between 2012 and 2015, three years, India exported 63 million tonnes of grains. Besides, now we have a smart buffering capacity to deal with shortages and crisis. Why then are we slipping on hunger targets?

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

Who is an Indian?

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



AJOY KUMAR

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

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

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

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

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

On that fateful night, the brave deputy station 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 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 Nobel Prize for economics. His win adds to a very rich list of Indian luminaries.

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Senior Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh

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



Screenwriter —Javed Akhtar

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



UK Prime Minister —Boris Johnson

Parliament of India will not allow malicious efforts to succeed. We expect better from parliamentarians than 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 Duflo 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 short-sightedness. Consolidation of affairs is what is required. The issue of "conflict of interest" has become a stick to ridicule and browbeat some famed cricketers. Imagine a man like Rahul Dravid being asked to quit his job at India Cements to retain the junior head coach post. What and what not constitutes a job for profit must be defined clearly. However, bringing in the much-required "trans-



parency" and "accountability" into the daily functioning of the BCCI must be Ganguly's priority. One hopes only professionals occupy the BCCI 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

IRCTS'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 offtake 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 offtake 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 sop 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 Domsday prediction coming true. The Government is seen taking widespread reforms (not randomised) agenda, giving tax sops and announcing sectoral booster packages but the consumer is reluctant. Is it time for senior policy makers to actually start doing the rounds of the country to see the impact of the fiscal reforms on the ground? Would tweaking a few procedures actually help the economy recover? Maybe the answer lies in field trials.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



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

A stirred and shaken India

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



BZ KHASRU

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

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

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

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

Clash over Muslim migrants: This idea has provoked a sharp backlash 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

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

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

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

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

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

Can Delhi GRAPple with pollution?

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

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

ues unabated in spite of the activity being deemed illegal. According to a report by the Centre-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 on 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 to close above 39,000-mark

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 trading on a positive note through the day, the 30-share Sensex surged at the fag end of the session to end 453.07 points, or 1.17 per cent, higher at 39,052.06. It hit an intra-day high of 39,104.69 and a low of 38,557.43. 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 up to 15.19 per cent, followed 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. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended on a mixed note. Further, Chinese government's appeal to Washington to negotiate a quick end to their tariff war also buoyed market sentiment. Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated 24 paise to 71.19 against the US dollar intra-day.

Gold falls ₹ 105 on stronger rupee

New Delhi (PTI): 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.

Looking into BSNL issues: Prasad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Existence of BSNL is in strategic interest of the nation and the government is looking to resolve issues plaguing it, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Thursday. The law and telecom minister acknowledged that there are problems in the telecom sector, which are being looked upon by the government. "BSNL is in strategic interest of the nation. Whenever there is flood, cyclones, BSNL is the first one to offer services for free. 75 per cent of their revenue goes into salary of employees while others manage it in 5-10 per cent. There are legacy issues which we are looking in to," Prasad said at India Economic Conclave. The debt-ridden PSU has not been able to pay salaries of employees for September. There have been reports that the Finance Ministry wants public sector telecom firm BSNL and MTNL to be shut down. A group of ministers headed by Home Minister Amit Shah has approved a revival plan proposed by the DoT. The group of ministers

had earlier approved a revival package for the loss-making public sector telecom firms in mid-July. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad were part of the GoM that approved the plan. However, finance ministry officials later raised over 80 objections to the proposal prepared by the telecom ministry. Prasad said that the government is also working to resolve problem in the telecom sector, but it also expects service provider to be responsible by upgrading their network and ensuring that customers

are satisfied with the services. The minister did not give any timeline for the launch of 5G services in India, while the government has officially set target to roll out the next generation services by 2020. Prasad, however, said he would like India become a hub of 5G intellectual property rights and need to work carefully keeping in mind the development of global ecosystem. "We have given spectrum for demonstration purposes. I would like India to become good hub of 5G IP but we have to work carefully as to what

kind of ecosystem develops in the world as far as 5G is concerned. Will it come in one year or two year, it will create opportunity, it will create problem also," he said. He said that there are issues around 5G technology like who will be responsible if a driverless cars causes an accident. "There are many issues of 5G. Our Prime Minister is very clear that both artificial intelligence and 5G must be used for healthcare, education, in agriculture and we are very keenly pushing it," Prasad said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales declined 25 per cent in nine major cities to 65,799 units during July-September 2019 from 88,078 units in the same period last year. New launches fell to 33,883 units from 61,679 units during the period under review. These cities are — Mumbai Metropolitan Region (including Navi Mumbai & Thane), Pune, Noida (including Greater Noida & Yamuna Expressway), Gurugram (including Bhiwadi, Dharuhera & Sohna), Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Ahmedabad. "New launches continued to show a downward trend in

the September quarter even as the government continues to move towards a solution to the ongoing NFBC issue, a problem that has dried up a key source of finance for real estate developers in India. As buyers postponed their purchase decisions to time it with the festive season, sales numbers also fell during the quarter," said Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Elara Technologies. Singapore-based Elara is full stack real estate technology platform that owns PropTiger.com, Housing.com and Makaan.com. "While new launch numbers might continue to fall in

the coming quarters due to the liquidity crunch, we expect home sales numbers to improve in the subsequent quarter, factoring in the high-er purchase activity that normally takes place during the festival season," he added. According to the data, housing sales in Mumbai region fell to 21,985 units during July-September 2019 from 28,563 units in the year-ago period. In Pune, sales fell to 13,644 units from 16,946 units. In Bengaluru, demand declined to 7,772 units from 10,929 units. Housing sales in Hyderabad went down to 6,141 units from 6,783 units.

Housing sales in Ahmedabad fell to 3,951 units from 5,413 units, while demand dipped in Chennai to 3,656 units from 4,898 units. Kolkata saw sales of 3,081 units as against 4,030 units. Gurugram witnessed sales of 2,742 units as against 3,988 units, while Noida saw sales of 2,827 units compared to 6,528 units during the period under review. PropTiger said that unsold inventory declined 13 per cent year-on-year, primarily because new launches fell at a faster clip than sales did. As of September,

builders in India's nine top markets have an unsold stock consisting of 7,78,627 units. Notably, more than half of this unsold inventory is affordable stock. Barring Hyderabad where property prices have seen a jump of 15 per cent y-o-y, prices have undergone only slight changes in other markets. However, only two markets have seen a downward movement in pricing in the past one year, Gurugram (4 per cent) and Chennai (1 per cent). Other markets saw prices appreciation by 2 to 4 per cent y-o-y.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11466.30	11599.10	11439.65	11586.35	122.35	
YESBANK	41.90	48.20	40.70	47.40	6.35	
TATAMOTORS	127.10	144.35	125.10	142.55	16.70	
EICHERMOT	19500.00	20789.00	19455.00	20750.00	1529.40	
INDUSINDBK	1276.00	1345.00	1270.00	1340.00	65.50	
BAJAJAUTO	3009.00	3140.00	2995.00	3138.00	114.30	
SBIN	256.40	266.00	255.60	265.30	9.25	
TATASTEEL	346.00	361.35	340.35	359.90	12.50	
ASIANPAINT	1772.00	1816.65	1756.00	1811.00	45.30	
AXISBANK	690.50	712.40	690.00	710.35	16.95	
BAJAJFINSV	8154.00	8357.40	8102.00	8316.65	182.35	
COALINDIA	194.00	199.95	192.90	198.85	4.30	
MARUTI	6977.00	7155.55	6940.00	7126.00	151.00	
BAFINANCE	4020.05	4117.20	4001.00	4096.00	79.60	
BRITANNIA	3176.00	3266.35	3160.00	3235.00	58.25	
HDFC	2056.95	2095.00	2050.10	2085.45	36.75	
HINDUNILVR	2067.50	2108.00	2061.95	2106.50	35.50	
RELIANCE	1375.00	1399.00	1372.00	1394.95	22.60	
JSWSTEEL	213.20	224.70	214.35	223.75	3.45	
TCS	2014.00	2038.00	1999.30	2029.00	27.60	
GAIL	126.70	129.05	125.85	128.40	1.60	
ICICIBANK	436.00	443.35	433.70	440.75	5.45	
ZEEL	260.60	274.00	255.80	262.70	3.05	
HEROMOTOCO	2609.00	2644.00	2582.00	2631.00	28.65	
NESTLEIND	14383.00	14630.35	14160.00	14505.00	153.50	
ITC	244.00	246.70	243.85	245.95	2.30	
DRREDDY	271.00	2734.00	2699.00	2726.00	24.55	
NTPC	117.70	119.20	116.95	118.40	1.00	
M&M	581.10	596.35	578.75	589.00	4.75	
IOC	145.90	147.00	143.75	146.40	0.85	
HINDALCO	185.50	189.75	182.55	188.60	0.65	
UPL	585.00	593.70	580.35	590.60	1.85	
TITAN	1285.00	1285.55	1271.10	1276.40	1.45	
SUNPHARMA	401.60	402.55	398.60	400.00	0.30	
LT	1428.00	1438.60	1420.20	1425.00	0.80	
HDFCBANK	1227.50	1229.85	1213.10	1221.50	0.40	
BHARTIARTL	385.00	387.50	379.05	384.95	-0.30	
RPL	512.40	515.30	504.10	511.50	-0.90	
KOTAKBANK	1610.00	1613.60	1586.50	1602.00	-3.55	
WIPRO	248.90	250.15	246.60	248.30	-0.60	
INFY	767.00	770.55	765.10	769.40	-2.05	
CIPLA	445.30	447.70	439.40	445.50	-1.30	
TECHM	725.00	731.90	715.95	724.80	-2.90	
ONGC	141.10	141.90	139.15	140.95	-0.70	
ADANIPOR	409.10	411.20	404.60	407.95	-2.05	
POWERGRID	198.75	199.75	196.50	197.40	-1.15	
INFRAEL	255.00	257.95	253.55	255.60	-1.50	
ULTRACEMCO	4271.00	4280.00	4221.05	4254.05	-31.25	
GRASIM	728.15	730.85	712.00	725.50	-5.35	
VEDL	148.05	149.70	144.75	148.45	-1.45	
HCLTECH	1100.00	1102.20	1084.55	1089.20	-11.70	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	22725.60	22760.60	22720.80	22762.60	387.05	
NIACL	120.00	136.10	115.50	136.60	22.75	
IBULHSGFIN	168.45	204.00	165.80	197.40	24.35	
MOTHERSUMI	99.50	112.00	99.25	111.65	12.20	
PERL	1374.90	1495.00	1368.00	1464.40	88.70	
BERGLPAINT	472.00	490.75	470.00	488.00	17.35	
PAGEIND	20900.00	21755.00	20852.15	21524.95	708.35	
ASHOKLEY	71.40	74.10	71.00	74.00	2.35	
SBILIFE	880.00	928.50	880.00	903.60	26.25	
PNB	57.40	59.30	57.05	59.00	1.65	
L&T	83.05	86.00	80.70	85.45	2.35	
SRTANSFIN	1039.00	1075.00	1021.60	1068.00	28.45	
ICICIGI	1208.90	1249.00	1208.20	1239.90	32.65	
DLF	157.55	164.75	156.70	163.95	4.20	
AMBUJACEM	203.00	208.20	202.05	208.00	5.30	
DMART	380.05	389.90	378.80	389.90	9.45	
GICRE	279.00	279.60	261.00	266.85	6.25	
UBL	1298.40	1327.00	1289.90	1326.50	28.10	
HAVELLS	674.00	687.15	668.75	686.00	14.35	
BANKBARODA	87.30	89.45	86.30	88.90	1.60	
MCDOWELL-N	628.50	641.30	625.15	636.20	9.95	
BAJAJHLING	3632.00	3750.00	3610.05	3684.25	56.90	
DABUR	455.95	463.60	454.40	463.05	6.95	
ICICIPRULI	467.95	474.75	464.65	472.50	6.65	
GODREJCP	710.00	717.65	703.65	715.00	8.55	
CADILAH	234.70	238.50	231.20	237.20	2.50	
ACC	1525.00	1538.90	1507.20	1535.45	14.00	
SIEMENS	1610.20	1632.40	1608.40	1625.50	14.25	
PGH	1160.00	1185.00	1155.00	1167.00	87.15	
HDFCLIFE	612.95	622.00	610.00	615.00	4.40	
PETRONET	261.50	264.85	261.15	263.35	1.60	
INDIGO	1717.00	1742.15	1692.15	1734.00	8.20	
HINDZINC	211.45	213.75	209.60	211.55	0.95	
AUROPHARMA	462.45	468.45	457.00	465.75	2.05	
DIVISLAB	1723.00	1734.30	1705.10	1722.40	2.20	
COLPAL	1529.90	1535.20	1514.20	1526.10	0.10	
NHPC	23.35	24.60	23.00	23.40	0.10	
HINDPETRO	314.95	315.00	306.55	313.05	-0.10	
HDFC	2728.00	2735.15	2709.40	2715.00	-5.50	
PIDILITIND	136.10	1374.85	1353.00	1356.60	-4.30	
LUPIN	731.50	732.00	719.00	727.00	-5.85	
NMDC	102.00	103.20	100.40	102.00	-0.85	
PF	96.00	96.40	93.15	95.20	-0.80	
BOSCHLTD	14100.00	14350.10	13820.20	14007.05	-121.90	
BIOCON	257.60	258.85	255.00	257.30	-2.65	
CONCOR	607.50	609.50	597.45	597.90	-6.80	
SHREECEM	18650.00	18699.95	17750.00	18200.00	-395.85	
OFSS	3152.95	3168.00	3049.90	3082.55	-70.40	
BANDHANBNK	576.70	577.00	560.20	568.00	-15.60	
IDEA	6.40	6.40	5.95	6.35	-0.20	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	FRETAIL	
YESBANK	41.90	48.20	40.65	47.40	ICICIPRULI	383.40
IBULHSGFIN	169.80	204.00	165.95	197.15	INFIBEAM	467.50
RBLBANK	256.00	293.90	253.65	289.85	BOMDYEING	39.90
TATAMOTORS	126.95	143.80	125.15	138.15	ACC	72.00
HINDUNILVR	2068.00	2108.00	2061.85	2103.60	MANAPPURAM	1539.30
SBIN	256.00	266.10	255.85	265.45	ADANIGAS	135.50
MARUTI	6970.15	7157.00	6944.25	7123.10	BHARATFORG	144.65
RELIANCE	1378.00	1399.00	1372.15	1396.15	HAVELLS	147.05
TATASTEEL	346.95	361.25	340.40	355.65	ADANIPOWER	64.40
INDUSINDBK	1273.00	1342.00	1272.25	1338.10	LTE	68.00
COALINDIA	194.00	199.95	193.75	198.85	PAGEIND	61.10
MARUTI	6977.00	7155.55	6940.00	7126.00	CONCOR	1536.45
BAFINANCE	4020.05	4117.20	4001.00	4096.00	FINCER	1540.00
BRITANNIA	3176.00	3266.35	3160.00	3235.00	EXIDEFIRST	20937.50
HDFC	2056.95	2095.00	2050.10	2085.45	EDELWEISS	21737.00
HINDUNILVR	2067.50	2108.00	2061.95	2106.50	TITAN	597.70
RELIANCE	1375.00	1399.00	1372.00	1394.95	UJIVAN	40.10
JSWSTEEL	213.20	224.70	214.35	223.75	BANDHANBNK	38.65
TCS	2014.00	2038.00	1999.30	2029.00	NATIONALUM	30.35
GAIL	126.70	129.05	125.85	128.40	SIEMENS	57.95
ICICIBANK	436.00	443.35	433.70	440.75	SUNTV	67.50
ZEEL	260.60	274.00	255.80	262.70	M&MFIN	103.05
HEROMOTOCO	2609.00	2644.00	2582.00	2631.00	GAIL	50.70
NESTLEIND	14383.00	14630.35	14160.00	14505.00	MRF	129.05
ITC	244.00	246.70	243.85	245.95	RNA	125.90
DRREDDY	271.00	2734.00	2699.00	2726.00	ADANIPOR	65676.95
NTPC	117.70	119.20	116.95	118.40	ADANIPOR	62800.00
M&M	581.10	596.35	578.75	589.00	STRTCH	1282.00

UK, EU agree to a new Brexit deal

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Britain and the European Union finally reached a new tentative Brexit deal on Thursday, hoping to escape the acrimony, divisions and frustration of their three-year divorce battle. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson now faces the Herculean task of selling the accord to his recalcitrant parliament — including his allies in Northern Ireland.

Only hours before Brussels hosted a summit of the bloc's 28 national leaders, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker tweeted: "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."

Johnson tweeted that the two sides had struck a "great new deal" and urged UK lawmakers to ratify it in a special session being held Saturday — only the first time since 1982 that British lawmakers have been at work on that day.

"This is a deal which allows us to get Brexit done and leave the EU in two weeks' time," Johnson tweeted.

The pound hit a five-month high against the US dollar on the news.

Yet immediately complicating matters was Johnson's Northern Irish government allies, which didn't waste a minute before announcing they could not back the tentative Brexit deal because of the way it handled the Irish border.

der.

Johnson, however, needs all the support he can get to push any Brexit deal past a deeply divided Parliament and that knowledge tempered jubilation at the EU summit. The UK Parliament already rejected a previous Brexit deal crafted by former British Prime Minister Theresa May three times.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier has been through this scenario before.

"We have this history. That is why my mountaineering temperament keeps me careful and cautious," said Barnier, who hails from the French Alps and organized the 1992 Olympic Winter Games there.

Barnier was in the room when the leaders called each other and said Johnson "told President Juncker this morning that he believed he was able to get the deal approved," adding Johnson said he was "confident about his capacity to convince a majority."

The agreement must still be formally approved by the bloc and ratified by the European Parliament.

The key hurdle to a Brexit deal was finding a way to keep goods and people flowing freely across the border between EU member Ireland and the UK's Northern Ireland after Brexit. That invisible, open border has underpinned the region's peace accord and allowed the economies of both Ireland and Northern Ireland to

grow.

Johnson insists that all of the UK — including Northern Ireland — must leave the bloc's customs union, which would seem to make border checks and tariffs inevitable.

But Barnier said the deal "squares this circle" by leaving Northern Ireland inside the EU single market for goods — so border checks are not needed — and also eliminating customs checks at the Irish border. Instead, customs checks will be carried out and tariffs levied on goods entering Northern Ireland that are destined for the EU.

That effectively means a customs border in the Irish Sea — something the British government long said it would not allow and something Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party vehemently opposes.

DUP leader Arlene Foster and the party's parliamentary chief Nigel Dodds said they "could not support what is being suggested on customs and consent issues," referring to a say the Northern Irish authorities might have in future developments on the border. The party said their position was unchanged after the announcement of the provisional deal.

But the EU has compromised, too, by allowing Northern Ireland special access to its single market. And the deal gives Northern Ireland a say over the rules, something that was missing from May's



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson shakes hands with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker during a press point at EU headquarters in Brussels on Thursday. Britain and the European Union reached a new tentative Brexit deal on Thursday, hoping to finally escape the acrimony, divisions and frustration of their three-year divorce battle.

AP

previous rejected agreement. After four years, the Northern Ireland Assembly will vote on whether to continue the arrangement or end it. Johnson — who took office in

July vowing that Britain would finally leave the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal — on Wednesday likened Brexit to climbing Mount Everest.

Legislator Bim Afolami quoted the prime minister as saying "the summit is in sight, but it is shrouded in cloud. But we can get there."

Nirav Modi remand extended till Nov 11

PTI ■ 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 re-appear 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.

Any attempt by India to divert water would be aggression: Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan said on Thursday that it has "exclusive rights" over three Western rivers and any attempt by India to divert the flow of these rivers would be considered an "act of aggression".

Foreign Office spokesperson Mohammad Faisal made the remarks during his weekly media briefing here in response to a question regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks to stop water flowing to Pakistan. Addressing an election rally in Haryana early this week, Modi reportedly said that his government would stop the water flowing to Pakistan. Faisal said that Pakistan had "exclusive rights" over the waters of three Western rivers under the Indus Water Treaty.

"Any attempt by India to divert the flows of these rivers will be considered an act of aggression and Pakistan has the right to respond," he said, without naming the rivers.

Details of investment in J&K soon: Sitharaman

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The details of the government's policy to attract more investments in Jammu and Kashmir would be available very soon, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, listing out the potential the area carries for investors in sectors like tourism, handicrafts, silk, production of saffron and apple.

Sitharaman made the comments while responding to a question during an interactive session with investors at the IMF headquarters here on Wednesday. The event was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and US India Strategic and Partnership Forum.

"We have started working in terms of making sure that the full potential of Jammu and Kashmir from various different aspects (is achieved)," she said.

The minister listed out the investment possibilities Jammu and Kashmir carries in different sectors like tourism, fine arts, handicrafts,

wood work, carpets, silk, production of saffron and apple.

"I think sooner the details of it (new policy) will be available," she said.

India on August 5 scrapped Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In his address to the nation after revoking the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said state companies as well as private companies will be encouraged to create jobs for the local youth in the region.

"So very many things are all being put together to see how best a plan can be done," Sitharaman said.

Sooner, some kind of pattern would be worked out between the union home ministry and finance ministry and announced.

"Work is on," she said, while responding to a question from a Dubai-based investor who is trying to mobilise funds to invest in Jammu and Kashmir.

35 foreigners dead in Saudi bus crash: State media

AFP ■ RIYADH

Thirty-five foreigners were killed and four others injured when a bus collided with another heavy vehicle near the Muslim holy city of Medina, Saudi state media said on Thursday.

The accident on Wednesday involved a collision between "a private chartered bus... with a heavy vehicle (loader)" near the western Saudi Arabian city, a spokesman for Medina police said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

Those involved were Arab and Asian pilgrims, according to local media, who carried pic-

tures of the bus engulfed in flames and with its windows blown out. The injured have been transferred to Al-Hanna Hospital, SPA added, and authorities have launched an investigation.

The accident comes after four British pilgrims were killed and 12 others injured in Saudi Arabia when their bus collided with a fuel tanker in April 2018. They were on their way to the holy city of Mecca.

In January 2017, six Britons, including a two-month-old baby, were killed in a minibus on their way to Medina after making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

As part of efforts to diver-

sify its oil-dependent economy, the ultra-conservative kingdom wants to foster a year-round religious tourism sector that includes millions of pilgrims.

Up until last month, the country only issued visas to Muslim pilgrims, foreign workers and recently to spectators at sporting or cultural events, but tourists are now allowed to visit as part of the drive to prepare the biggest Arab economy for a post-oil era.

In September 2015, a stampede killed up to 2,300 worshippers — including hundreds of Iranians — in the worst disaster ever to strike the Hajj annual pilgrimage.

Indian envoy briefs US lawmakers on Kashmir

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, has briefed lawmakers on the situation in Kashmir and the steps taken by the government to maintain peace after Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked in August.

The briefing held on Wednesday, the first such by the top Indian diplomat here for members of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, took place amidst growing concern among US lawmakers on the curbs in Kashmir, several of which have been removed.

Since August 16, there has been a gradual removal of the curbs and by September first week, most were removed, officials in Jammu and Kashmir have said. The most prominent being

the restoration of post-paid mobile phone services on October 14 for 40 lakh subscribers across networks in Kashmir.

Several congressmen who were not members of the committee also attended the ambassadorial briefing and a majority of them were from the Opposition Democratic Party. Congressman Ami Bera was the only Indian-American lawmaker present at the briefing.

Shringla and other diplomats from the Indian Embassy here and its consulates in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston and San Francisco have reached out to hundreds of Congressmen and their aides after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Since August 5, the government besides restoring post-paid

mobile phone services, has opened the state for tourists. On August 17, partial fixed line telephony was resumed and on September 4, nearly 50,000 land-line phones were declared operational. Educational institutions are also open, but attendance has been thin.

The government has claimed that over 99 per cent of the areas in the state there are no restrictions on the movement of people.

Congressman Brad Sherman, who is holding a hearing on human rights in South Asia, in particular Kashmir, on October 22, said lawmakers have been hearing from their constituents and that there have been some alarming report of restrictions, on movement and communications and lack of access.

He however noted that some of these restrictions have been removed in recent days.

Interestingly, it is believed that Pakistan did not figure in the entire briefing that lasted for over 80 minutes. However, Shringla did mention the human rights situation in Pakistan and the issue of cross-border terrorism faced by India.

He briefed lawmakers on the historic context of the Kashmir problem, and the steps being taken by India post August 5. Shringla patiently responded to the questions from American lawmakers.

Lawmakers raised issues of missing persons, restrictions on movement and communications in the Valley.

Shringla refuted the allegations about missing persons and assured the lawmakers that if any

of their constituents cannot reach their families, he will personally ensure that the communication channel between them was established.

The ambassador told the lawmakers that most of the restrictions have been lifted and the rest are being gradually removed.

Mobile communication in the Valley was shut down to prevent externally aided terrorists from disturbing peace and inflicting casualties, according to authorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has already appeared before major Washington-based think tanks recently, articulating India's stand on Kashmir and defending the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Johnson hails great new Brexit deal

London (PTI): A Brexit deal has been agreed between the UK and European Union negotiating teams before a meeting of European leaders in Brussels, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Thursday. "We've got a great new deal that takes back control," he said on Twitter just before heading to Brussels for a crucial EU summit. The two sides have been working on the legal text of a deal, but it will still need the approval of both the UK and European parliaments. Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has cast doubt on its sign off, saying they still cannot support it. Britain is due to leave the European Union by October 31, with Johnson racing against time to strike a deal to meet that deadline.

UK MPs vote to hold rare Saturday session

London (AFP): British lawmakers on Thursday voted in favour of holding the first parliamentary session on a Saturday in 37 years, to debate the government's new Brexit deal. Members of the lower chamber House of Commons voted 287 to 275 in favour. It would only be parliament's fifth Saturday session since the eve of World War II.

EU's Juncker sees no need to delay deal

Brussels (AFP): The head of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker congratulated Prime Minister Boris Johnson on their Brexit withdrawal deal Thursday and said it meant no more delay is necessary. "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.

New deal 'good for Ireland and N Ireland'

Dublin (AFP): Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Thursday said Britain's new Brexit deal to leave the European Union would benefit the whole island of Ireland. "It's good for Ireland and NI (Northern Ireland)," the Irish premier wrote on Twitter after the agreement was announced at an EU leaders' summit in Brussels.

French President Macron confident

Brussels (AFP): French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed the Brexit agreement struck between the EU and London, and suggested it could be approved by sceptical British lawmakers. At a meeting of centrist leaders ahead of an EU summit in Brussels, Macron said he was "reasonably confident it can be ratified by a vote of the British parliament".

Global shares rally on tentative deal

BANGKOK (AP): Global markets were boosted Thursday by news that Britain and the European Union have agreed on an outline Brexit deal after days of intense negotiations. Benchmarks in London and Frankfurt rallied and Wall Street was positioned for gains when the market opens in New York. Although news of a Brexit breakthrough had investors optimistic, the deal must still be formally approved by the bloc and ratified by the European and UK Parliaments. In midday trading, the FTSE 100 in London added 0.5% to 7,202 and the British pound rose to its highest point against the dollar in five months.

Twitter: World leaders' accounts not entirely above policies

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Twitter says world leaders aren't entirely above its ban on users threatening violence or promoting terrorism on the site.

The San Francisco company is clarifying its rules as some Democrats say they would like to see President Donald Trump booted off Twitter, his favoured platform for filterless communication with the world.

But while Twitter says it will enforce its policies against any user when it comes to material such as child sexual abuse, direct threats of violence against a private individual, or posting someone's private information, it doesn't appear Trump's account is in imminent danger.

A blog post this week

expanded on Twitter's policy governing tweets.

In June, Twitter said world leaders' tweets that violate its rules but have a clear public-interest value might get a warning label. The label would provide context on the violation and let people to click through to see the tweet if they want to.

While Twitter said in June that it will not use its algorithms to "elevate" or otherwise promote tweets that have a warning label, it now says it also won't let people retweet or comment on them. People will still be able to "quote tweet" the material.

Quote tweeting lets users add their own message above someone else's tweet and post it on their own timeline.

This nuance shows the fine

line Twitter is trying to walk with its policy — it wants to promote free expression and allow people to comment on controversial tweets, but it doesn't want to promote them on their own, without context.

With all that, the company has yet to slap a tweet with a warning label since putting its policy into effect. So is it all for show? Below are some questions and answers about Twitter's policy.

On Tuesday, Twitter said it'll take action on any account — world leader or not — that makes clear and direct threats of violence against a person, depending on the context.

What is this context? A world leader interacting directly with another public figure, or

commenting on political and foreign policy issues, would "likely not result in enforcement," Twitter said.

"Foreign policy saber-rattling on economic or military issues are generally not in violation of the Twitter Rules," the blog post reads.

For instance, Trump has threatened Iran on Twitter, prompting his critics to call for his removal from the service. But based on Twitter's policy, that doesn't count as a violation.

But other things, such as promoting terrorism, posting someone's private information such as an address or phone number, promoting self-harm, engaging in child sexual exploitation or sharing intimate photos of someone without their consent could all get

a world leader kicked off Twitter.

Twitter wouldn't say what prompted Tuesday's blog post. But there's been growing pressure from Democrats, including presidential candidate and California Sen. Kamala Harris, to remove Trump from Twitter because of what they see as bullying and abuse.

In a public letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Harris listed offending tweets from Trump such as one on Sept. 29 when he wrote that he wants Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff arrested and questioned for "treason." "No user, regardless of their job, wealth, or stature should be exempt from abiding by Twitter's user agreement, not even the President of the United States," the letter reads.

But not only has Twitter not removed Trump, the tweets in question are without any warning label.

Even with Tuesday's explanation, it is not entirely clear what tweets from a world leader could get one.

Since Schiff is also a public figure, Twitter could say it doesn't count even if he is targeted by the president.

Twitter has critics on all sides. Keegan Hanks, research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project who focuses on far-right extremist propaganda online, called the policy statement a step in the right direction.

But, he added, Twitter is essentially arguing "that hate speech can be in the public

interest. I am arguing that hate speech is never in the public interest."

If Trump's tweets were to get a warning label, however, this could fuel his supporters' ire toward Twitter.

The president routinely complains, without evidence, that social media sites are biased against him and other conservatives.

Neither Facebook nor Google (or YouTube) have specific policies exempting world leaders from their rules.

But Trump's use of Twitter is unique as it is unprecedented, so other social media companies have not felt the same pressure to enact such a policy.

All the big social media companies generally ban direct

threats of violence, supporting terrorism, as well as hate speech and abuse.

But enforcement can be spotty on all counts, and context matters — even in the president's case, many of the tweets that offend his critics could fall in a gray area.

That said, Facebook's recently announced policy of not fact-checking politicians' posts or advertisements has drawn fire from critics including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, another Democratic presidential candidate.

To prove her point, Warren took out an ad on Facebook that purportedly made the false claim that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg had endorsed Trump for president.

US demands Syria ceasefire, Turkey defiant

AFF ■ ANKARA

US Vice President Mike Pence arrived in Turkey on Thursday to push President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for a ceasefire in Syria after Ankara rebuffed international pressure to halt its deadly offensive against Kurdish forces.

But 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 from Trump emerged in which he 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".

Pence is accompanied by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other officials.

Days after US troops abruptly began withdrawing, Turkish soldiers and their Syrian rebel proxies gained ground in Ras al-Ain, a key border town where Kurdish fighters had been putting up stiff resistance, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Turkish forces and the

mostly Arab and Turkmen former rebels they use as a ground force had "taken about half of the town" by Thursday morning, Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based war monitor, said.

The Observatory said more than 300,000 civilians were displaced within Syria since the start of the assault, and labelled it one of the largest upheavals since Syria's civil war began in 2011.

The monitor said nearly 500 people have been killed including dozens of civilians, the majority on the Kurdish side.

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 Observatory.

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.

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

Facing a barrage of criti-

cism 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."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov pointed out the "unusual" nature of the letter, saying it was "not often that such language is found in exchanges between leaders".

But Erdogan told the Turkish parliament that the only way to solve Syria's problems was for the Kurdish forces to "lay down their arms... destroy all their traps and get out of the safe zone that we have designated".

Trump again dismissed the idea that pulling out 1,000 troops — practically the entire US contingent in the region — had been a betrayal of Kurdish militants who bore the brunt of

the fight against IS in recent years.

Ankara says Syria's main Kurdish force, the People's Protection Units (YPG), is a "terrorist" offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a bloody insurgency inside Turkey since 1984.

Moscow has stepped into the void left by the US withdrawal, deploying patrols to prevent clashes between Syrian and Turkish forces.

The Kremlin and the Turkish presidency said Erdogan would meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin next week, as both sides seek to prevent a war between Turkey and Syria.

The Turkish government can count on widespread support for its operation at home, where a decades-long bloody insurgency by Kurdish militants has killed tens of thousands of people.

But Western powers fear it will endanger the fight against IS. Thousands of IS prisoners are held in Kurdish-run camps in the region.

Europe has taken an increasingly tough line with Turkey and several countries, including Britain, France and Germany, have imposed arms

embargoes on Ankara over the operation.

The UN Security Council warned in a unanimously adopted statement of a risk of "dispersion" of jihadist prisoners, but stopped short of calling for an end to Turkey's offensive.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said Wednesday they were "freezing" operations against IS.

The force's head Mazloum Abdi told Kurdish television channel Ronahi it would make do with "defensive" operations against the group, which maintains sleeper cells and a presence in Syria's vast desert despite its territorial defeat.

Since launching their assault on October 9, Turkey and its Syrian proxies have secured more than 100 kilometres of the border, but Ras al-Ain has held out.

Erdogan wants to create a buffer zone stretching 30 kilometres from the border into Syrian territory.

He wants to destroy Kurdish hopes of an autonomous enclave that Turkey fears could serve as a launchpad for attacks on its soil, and to resettle some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees Ankara is hosting.



Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrive at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., as they depart en route to Turkey. AP

Dispute over British family who say they strayed into US

AFF ■ LOS ANGELES

US authorities are disputing the account of two British couples who say they were held in dire conditions with their three young children for two weeks after mistakenly straying into the US from Canada.

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) arrested the seven family members on October 2 for entering the country unlawfully from British Columbia where they were vacationing.

The two couples said they ended up in the United States inadvertently after swerving down a road along the US-Canadian border to avoid hitting an animal.

They were deported overnight Tuesday and were back in Britain Wednesday, said immigration attorneys with Aldea — The People's Justice Center, a legal group that assisted them.

But officials have disputed the family's account of events, saying their vehicle was seen on video "slowly and deliberately"

driving across the border.

"A vehicle was observed via remote video surveillance system turning west onto Avenue 0 in British Columbia, Canada," CPB said in a statement to AFP on Wednesday.

"The vehicle then turned south and entered the US illegally, by slowly and deliberately driving through a ditch onto Boundary Road in Lynden, Washington." It said record checks revealed that two of the adults — who have filed a complaint with the Department of Homeland Security — had previously been denied authorization to enter the US.

"Canada refused to allow their return and two attempts to contact the consulate for the United Kingdom were unsuccessful," CBP said in justifying the family's detention.

Eileen Connors, 24, one of the Britons detained with her husband and three-month-old son, described the family's ordeal in a statement, saying it was "the scariest experience of our entire lives."

She said the group was turned over to immigration

agents in Washington state after sleeping on a "dirty floor" in a border patrol station following their arrest.

They were then transferred to a detention facility across the country in Reading, Pennsylvania, on October 5, where she said conditions worsened.

"This facility is frigid," said Connors in her statement. "The staff here first told us they cannot turn on the heat in the building until the end of next month," despite temperatures plunging at night.

Connors said her three-month-old son's health has suffered as a result of the poor conditions that included sleeping on a "filthy concrete floor."

She said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees offered to remove the baby after she complained, echoing accounts of parents separated from their children at the US southern border.

"If we wanted, we could sign papers to allow him to be separated from us and taken to some other facility," Connors said. "We were shocked and

disgusted." An ICE spokesman disputed Connor's account, describing the facility — Berks Family Residential Center — as having "an outstanding track record." In a statement to AFP, Aldea dismissed the CBP's justification for detaining the family and said it hoped the incident would shine the spotlight on the plights of many families and children in immigration custody.

"Their (CBP) communication in no way contradicts the family's account that for a brief moment they turned into an unmarked road on United States soil," the statement reads.

It added that the family was traveling in a Canadian rental car with enough cash to cover the expenses of a prolonged trip for a family of seven.

Connors said the incident had left the family "traumatized for the rest of our lives."

Last June, a French citizen visiting her mother in British Columbia was arrested by CBP and held for two weeks after straying across the border while jogging along a beach.

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.

But on Wednesday, Trump dismissed the very crisis he sent his aides on an emergency mission to douse.

Trump said the situation in northern Syria was uncontrolled and that the Syrian government was now protecting the Kurds.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday once again called on Turkey to stop its military offensive in Syria, telling parliament that the offensive "makes tens of thousands, among them thou-

sands of children, flee."

She said the military operation "a humanitarian drama with big geopolitical consequences," strengthening the role of Russia and Iran.

So far, Syrian troops have deployed in the border town of Kobani, further south and along a main highway to the west.

But fighting for the strategic town of Ras al-Ayn continued, as Turkish-backed fighters make a new push for the town where the Kurdish-led group has put up stiff resistance.

An Associated Press journalist on the Turkish side of the border reported heavy shelling into Ras al-Ayn.

An official with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said the town saw "insane bombing" from the air and land as the Turkish-backed fighters launched a three-pronged attack.

They advanced slightly in the town but there were "fierce battles," the official spoke on condition of anonymity to describe operational details.

The official also said Syrian

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.

government forces have deployed south of Ras al-Ayn, taking a rear position behind the Kurdish forces.

Syria's Kurdish fighters have allied with the US since 2014 to fight Islamic State militants. Abdi said the priority now is to stop Turkey's invasion. Abdi said his forces will decide what to do with detained IS prisoners and their families.

Philippine president bruised, scratched from motorcycle fall

AP ■ MANILA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte fell off his parked motorcycle on the palace grounds, suffering bruises and scratches, but the minor injuries won't affect his schedule, his spokesman said Thursday.

"While it is true that the president roamed around with his motorcycle," he fell after he had already parked it Wednesday night, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

Duterte was reaching for his shoe when he fell and had "light bruises and slight scratches to his elbow and knee," he said.

The president was resting on Thursday and his recovery will not require any "major medical procedure," Panelo said.

Other officials, however, gave what seemed to be conflicting accounts of the accident.

Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go, a former longtime aide of Duterte, said the president was driving his motorcycle when it skidded and he fell. As a result, the president was feeling some pain in the hip but Go said he was fine.

Brig. Gen. Jose Niembra, who is in charge of forces securing the president, told reporters without elaborating that Duterte did not fall from the motorcycle during the accident.



The 74-year-old president is an avid rider of big motorcycles like Harley Davidsons and has said he once had a serious crash during a long-distance run and could still feel those injuries.

A lack of regular medical bulletins on the president's health sparks sporadic speculation about the state of his health, especially when he has failed to appear in public for days.

When Duterte did not show up in public for more than a week in August, Panelo explained that the president was busy reviewing documents he needed to sign and stressed he was healthy because he managed to bike around in his hometown in southern Davao City.

"He got enthusiastic and rode out of the village enclave on a motorcycle, alarming the Presidential Security Group," Panelo told reporters then.

China irked by Nobel Peace Prize nomination for Hong Kong

AP ■ BEIJING

China called for foreign governments not to interfere in its affairs Thursday, after a Norwegian politician nominated the "people of Hong Kong" for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

Semi-autonomous Hong Kong has been hit by months of pro-democracy protests, which Beijing has portrayed as riots fuelled by foreign forces.

"Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs and no foreign government or individuals have the right to interfere," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a press briefing.

Geng called for the "relevant people to be objective and just" as well as "cautious." Activists say freedoms in the city are being eroded by Beijing — contrary to a 50-year deal that outlined Hong Kong's return to China from British rule.

"I have nominated the people of Hong Kong, who risk their lives and security every day to stand up for freedom of speech and basic democracy, to the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020," Guri Melby, a member of Norway's parliament for the liberal party, said in a Twitter post on Tuesday.

In an interview published by the newspaper Aftenposten on Wednesday, Melby added

that "what they do has an impact far beyond Hong Kong, both in the region and in the rest of the world".

Millions have taken to the streets of Hong Kong over the last four months in the worst political crisis since the 1997 handover.

Protests were initially against a now-dropped bid by its leaders to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland, but snowballed into a broader push for democracy.

Beijing has had a tense relationship with the Nobel Committee.

In 2010 the award was given to imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, a writer, philosopher and veteran of the

Tiananmen protests, who died of cancer in 2017.

Although the Nobel Committee is independent of the government in Norway, Beijing froze its relations with the Scandinavian country in response to the award, suspended negotiations for a free trade agreement and blocked imports of Norwegian salmon.

Relations between the countries did not normalise until December 2016, after Oslo committed to not "support actions that undermine" Chinese interests.

In 1989, the coveted peace prize was given to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who Beijing accuses of trying to split China.

Oppn protests suspend HK assembly session

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam was again forced from the legislative chamber because of protests Thursday by opposition members following a bloody attack on a leader of the nearly 5-month-old protest movement.

Pro-democracy lawmakers shouted and waved placards depicting Lam with bloodied hands, prompting their removal by guards and the suspension of proceedings.

A day earlier, Lam was forced to abandon an annual policy address in the chamber, later delivering it by television. Disruption in the chamber

and the attack Wednesday night on Jimmy Sham by assailants wielding hammers and knives marked the latest dramatic turn in the unrest that has rocked the city since June.

Protesters and police have both deployed levels of violence unseen since the former British colony reverted to Chinese rule in 1997. Prior to her departure, Lam reiterated that her "first priority" was ending the violence that has dealt a body blow to the local economy as well as Hong Kong's reputation as a safe, law-abiding center for finance and business with a sophisticated independent judiciary.

Lam said she was working

with the city's 180,000 public servants and transport authorities to restore order, although that task was made harder by members of the public sympathetic to the cause of the "rioters" as she termed the hardcore protesters.

However, she was forced to withdraw amid calls for her resignation, with pro-democratic legislator Claudia Mo shouting, "Carrie Lam, you are a liar."

The protests began in response to a now-withdrawn extradition bill that would have allowed criminal suspects to be sent for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts in mainland China.

The movement then bal-

looned to encompass broader clamors for universal suffrage, an independent inquiry of the policing methods used against protesters and other demands, including ending the description of protesters as "rioters."

Sham has been one of the public faces of the protest movement as a leader of the Civil Human Rights Front, which has organized large demonstrations.

He was on his way to an evening meeting in the district of Kowloon when four or five attackers pounced on him, leaving him with bloody head injuries but conscious, the Front said on its Facebook page.

It suggested the assault was politically motivated, linked "to a spreading political terror in order to threaten and inhibit the legitimate exercise of natural and legal rights."

Mo and other opposition legislators on Thursday suggested the attack on Sham may have been designed to frighten others away from protesting, or even to help provide a pretext for the government to call-off district council elections scheduled for next month.

"We can't help but feel that this entire thing is part of a plan to shed blood on Hong Kong's peaceful protests," Mo was quoted as saying for government broadcaster RTHK.

"If you think you're being peaceful and you're safe, you're not," Sham spent the night in hospital and his wounds to the head and arm were not considered life threatening, according to the station.

The assailants escaped in a vehicle and their identities remained unknown, although organised crime elements have long been accused of engineering attacks on protesters and leaders of the pro-democracy camp. Police last month arrested two people, including a 15-year-old boy, over an assault on Sham and his assistant while they were dining in a cafe. Sham was not injured in that attack.

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

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

As impressed as I was by WITC's aesthetics, I wondered whether 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 chaakna 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.

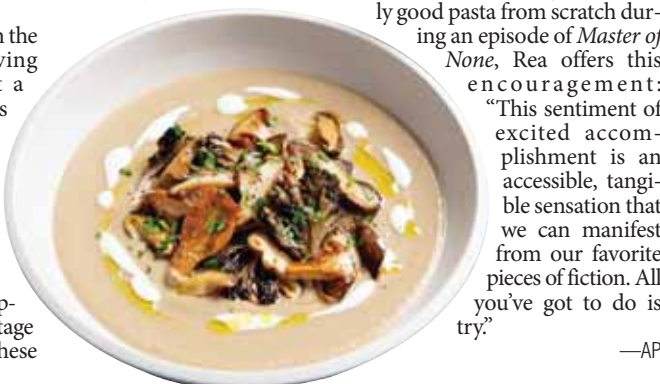
The focus is on the food. And the more tangential a recipe's connection to pop culture — like the beef Wellington only casually mentioned in a flirtatious riff delivered by John Slattery's Roger Sterling on an early episode of *Mad Men* — the more determined Rea seems to be to offer the best and most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



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

—AP

gorge us



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.



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



- 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 dish towel and let it rise for another 30 minutes at a warm place.

- Preheat the oven to 200 C.

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

Courtesy: Cicchetti by Mr Beans.

RECIPES



BRATHENDL (ROASTED CHICKEN)

WHAT YOU NEED

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

METHOD

● Clean and wash chicken, and then allow it to dry. You can also use kitchen towel for this.

- Mix salt, pepper, paprika powder, garlic paste, olive

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

- Pre-heat oven to 220-425 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.

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 Budhraj, "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 Deekshitha 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 Arrester) 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 Parasmurpuria (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 Parasmurpuria (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 theatre 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.*)

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 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 get the players fit, I'm going to make Marcus and Anthony score those scruffy goals, as that's what I did."



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 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."

Azhar likely to be Pak Test skipper

LAHORE: Pakistan's top-order batsman Azhar Ali is likely to replace Sarfaraz Ahmed as the national team's skipper in the longest format of the game while wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan could serve as his deputy.

Pakistan's head coach Misbah ul Haq is unhappy with Sarfaraz's performance and according to sources, Misbah has made it clear to the PCB that Sarfaraz should not continue as the captain of the Green Brigade but the board is unwilling to take any chance with a new captain on a tough tour of Australia.

According to reports, the management is experimenting with young players for the Australia tour and in case the team fails to deliver results, the management can give the excuse of the team going through a transition phase.

Nikhat 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 MC 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

AC Milan suffer record 146m euro losses

AFF ■ MILAN

Troubled former Italian footballing giants AC Milan have suffered record losses, according to reports in Italy.

Gazzetta Dello Sport claimed that in the year to June 30, 2019, losses rose by 16 percent to 146 million (\$ 162 million) euros compared to 126 million euros for the same period the previous year.

Gazzetta said the figures were far worse than the predicted loss of 90 million euros.

US hedge fund Elliott took over the debt-ridden seven-time European champions from Chinese businessman Li Yonghong in



July 2018.

The club's absence from European football has had an impact on merchandising and sponsors, with income from sponsors slipping by 6.7 million euros and ticket sales down by 1.2 million euros.

However, revenues from TV rights rose from 109.3

million to 113.8 million.

Milan finished fifth in Serie A last season but surrendered their Europa League berth after breaching UEFA's financial fair play rules.

Revenues from the sale of players in particular dropped from 42 million euros to 25.5 million euros.

To keep the club afloat, Elliott have injected 325 million euros in total up until this September, Sky Sport Italia reported.

On the pitch the 18-time Serie A champions are also in turmoil with Marco Giampaolo sacked as coach after just seven games and Stefano Pioli coming in as the club's eighth coach in five years. Milan won their

last Serie A title in 2011, and have not played in the Champions League since the 2013-2014 season.

The club are 13th place in Serie A, following a run of four defeats in seven games.

Italian media mogul and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who oversaw Milan's glory years during his 31-year ownership, sold the club to Li in 2017 with Elliott assuming control after the Chinese businessman defaulted on a loan payment.

AC Milan are currently working with city rivals Inter Milan on a new 1.2 billion euro (\$ 1.34 billion) stadium project to rebuild the San Siro and the area surrounding stadium to the west of the city.

LOCAL EVENTS

HOCKEY TRIALS

The state-level hockey trials for junior girl's will be held at Etawah from November 1. To qualify for the state trials, regional trials will be held at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Saturday at 2 PM. Interested may reach the venue along with their age-proof certificates.

EXCELLIA BAGS BRONZE IN CBSE CHESS



The students of Excellia School made the city proud by winning the bronze medal in the under-14 category in the CBSE East Zone Chess Championship held at Sharda Global School, Ranchi from October 12 to 15. Led by captain Medhanish Saxena, who bagged the first prize on table one by winning all the seven matches, the Excellia team remained undefeated. Divyansh Pandey, Arnav Tiwari and Ojasv Singh also contributed brilliantly. Chairman DS Pathak, Director Ashesh Pathak and the Principal Sonia Vardhan expressed their happiness on the win.

MASTERS AQUATIC C'SHIP

UP Swimming Association is organising the Masters Aquatic Championship at SAI regional centre and KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium simultaneously from October 18 to 20. UPSA president Maharaja Ranjit Singh Judeo informed the mediapersons that around 1000 participants would be taking part in one of the biggest events UP has ever organised.

Racists must be 'kicked out' of stadiums: FIFA boss

AFF ■ SOFIA

Racists must be "kicked out" of stadiums, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Thursday, as he pressed for a worldwide ban on spectators who abuse black footballers.

Speaking days after England's Euro 2020 qualifier in Bulgaria was twice stopped because of chants targeting English players, Infantino insisted the world body would punish racism.

"If there are racists that abuse footballers, we have to stop the game," he told a press conference on a visit to Dhaka.

"We cannot let the racists win. The football has to continue and we have to punish the people," Infantino said during his visit.

He added it was now easy to identify the culprits in modern stadiums with closed circuit TV and that a "strong message" must be sent.

"They have to be taken, kicked out of the stadium, they must not be allowed to enter into football stadiums any more, and criminal proceedings should be brought against them."

"It's a crime and it should be a crime in all countries of the world to commit a racist abuse," he said.

The best of the Toughest PKL- 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The seventh season of VIVO Pro Kabaddi League has entered its twilight stages, with the grand final between Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors looming. Interestingly, VIVO PKL will have a new winner whatever be the result, with both teams playing their first final of India's top Kabaddi tournament.

The final itself is testimony to the competitive nature of season seven that saw favourites stumble while young stars scripted new records. Three-time champions Patna Pirates failed to reach the playoff stages despite another stellar season for Pardeep Narwal while pre-season favourites Tamil Thalaivas' poor run reminded everyone how Kabaddi is a team sport and not just about a group of talented individuals.

A SEASON OF HIGHS

'High-flyer' Pawan Sehrawat was once again the standout raider of the season and brought Bengaluru Bulls within touching distance of a place in the finals. The defending champions were heavily reliant on Pawan's raiding skills and he scored 346 points in 24 match with 18 Super 10s and a staggering strike rate of 75%. While Naveen Kumar didn't exactly match Pawan Sehrawat's points, his 20 consecutive Super 10s was the key in Dabang Delhi's road to the finals. The 20-year-old, a produce of the Future Kabaddi Heroes (FKH) programme, scored 283 points in 22 matches, and will end the season behind only Pawan Sehrawat and Pardeep Narwal



(302) in overall points.

Ever since the dawn of the VIVO PKL, Kabaddi as a sport has evolved, and season seven was once again proof to the fast changing nature, with the defenders having a bigger say in results. While UP Yoddha's Nitesh Kumar couldn't match his 100-point tally from last season, you could see a distinct changes in approaches as the corners starting tackling more eagerly. In fact, the success of teams like U Mumba, UP Yoddha and Bengal Warriors was down to effective corners. U Mumba's 'Sultan' Fazel Atrachali topped the chart with 82 tackle points. UP's duo of Sumit and Nitesh Kumar scored 77 and 75 respectively while Sandeep Dhull clinched 73 despite playing for a Jaipur Pink Panthers side that failed to qualify for the playoffs.

A FINAL ON MERIT

The League stage's top two teams — Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors — will fight it out for the coveted trophy tomorrow. Both teams have shown remarkably consistency throughout the season and deserve a shot at the title for their all-round performances. The Bengal corner combination of Baldev Singh and Rinku Narwal will be keen to stop Naveen Express' Kumar from reaching another Super 10 while at the other end the experienced duo of Ravinder Pahal and Joginder Narwal will look to thwart the Bengal raiders. The Warriors haven't been beaten by Delhi this season but it remains to be seen if their talisman Maninder Singh will be fit enough to start against Dabang.

Federer to play French Open in 2020

AFF ■ PARIS

Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer on Thursday said he will play the French Open in Paris next year.

"I will play the French Open. I probably won't play much before that because I need some time away from it (tennis) and I need some time with the family," the 38-year-old told CNN.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion returned to Roland Garros this year after a three year absence, falling to Rafael Nadal in the semi-finals.

Federer has confirmed he will compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics after Wimbledon and prior to the US Open.

But his priority before the French Open which he has won only once in 2009 will be a family vacation.

"We need a vacation, we need a break, and especially if I am playing the Olympics and all that," he said.

In Tokyo he will be in competition for a men's singles Gold medal, the only major prize he has yet to win.

Earlier this week he said he had been debating with his team on his programme after Wimbledon and before the US Open.

"At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again," he said.



Eye opener

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

PTI ■ RANCHI

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

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

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

“It’s always a good learning curve coming to India.”

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

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

“We can still get 40 points by fol-



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

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.

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, Quinton 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.



Self destruction

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

his injury.”

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

He left for South Africa on

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

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



Score heavy in 1st innings: Faf tells SA batsmen

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

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

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

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

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

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



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, Shafiuul Islam.

Reputed coach can help Indian sprinters: Carmelita

CPTI ■ 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.

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.”

SL names T20 squad for Aus tour

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka’s T20 skipper Lasith Malinga along with Kusal Perera and Niroshan Dikwella, who skipped the recent Pakistan tour citing security fears, were on Thursday included in a 16-man squad to play against Australia.

The opening match will be at the Adelaide Oval on Oct 27 with the second at Gabba on Oct 30 and the final game at the MCG on November 1.

The squad: Malinga, K Perera, K Mendis, D Gunathilaka, A Fernando, D Wickkell, D Shanaka, S Jayasuriya, B Rajapaksa, O Fernando, W Hasaranga, L Sandakan, N Pradeep, L Kumara, I Udana & Kasun Rajitha.

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 reaches Antwerp QFs



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.