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MONEY 6

NEED TO ENHANCE GLOBAL RISK MONITORING: FM

SPORT 7

KIWIS TAKE 1ST INNINGS LEAD

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2020; PAGES 8-4 ₹3



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Disorientation of anti-CAA lobby is understandable

There is little doubt that in her zeal to be wilfully outrageous, the 19-year-old Amulya Leona Noronha seriously embarrassed most of the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act fraternity when she chanted 'Pakistan zindabad' from podium at a protest rally in Bengaluru. Certainly, the alacrity with which the stalwarts of the protest, including AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, snatched the mike from her indicated the panic.

The disorientation of the anti-CAA lobby is understandable. Since December 13 last year when the protests began, the Muslim community – which has been in the forefront of the anti-Narendra Modi stir – has been at pains to demonstrate that their opposition to the changes in the Citizenship Act is grounded in their status as patriotic Indians. The national flag, the Constitution and photographs of both Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar have been generously used in the rallies and extended dharnas. The national anthem too has been lustily sung on innumerable occasions. Under the circumstances, the teenager's invocation of Pakistan – whatever may have been its convoluted underlying logic – was clearly outside a set narrative.

Amulya's zindabad to Pakistan also came within a day of AIMIM national spokesperson Waris Pathan's boast that 15 crore of Muslims have the ability to make 100 crore others tremble – a threat that most people will undeniably view as both menacing and sinister. Add to this earlier utterances by different protesters espousing either a form of sectarian separatism or praising Mohammed Ali Jinnah and it is possible to understand why many people detect a hidden agenda behind the anti-CAA protests.

Arguably, such a conclusion may be unfair. The stalwarts of the anti-CAA have been at pains to link their protests to an exalted 'idea of India'. Someone like Owaisi has sought to reinvent himself and detach his organisation from the inheritance of the Razakars who fought against Hyderabad's integration into India in 1947-48. **Turn to Page 4**

'Historic moment for Indian sports'

Khelo India Varsity Games inaugurated

PNS ■ CUTTACK

It was a historic moment for Indian Sports. With the launch of Khelo India University Games, India has entered the league of countries where university games are organised at this level, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the inaugural edition of the Khelo India University Games which kicked off at the Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

Speaking to the gathering through videoconferencing from New Delhi, the PM declared the games open and exhorted the athletes to better their performances.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "It is a moment of great pride for us to be hosting the first edition of the Khelo India University Games, here in Odisha in association with the



Government of India and the KIIT University.

The games will provide a great platform to showcase sporting talent at the national level.

"I welcome all of you to the sport-loving State of Odisha. I wish all the athletes the very best for their sporting events," Patnaik added.

A 45-minute colourful cultural and entertainment show marked the ceremony, in which Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju were present.

As many as 4,000 spectators enjoyed the dazzling ceremony in the stadium even as many watched it on LED screens outside it.

Puri seer's concerns send admn on toes

After he wrote to Prez over his safety



PNS ■ PURI

Following a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind from Puri Sankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati that there was a threat to the seer, his mutt and the prominent visitors, the district administration has swung into action.

The State Government asked the district administration to address the concerns of the Sankaracharya forthwith. Puri SP Umashankar Dash said they would examine the matter first and take actions accordingly.

The letter from Sankaracharya was sent on February 2. Besides, copies were sent to the Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, Loka Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman. It mentioned growing antisocial activities surrounding his ashram premises.

Why BJD so weak towards English? BJP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Saturday alleged that the BJD is unnecessarily misleading people by opposing use of Hindi by the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

"The order issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not asked to stop use of Odia. Doctors and nurses will talk to patients in Odia. No restriction has been made in this regard. The BJD is unnecessarily misleading people baselessly," said senior BJP leader Kharabela Swain.

Swain alleged that the BJD doesn't want use of English lessened. Its (BJD's) protest against use of Hindi in official work has proved this, he said. He wanted to know why BJD is so companionate to English.

Stating that MBBS and Nursing students are being taught in Odia at the AIIMS, Swain demanded that the Government and the BJD make it clear in which language officials letters being written by the SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack, MKCG MCH, Brarhmapur and VIMSAR, Burla.

Hindi row won't affect health services: AIIMS

But BJD MPs, MLAs meet Dir, seeks order withdrawal

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A day after an office circular of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar for use of Hindi by its employees in official work sparked sharp reactions in political and other quarters like the Utkal Sammilani in the State, the institute's director Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane on Saturday "clarified" that the order would not have any effect on the healthcare services at the hospital.

"The circular is an internal memo which was circulated...because this is something called Official Language Act and we are supposed to comply with it. However, healthcare services for patients will remain unaffected," she said.

On the other hand, on the day, a team comprising BJD MPs Pinaki Misra, Anubhab

Mohanty, Prasanna Acharya, Amar Patnaik, Sarojini Hembram and Sasmit Patra and MLAs Sarmishha Sethi and Susant Rout met the AIIMS Director and submitted a memorandum of the State's ruling party demanding withdrawal of the office order.

"We are the first State to be formed on a linguistic basis; and we will not allow anybody sidelining our mother tongue, particularly by any institution that is working for the people of our State. We will insist on Odia being used since our people are familiar with it and that will make their task of availing service at the AIIMS easier," read the memorandum.

Notably, the office circular signed by AIIMS, Bhubaneswar Deputy Director PK Ray on Thursday asked officials in the administration, academic section, finance and accounts and the heads of departments to carry out their works in Hindi under the provisions of the Official Language Rules, 1976.



Incredible India



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SHOW TIME

Delightfully cute love story



SHUBH MANGAL ZYADA SAAVDHAN
*ing: Ayushmann Khurrana, Jitendra Kumar, Gajraj Rao, Neena Gupta
Rated: 7.5/10

A movie on gay relationships? Most people would balk at even thinking about going to a film that talks about LGBTQI community let alone watch two men kiss each other not once but twice. Even though the Government has decriminalised homosexuality by declaring Section 377 IPC as unconstitutional, the society has yet to come to terms with the love same sex. In their mind, it is not normal love.

But like Ayushmann Khurrana, who plays Kartik, in the movie rightly said: What is normal? We have grown up on a diet of love stories that talk about love between a man and a woman. We have grown up rote learning Jack and Jill poem. Why did the poem not talk about Jack and Johnny? This is the question that we should all be asking ourselves. Fifty years back, nobody would have thought that there would be a device

that allowed wireless communication. But here we are, totally dependent on our smartphones. This is our normal today. People love their cat/dog. They leave properties to them. We call them crazy but do we shun them? Why can't love between same sex people be normal and why can't families accept it?

Like Khurrana's character rightly says: *Roz hume ladaayi ladni padti hai zindagi mein par jo ladaayi parivaar ke saath hoti hai woh saari ladaayi sabse badi aur khatarnaak hoti hai.*

Shubh Mangal... touches a cord that plus a cord like no other because it is one of the best love stories that Bollywood has made in the recent past, the last being *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* back in 2013. If only the director, Hitesh Kewalya, had released this film on Valentine's Day because the movie is less about homosexuality and homophobia and more about how two people who are in love should stay together rather be caught in a loveless marriage.

The banter and funny dialogues between Gajraj Rao (Shankar Tripathi) and

Neena Gupta, his onscreen wife – Sunaina, among the family members, between Rao and Kartik is what makes Shubh Mangal... such a delight. What is even cuter and sweeter are the detailing that has gone into Khurrana's character. It is absolutely impossible to miss the nose ring, the pink dupatta and the cape he wears while proclaiming from the roof top that Shankar Tripathi is a homophobic.

Then there are the brilliant performances by the actors. Khurrana has once again proved that is a great actor. His demeanor and expressions are bang on and such a delight to watch. He is the life and soul of this movie. Then there is Jitendra Kumar who plays Aman Tripathi, Kartik's partner who compliments Khurrana. A special mention here for Rao, Gupta, Manurishi Chaddha and even Maanvi Gargoo. While Khurrana helms the movie, the rest of the starcast do their best and make this such a delightfully cute love story.

However, if you are a homophobic, stay away!

— Shalini Saksena

This is a sinking ship

BHOOT PART ONE: THE HAUNTED SHIP
*ing: Vicky Kaushal, Bhumi Pednekar, Ashutosh Rana
Rated: 3/10

There are a few genres on which Bollywood should never attempt to make movies. First, of course is comedy. Vir Das has rightly said: Indians have not learnt the art of laughing at themselves. Second, and *Bhoot: The Haunted Ship*, falls under this category is horror. There was a time when Bollywood had some incredible horror movies to its name like *Mahal* and *Bees Saal Baad*. Then came the era of Ramsay Brothers. While these movies had the bhoot, it lacked the scare factor. Not the spine-chilling expression of teenage Damien in *Omen*.

One has to understand that everything that goes bump at night and strange clanking noise doesn't constitute horror. That is what ails this latest ghost movie. Bhanu Pratap Singh

may have used a ghost ship to tell his story that already has a history of haunting and the entire crew mysteriously committing suicide, the creepy looking ghost or the victim it has possessed and kept with it for more than 10 years is more on the lines that the bhoot needs psychiatric treatment rather than be exorcised.

While Vicky Kaushal may be the only saving grace of this sinking ship, the fact remains why he chose to do this film in the first place given that the storyline and the script of this film is not a patch on the kind of movies Kaushal has picked up in the recent past like *Uri* and *Manmarziyaan*. Sad that Ashutosh Rana who has been in the industry for more than two decades would say yes to this project.

There are several lose ends at the climax. If the director was looking at a *Bahubali: The Beginning* kind of end, he failed miserably.

Only see this one if you are a horror film fan.

— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Sunday

Colour Me Colour You
Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
When: February 23, 2020
Time: 10 am to 8 pm

We all look for meaning, we all search for our goals. Is there really a purpose? Are we all one and together or just wandering soul. In this journey of life, I found a little of myself, in water, in brushes, in paints, and in color, I see, a little of you and a little of me.

Expression of feelings and deep emotions through art is a medium for me to find balance in life. Life, which is uncertain and prone to change leaving us to struggle and process complex human behavior and circumstances.

Through a string of emotions that tie us together, I truly see a part of me in you and a part of you in me.

In this exhibit, the artist have used acrylic colors to evoke the innumerable and uncountable emotions, soulful expressions and the beauty, divinity, and rawness of a woman.

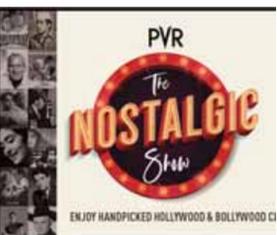
Hope that you see in her a little bit of you and a little bit of me.



Around the world in 80 days
Venue: PVR outlets in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai
Date: February 23, 2020

Take a weekend trip down the memory lane with special screenings of the Hollywood Classic, "Around the world in 80 Days (1956)" under PVR's property "The Nostalgic Show". The iconic adventure-comedy drama will be screened at eight locations in four cities today. The Nostalgic Show offers movie buffs an opportunity to enjoy their favourite, handpicked iconic classics on the big-screen. There is an exciting line up of films for this curated show including *Gone with the Wind*, *Bicycle Thieves* and *Stage Coach*.

Enjoy handpicked Hollywood classics in your nearest PVR cinema! You can book your seats via PVR mobile app & website.



'Need to have more real stories'

From playing Vishnu to Krishna to Akbar and now a chef, SOURABH RAJ JAIN has donned several hats. He speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about what made him take up the latest role and his favourite pastime, among other things

❖ **What made you say yes to the role?**
The character, the storyline of course, the concept of the show, and the backstory that my character had intrigued me the most. It was also after my meeting with the producers of the show Rajita Sharma and Vivek Budakoti who are also writers of the show, that I was thoroughly convinced to take it up.

❖ **Any similarities that you share with your character?**
The one similarity that I share with Neil Oberoi is being passionate about whatever I take up in my field. While Neil is a very passionate cook, I am in real life passionate about my acting and whatever I showcase on screen. So that way, my character and I are very similar when it comes to our careers.

❖ **What should the audience look forward to in the show?**
I am showcasing myself in a different genre after very long, so that is something the audiences should definitely look forward to. Other than that the backstory that my character has been unveiling through the course of the show has been very interesting, and something that the audiences too would like to know more about.

❖ **From Remix to Patiala Babes, how has your journey been?**
The journey has been overwhelming, amazing and one that I am extremely proud about. Through the years I have got to experiment with so many different genres, roles and concepts, and as an actor there is nothing better that I could have asked for!

❖ **You have explored different genres and have done variety of roles. How did the transition happen?**
Experimentation of course! Because as an actor if you don't experiment with and try out new genres and mediums, you are never going to grow or learn. And for me being diverse with my skills in such a field is extremely important.



THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING, AMAZING AND ONE THAT I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF. I HAVE GOT TO EXPERIMENT WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT GENRES, ROLES AND CONCEPTS AND AS AN ACTOR THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAT I COULD HAVE ASKED FOR

❖ **What was the most challenging role?**
I have done so many roles in the years gone by and to be honest all of them have been challenging. Every role demands a different side of me, so each of them has actually had me experience a different challenge altogether.

❖ **A change that you would like to see in the industry for actors or other working professionals?**
I feel that our industry needs to open doors to more real concepts and storylines, specially with the youth of today who are always looking out for new things to watch. There has to be a certain section content which caters to them, as they are our biggest critics and the bright future of tomorrow.

❖ **Apart from acting what else keeps you busy?**
Spending quality time at home with my family is something I always look forward to post shoot.

❖ **Upcoming projects?**
As of now I am very caught up with *Patiala Babes*, so that's the only thing I am working on at the moment.

TELLYTALE

HIMESH'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE



The finale of India's biggest singing reality show had to be grand and to make this celebration double the cast of the much-awaited movie *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* graced the stage of *Indian Idol* to boost the morale of our top 5 contestants and promote their movie. Ayushmann, Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta and Gajraj Rao was welcomed by the Indian idol team.

Himesh Reshammiya praised Ayushmann for his amazing acting and singing skills. He also remembered that when Ayushmann was hosting a show in 2009 he has predicated something about him. Himesh met him at that time when he came to promote a movie, he foreseen at that time Ayushmann will become a superstar and this prediction of his came true. Himesh was over overwhelmed to meet Ayushmann and wished him all the luck for his movie.

PUJA TO PLAY VAISHNO DEVI

Star Bharat's mythological show *Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishno Devi* — *Kahani Mata Rani Ki* has mesmerised audiences with its amazing story and star cast. Recently, the show has completed 100 episodes. But a big twist is coming in the story of this show. Maisha Dixit, who played the younger Vaishno Devi in the show, left no stone unturned to win the audience with her spectacular performance. The show is set to take a leap and it is going to excite the audience with its more twist and turns. Puja Banerjee will enter the show after the leap where she will be playing the role of elder Vaishno Devi in the show. We will get to see elder Vaishno Devi who will be more powerful and beautiful.

Let me tell you that many popular actresses were being considered for the role of elder Vaishno Devi, for which talented and famous actresses like Diana Khan, Niyati



Fatani, Samiksha Jaiswal and Anushka Sen were approached. Finally, actress Puja Banerjee was finalised for the role. Its shooting will also start from next week. The leap will be aired on the Star Bharat channel from the first week of March.

When spoken to the actor Puja Banerjee said that: "It is a great pleasure for me to be selected for this role. Along with this, many of my old memories have also been refreshed as I had done a mytho show with this channel earlier. The previous role in mytho got me a lot of appreciation from the audience. I wish that history would be repeated again through this show. I hope the audience shower the same love."

RECREATING B-TOWN'S ICONIC JODI

Commitment and dedication are the keys to success & nobody knows it better than the budding talents of Rajshri Productions, Anagha Bhosale, and Ankit Raizada. The actors have been winning the hearts of the viewers with their performance as Shraddha and Shlok in Star Plus' *Dadi Amma... Dadi Amma Maan Jao* & are pulling out all stops to get their on-screen avatars right.

Recently, the actors had to re-create the iconic and blockbuster *jodi* — Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit's chartbuster song on the show and we couldn't take our eyes off them from the few glimpses that we had a chance to see. Taking inspiration from Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit's styling to shaking their legs and imitating the signature steps, the actors did it all!

Commenting on recreating the song, Anagha shares: "It is a dream come true feeling for me. Madhuri Dixit has been my biggest inspiration. Getting to perform on her song and wearing the exact clothes had taken me to cloud nine! Moreover, we had a



very hectic schedule so I had to rehearse the song within a span of 30 minutes and it was quite challenging. I watched the video of the original song several times to gauge Madhuri's expressions and ensured I focused on getting those right while I was shooting for the song."

Adding further, Ankit Raizada shared: "It is literally a different kind of feeling for me as *Hum Apke Hai Kaun* is one of my favorite movies. Additionally, working for the same production, wearing the same clothes and shaking a leg on my biggest inspiration Salman Khan's song *Didi Tera Dewar* was unbelievable for me. Although I know I

cannot match up to his persona and talent, from my side it's a small tribute to my style icon."

Well, we can't wait to watch the duo's outstanding performance on-screen!

AN UNMISSABLE NIGHT WITH VH1

VH1 celebrates 40 years of British brilliance at TheBRIT Awards 2020, airing on February 24, 2020 exclusively on the channel. Don't miss out on the best moments from the glitzy awards night: Billie goes Bond: After a clean sweep at the GRAMMYS, Billie Eilish's performance was the most awaited from a stellar line-up. The starlet from Los Angeles teased audience with a live debut of the new theme song from the upcoming James Bond movie *No Time to Die* creating a frenzy at the O2. Billie signed off the night by taking home the International Female Solo Artist award.

Lewis Capaldi's tribute to his grandmother: Lewis Capaldi's second outing at the BRIT Awards turned out to be historic for him as he swept top awards at the night, winning Best New Artist and Best New Song for his single *Someone You Loved*. He credited his late grandmother for being the inspiration behind the hit single.

Dave's larger than life performance: London-based rapper Dave delivered a rare hip-hop performance as he played the piano while performing to his single *Black*. His versatility left fans speechless. Having led the nomination race with Lewis Capaldi, Dave had much to cheer on the night as his album *Psychodrama* was awarded British Album of the Year.

VARUN SHARES WEIGHT LOSS MANTRA

It's true when they say size does not matter, but fitness does for sure! This has been proved by none other than Television's senior actor, Varun Badola, who has been adored by the audiences for his depiction of Amber Sharma in *Sona Entertainment Television's* show, *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan*. As we all know that Varun was asked to gain 12 kgs for his character, he is also sizing down as his character shifts from a grumpy dad to an ideal partner.

As he works towards his goal of a fit middle-aged man, Varun shares his weight loss and fitness secrets! Following the path of intermittent diet, Varun Badola eats only twice a day without giving up on his favourite yet healthy food. Sharing his weight loss mantra, Varun says: "It's not easy to follow the intermittent fasting, while the rest of the world follows a particular meal time, I have my first meal of the day at 12 pm which is a mix of everything! Between 12 pm to 8 pm I can have a balanced meal and as much as I want. But from 8 pm to 12 pm I can't have anything. It works very well with my shoot schedule. I work out rigorously over the weekend. This has helped me lose a lot of weight in the past one and a half months. And right now it's the ask of the character."

Along with intermittent fasting, Varun is also working out in the gym whenever he gets the time.

Gandhi Peace Centre unveiled in BBSR

Include Ahimsa in Constitution Preamble, reiterates Naveen

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the State's first Gandhi Peace Centre near the Khandagiri-Udaygiri caves here on Saturday.

The centre, built on a five-acre of land, is a digital interactive museum promoting Gandhian values and principles among the people, particularly youths.

The centre, set up with the support of the Aditya Birla Group, has six galleries, where memorabilia and articles used by Gandhiji are on display.

The centre will conduct a multimedia show on the Father of the Nation's ideology of truth, nonviolence and policy of Jainism till March 15. Besides, a debate and a Bhajan programme will also be organised.

Notably, the State Government had signed an MoU with the Aditya Birla Group in 2017 for operation and management of this interpretation centre and decided to rename it as Eternal Gandhi Peace Centre. The MoU is valid for 15 years.



The Chief Minister said, "The dedication of the Gandhi Peace Centre here today in the 150th years of Gandhi's birth anniversary assumes significance." The centre would provide an institutionalised platform to awaken consciousness about life and works of Gandhiji and educate people to realise the deeper significance of his ideals, he said.

"India achieved freedom in 1947. By this time, nonviolence had become truly global, an identity of India-ness, and a more potent weapon than violence," Patnaik said.

"India achieved freedom in 1947. By this time, nonviolence had become truly global, an identity of India-ness, and a more potent weapon than violence," Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister reiterated his demand for incorporation of Ahimsa (nonviolence) in the Preamble of the Constitution during Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and

Rural Development chairperson Rajashree Birla said, "We felt that to set up insightful galleries in different parts of India, where Gandhiji's imprint is more than discernible would be an act of deep homage (to him). Odisha is the right choice."

She added, "Naveen Patnaik epitomised Gandhian values and that the Mahatma felt a kind of spiritual connect with Odisha. It was the place that he visited eight times. His trust with Odisha began in 1921 as part of his nationwide journey to spread his ideals of Satyagraha, Swaraj and Ahimsa.

It became intense when he saw the frugal, precarious living conditions of the poverty-stricken, the ill-treatment of the Harijans, and the huge unemployment."

Woman gang-raped in Bhadrak

While returning from Shivratri fest

PNS ■ BHADRAK

A woman was kidnapped and raped by two unidentified miscreants in the Bhandaripokhari area in Bhadrak district on Friday night.

As per reports, the woman, after witnessing the Mahashivratri celebrations at the Shiva temple near her village, was returning home at around 11 pm when two unknown persons abducted her and took her to an isolated place and raped her before fleeing from the spot.

After hearing the victim's screams for help, locals reached the spot and found her in a pathetic condition. They informed police about the incident.

The woman was then admitted to the Bhandaripokhari Community Health Centre (CHC) in a critical state. She failed to identify the two accused as, according to her, they had covered their faces with scarves.

After registering a case, the Bhandaripokhari police started a probe into the incident.

Fake matric examinee detained in Puri



PNS ■ PURI

A fake examinee was detained by police in Puri district on the second day of the annual High School Certificate (Matriculation) examination on Saturday.

The accused was writing the test for a student of the Patharapada High School. The malpractice was detected at the Kanak Durga High School examination centre.

Being informed by the concerned authorities, the Puri Sadar police reached the examination centre and detained the impersonator for questioning. The accused had replaced the photo of the original examinee with his photo on the admit card, reports said.

A case in this regard would be registered after lodging of an FIR by officials of the School & Mass Education Department,

The District Education Officer has directed those concerned to find out whether the accused had also indulged in the illegal act during the first day of the examinations

police sources said.

The District Education Officer has directed those concerned to find out whether the accused had also indulged in the illegal act during the first day of the examinations.

Bizarre! Toddler marries dog

FOR 'FAMILY PROSPERITY'



PNS ■ BARIPADA

In this era of science and technology, superstitions and blind beliefs still exist in human society with parents getting their children married to animals to protect their families from evilness.

Such an incidence has been witnessed at Baria village under Sukruli block in tribals-dominated Mayurbhanj district.

Reports said that a one-and-a-half-year-old girl, daughter of one Bibhishana Chatar, had two crooked teeth, which is very common these days. Considering it as a 'bad omen', her family got her married to

Reports said that a one-and-a-half-year-old girl, daughter of one Bibhishana Chatar, had two crooked teeth, which is very common these days

a dog on the final day of Mage, a tribal festival, as per their tribal tradition.

Without opposing the act, villagers attended the wedding and blessed the "newlywed bride".

In Mayurbhanj

Drunk youth thrashes father to death

PNS ■ BARIPADA

A man was beaten to death by his son at Dobha village under the Badampahada police station in Mayurbhanj district on Friday.

As per reports, the deceased, identified as Gopal Nayak (50), was taking rest at home. His son Jiten Nayak reached the house in an inebriated condition and got into an argument with Gopal over

some issues.

In a fit of rage, Jiten thrashed Gopal with a lathi, following which the latter died on the spot.

Receiving information, the Badampahada police reached the village, sent the body for postmortem, registered a case and detained Jiten for interrogation.

Locals said rampant liquor sale is leading to increasing criminal activities in the area.

Man found dead at Cuttack riverbank

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A body of a man was found at the Kathajodi riverbank in Cuttack city on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Babuli Behera of Baiyalish Mouza near the city.

Locals spotted the body floating in the river in the morning and informed the police about it. The Cuttack Badambadi police recovered the body for postmortem and started an investigation into the incident.

Though the exact reason behind the death was yet to be ascertained, it was suspected that the man drowned while taking bath in the river.

A two-wheeler of the deceased was found parked near the spot.

Injured N'pada Asst Collector dies

After battling for life for 50 days



PNS ■ NUAPADA

Nuapada district Assistant Collector Jaylal Besra, who had been seriously injured in a road accident, died on Friday night after battling for life for

around 50 days in hospital.

An unidentified vehicle had hit the official on December 30 last year when he was standing at Bhera Chhak in the district. He was rescued in a critical condition and admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital.

Later, he was shifted to the Ramakrishna Hospital in Raipur in Chhattisgarh as his condition deteriorated. However, he finally succumbed to his injuries.

A pall of gloom descended on the Nuapada district administration offices after the demise of Besra.

Nalco Lecture

Swamy stresses on PSUs' role for new India



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Dr Subramanian Swamy, eminent economist and Rajya Sabha member delivered the 18th edition of Nalco Lecture Series on 'Relevance of PSUs in Shaping New India' here on Saturday.

Dr Swamy said, "The public sectors are important for the development of India and these sectors need to be encouraged to prosper. The PSUs should be given freedom to take decisions and operate in sync with the market dynamics."

He stressed that the public

sector should move beyond profit-making and focus on multidimensional objectives. There are certain sectors that can be explored and developed by the public sectors only. The PSUs also need to be ready to compete in terms of commercial principles, he said.

"India should recognise the strength of the PSUs," Dr Swamy added.

He appreciated the Nalco's contribution as an integrated business entity to the Indian aluminium sector in particular and Indian economy as a whole.

In his welcome address, Nalco CMD Sridhar Patra said that as a Central PSU, the Nalco has always given priority to boost the country's economy and serve the interest of the nation through continuous improvement in production, productivity and profitability and also works beyond profitability for promoting social and economic development through its CSR arm.

"The company is dedicated to work towards the sustainable development of the nation and Indian industry in years to come," he added.

Mahila Cong chief appointment soon

AIMCC meets district office-bearers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The All Indian Mahila Congress Committee (AIMCC) has started a process to appoint a new president of the Odisha Mahila Congress and restructure its district committees.

AIMCC president Susmita Dev informed this at a Press meet here on Saturday.

"I have held discussions with office-bearers of all districts. I have prepared a report on the functioning of the Mahila Congress at district levels in Odisha. I will submit it to our leader Rahul Gandhi soon," said Dev.



She further informed that a detailed discussion on the appointment of a new Mahila Congress State president would be held with PCC chief Niranjan Patnaik during his next visit to Delhi.

"The party is hardly organising any programme relating to women due to absence of a State head of the wing. So, steps have been initiated in this regard. The district committees will be restructured after appointment of the president of the Mahila Congress," she said.

S'garh girl critical in Matric exam hall

G'pati student drowns before exam

PNS ■ ROURKELA/ PARAL-LAKHEMUNDI

While appearing for the ongoing HSC examinations, a girl student fell ill and was soon hospitalised in critical condition on Saturday.

Sources said the student of Purunapani Upgraded High School was appearing the examination at the Hatibari High School Centre. At about 12 noon, she developed breathing problem and became critical in the hall. So, immediately, the invigilator brought the matter to the notice of the Centre Superintendent and later, necessary arrangements were made to rush her to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH), where she was under treatment. The hospital authorities had declared her condition

The girl was among the injured devotees when a big rock rolled over them while worshipping at Jatia Baba Pahad under Hatibari police limits

to be critical. It was learnt that on Friday, the girl was among the injured devotees when a big rock rolled over them while worshipping at Jatia Baba Pahad under Hatibari police limits. Later, the girl had been given primary treatment. She was also observing fast due to Shivratri.

In another incident, a Class-X student drowned in a pond at Govindpur village in the Chandragiri area of Gajapati district on Saturday, an hour before he was to appear for the Matric examination. The deceased was identified as Narayan Mallick. According to family sources, he had gone to the village pond to take bath. However, he fell unconscious and slipped into deep water while bathing and drowned.

TV EXPLODES IN SUNDARGARH

Woman dies; hubby, daughter hurt

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A woman died and her husband and their six-month-old daughter sustained critical injuries when a television set exploded in their house at Lahandabuda village under the Dharuadihi police station in the district on Friday evening.

The deceased was identified as Bobby Naik. Her husband Dileswar Naik and daughter were admitted to the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) in Rourkela.

According to reports, the TV exploded reportedly due to an electrical short circuit as a result of which the three sustained critical burn injuries. On being informed by neighbours, police reached the village, rescued the victims and admitted them to hospital.

But the woman had succumbed to her injuries by then. Police have registered a case and started investigation into the incident.

Rare vulture rescued in Nayagarh

PNS ■ NAYAGARH

Even as vultures are on the verge of extinction in the country, a rare



species of this bird of prey has been rescued at Gunduria village under Ranapur block in Odisha's Nayagarh district.

Locals found the ailing vulture near a poultry farm at the village on Friday, following which they informed the Forest Department about it.

Receiving the information, Forester Kaibalya Behera and Snake Helpline

member Ajay Kumar Das reached the spot and rescued the bird.

As the vulture was suffering from illness, the Forest Department made arrangements for its treatment.

In view of the fact that vultures have been absent in the village since past three decades, curiosity ran high among the villagers to see the bird species.

Subarnapur woman 'self-immolates'

Kin allege murder by in-laws

PNS ■ SONEPUR

A married woman died after reportedly setting herself on fire in the Binika area of Subarnapur district on Friday night while her family members alleged that she

was killed by her in-laws. The deceased was identified as Puja Sahu (21).

According to reports, Puja set herself on fire after pouring kerosene on her body. She was rescued in a critical condition and admitted to the Binika Community Health Centre (CHC), where she succumbed to her burn injuries while undergoing

treatment. Police sent the body for postmortem and started investigation.

However, family members of the woman have lodged a written complaint with the police alleging that she was murdered by her in-laws over dowry demands. Further probe into the incident was underway.

Matric exam in D'nal, Balangir

Parents clash with cops while supplying cheat sheets

PNS ■ DHENKANAL/ BALANGIR

Parents of students appearing for the matriculation examination and police had a face-off while the former were trying to provide paper sheets to candidates for malpractice at the Janata Government High School at Biribolei in Dhenkanal district on Saturday.

When English paper examination was on, some parents jumped the wall of the examination centre. Meanwhile, police personnel deployed at the centre allegedly resorted to a lathicharge and beat up the trespassers. A person, identified as Dambaru Sahu of Patharagada village, was injured in the police action.

As per reports, Sahu was trying to move towards the centre after jumping the wall. However, he denied the charge saying he was sitting on the school's boundary wall when police assaulted him.



On the other hand, a police official said Sahu was injured when he fell off the boundary wall after seeing the cops. Sahu was admitted to the local hospital.

In another incident, a journalist was injured in an attack by a teacher while covering a report of alleged malpractice at the Maneipada examination centre in Patnagarh of Balangir district. The teacher allegedly took money from parents of candidates to provide cheat

sheets to them. But due to the presence of CCTV cameras at the centre, the teacher failed to provide the sheets for malpractice.

Irked over the matter, the parents created a ruckus outside the examination centre. After receiving information, the journalist reached the spot to cover the news when he was attacked by the teacher.

Based on a police complaint, the teacher was detained and questioned about the issue.

Meet on mines environ, mineral conservation held

EZMA hosts MEMC Week in big way

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Eastern Zone Mining Association (EZMA) hosted the concluding day function of the 22nd Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) Week here on Saturday.

The week, observed under the aegis of the Indian Bureau of Mines, Bhubaneswar Region January 1 to 26, 2020, witnessed various programmes to promote awareness about mines environment and mineral conservation among all sections of the mining employees.



Majority of the important mines participates in the various competitions. Inspections teams inspected the participating mines and evaluated their performance on

afforestation, waste dump management, top soil management, reclamation and rehabilitation, management of sub grade mineral and installation and use of mechanical beneficiation facilities. Prize winners were distributed prizes at the concluding function.

Steel and Mines Additional Chief Secretary RK Sharma attended the concluding meeting as chief guest. Among others, Forest and Environment Special Secretary Debi Dutta Biswal, MEMC Week organising committee chairman, IBM Controller of Mines (EZ) Pankaj

Kulshrestha, IBM Director (Ore Dressing) Indra Ravindran, Director of Mines Deepak Mohanty and EZMA president RL Mohanty and Environment Controller RK Sinha as guests.

Organising committee vice-chairman Prabodh Mohanty delivered the welcome address while Regional Controller of Mines and organiser convener Harkesh Meena read out the report.

On the occasion, "Paryavaran Bandhu Award" was awarded to individual personnel in mines for their invaluable contribution in the sector of environment man-

agement. Besides, "Best Award" was also awarded to workers of different mines.

A 15-minute video showed the exemplary work done by some mine owners towards environment protection and mineral conservation. About 82 major mines of bauxite, chromite, dolomite, limestone, iron, manganese, fire clay and graphite participated.

The event came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by organising committee general secretary Sidharth Pradhan. IBM Bhubaneswar DCOM GC Sethi coordinated the programme.

IN BRIEF

MEET ON WATER QUALITY HELD AT TRIDENT

Bhubaneswar: A three-day TEQIP-III BPUT, Odisha (ATU)-sponsored workshop on "Water Quality Monitoring, Analysis and Quality Assurance" namely WQMAQA-2020 was organised at the Trident Academy of Technology here. Trident Group of Institutions executive director Dr RN Satpathy gave welcome address. Chief guest Dr Surendra K Mishra, founder-director, AIHMS, Global and distinguished guest Dr NK Dhal, Chief Scientist, Environment and Sustainability, CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar spoke on various issues on water management. Programme convener Dr Manas Ranjan Senapati proposed a vote of thanks. Participants from different colleges and universities attended the programme. Speakers from IITs, IMMT, SPCC, CIWM and OUAT delivered their talks in different technical sessions.



CUTTACK COUPLE ADOPTS GIRL CHILD FROM G'PATI

Paralakhemundi: A couple from Cuttack has adopted a girl child from the adoption centre of Gajapati district. The couple had applied for adopting a child which had been approved at various stages as per law. During handover of the child to the couple, district Collector Anupam Saha, District Child Protection Officer Arun Kumar Tripathy and centre's manager Pratyus Kumar Surya among others were present.



BOY DROWNS IN POND IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: A 14-year-old boy drowned while bathing in a pond at Raibaire village under Jagatsinghpur block on Saturday. He was identified as Abhisek Ojha.

SHIVARATRI CELEBRATED IN DHENKANAL

Dhenkanal: In Dhenkanal district, Shivaratri and Jagara Mela was celebrated on Friday at the Chandra Sekhar Temple at Kapilash, Arnakoteswar temple at Latadeipur, Kanakeswar temple at Nadhara, Paschimeswar temple at Gangadhar Prasad, Mahakeswar temple at Haripur, Swapneswar temple at Korihan, Nageswar temple at Jubullee town, Somanatheswar temple at Mukttadeipur Sasan, Akhandana Mani temple at college bypass and Biswanath temple at Chinmaya Mission. A total of 108 married couples performed Rudraviseka at one time like every year. The Mahadeep was lifted at 4.20 am at Kapilash in the presence of KP Singh Deo.



8TH BATTALION COMMANDANT GREETED FOR SHOOTING WIN

Brahmapur: The Odisha Police Shooting Team led by Chhatrapur 8th Battalion Commandant Udaya Kumar Rath won the All India Shooting Championship held at Teheri in Bihar from February 11 to 15. Commandant Rath received the Jayalalthaa Trophy. Rath was given a warm reception by Habildars, Sepoys and other officials on her arrival at the battalion at Chhatrapur.



INDUSTRIALIST, SOCIAL WORKER GUPTA DIES

Bhubaneswar: Industrialist and social worker Bhagatramji Gupta passed away on Friday on the auspicious day of Mahashivratri. He was a successful businessman and industrialist. His brothers are Ramnivas Gupta, Mahendra Kumar Gupta, Subhashji Gupta and Adinaraan Gupta. Mahendra is the Managing Director of companies named Gupta Cables and Gupta Powers. His last cremation took place at the Puri Swargadwar.



Maoist situation in control in SW region' DGP hold review meeting with SPs

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The situation in the Maoist-affected areas is under control as compared to the previous year. Police would focus on the security related development works, said DGP Abhay following a review meeting here on Saturday on the Maoist situation in Kalahandi, Rayagada and Kandhamal districts.

South-Western Range DIG Safeen Ahmad said Leftwing Extremist (LWE) activities have decreased in the three districts in the recent times and steps are being taken for expediting welfare activities in the Maoist-infested areas.

Out of 13 blocks of Kalahandi district, movement of Maoist cadres was witnessed in 10 blocks. However, the Red rebels are gradually losing their hold over the areas due to intensified combing operation by the CRPF and the SOG.

The DIG said some cadres of the CPI(Maoist) operating in

Out of 13 blocks of Kalahandi district, movement of Maoist cadres was witnessed in 10 blocks. However, the Red rebels are gradually losing their hold over the areas due to intensified combing operation by the CRPF and the SOG

the region have already surrendered before police.

Among others, Director Intelligence Satyajit Mohanty, Special IG Intelligence RK Sharma, DIG (SIW) Anirudha Singh, IG Operation Amitabh Thakur and the SPs of Kalahandi, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts were present.

CM urged to pay 5% DA from July

Ganjam retired employees send memo



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Odisha Retired Government Employees' Association, Ganjam unit on Saturday sent a memorandum to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through the RDC, Southern Division urging to provide them the increased 5-per cent dearness allowance retrospectively from July 2019.

"The Union Government and the State Government had been providing DA to employees and pensioners twice a year, in and July and January. But this year, the State

Government delayed announcement the DA payment by six months. It is also disappointing that the DA has not been announced for retired employees yet. When prices of essential commodities have risen, the negligence has hit us," read the memorandum signed by district president Rajani Kant Mandal, State secretary Shyamsundar Lenka and district secretary Rajendra Kumar Panda.

Besides, they demanded health allowance and increase of minimum pension from ₹8,300 to ₹9,000.

Samarpan music fest celebrates unity in diversity

SHYAMHARI CHAKRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Celebrating unity in diversity and highlighting the true spirit of secularism in Indian society and culture, a three-day Samarpan music festival commenced at the Rabindra Mandap here on Friday evening. The event, exclusive to spiritual and devotional music, is being staged by the famed city-based six-decade-old Bhubaneswar Music Circle.

The inaugural evening commenced with a concert of New Delhi based ghazal, Sufi and bhajan singer Jitender Singh who hails from a cultured and educated Dogra Rajput family. Son of a classical singer, his gifted voice prompted his father to send him to Delhi for professional training after the son graduated in science from Jammu University and has opted for study of law.

In Delhi, he was groomed in Khayal singing by Pandit Mani Prasad of Kirana gharana and later on he evolved his own style of singing inspired and influenced much by ghazal maestros Mehdi Hassan and Jagjit Singh. The influence of ghazal on his style was evident from his "Sufi Musings" concert here.

He picked up Sufi songs of two iconic Sufi poets of Indian sub-continent belonging two different periods but to the same Sufi sentiments - Hazrat Amir Khusrau from 13th century and Buleh Shah of 17th century. The songs extolled how spiritualism and the essence of any faith and religion and how the temple or the mosque bear the same significance for a devotee.

Vishwakarma on tabla and Ratan Prasanna on Rabab while Bhabatosh Mohanty was on guitar.

Aptly titled "Music of the Soul from Bengal", the second session of the evening featured well-known Baul artiste Parvathy Baul from Birbhram district of West Bengal. Winner of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, her special appeal has been her solo recitals with dance in trance that she does alongside singing and playing of three instruments herself - Duggie, Ektara and Nupur - all played simultaneously.

Educated enough to explain the songs and the tradition in English, she has this added advantage of reaching out to larger audience beyond Bengal. The evening being celebrated as Shivratri, Parvathy has carefully chosen the first three songs for Lord Shiva from the rich repertoire of Baul songs while the rest two were on Krishna and Radha respectively. As an ode to Odisha, she commenced her concert with a Charya-Geet, a song that belonged to 8th-century Odisha, followed by a song of the legendary Lalan Fakir. Another of her rendition was a 400-year-old song from poet Padmalochan of Bengal, she mentioned.

Sai's remand ends; Kalpana's kin summoned

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

The Chhattisgarh police on Saturday served notices to relatives of deceased Kalpana Das to appear before them for questioning.

The notices were served to Kalpana's brother and sister-in-law to appear before the Chakradhar Nagar police to record their statements.

The investigators had approached the local court seeking to conduct narco analysis test on former MLA Anup Sahu to corroborate the evidence.

Sai and his driver Bardhan Toppo during their interrogation gave contradicting statements and are not cooperating with police. For this, the cops are seeking court's permission to conduct the lie-detector test.

The three-day remand of Sai ended on the day following which he was produced before the court. Police have prayed to



the court to take Sai on remand for three more days.

The court has reserved its judgement and would pronounce it on Monday, reports said.

In another development, a team of the Raigarh police left for Gujarat to trace the Mahindra Bolero vehicle used in the crime. A Bolero reportedly used to run over the mother-daughter after killing them has changed hands multiple times. It is currently said to be in Gujarat.

Disorientation of anti-CAA ...

From Page 1

The more political of the Muslim clerics who were earlier associated with the Ayodhya stir and the opposition to changes in Muslim personal laws have carefully kept away from the front benches of the anti-CAA protests. Indeed, there has been a conscious attempt to project the stir as something that goes well beyond the Muslim community. The Christian clergy in particular and liberal Indians, not to mention radical students, have quite deliberately been visible in the protests. Some of the attempts to make the movement appear broad-based and non-sectarian have worked and the foreign media has been impressed.

However, some doubts persist. These have less to do with what Muslim politicians may or may not have said and more to do with the universal negativism of India's self-professed liberals. Beginning with expressing imaginary and often contrived doubts over the motives behind questions that have been framed for the National Population Register and extending to criticism over the economic policy that assumes India is doomed to mediocrity, the liberals have lost all sense of national pride. Their attacks on the Modi Government have become so utterly visceral that they no longer believe that there is space for

bipartisan. The net consequence is that India appears far more polarised than it actually is.

The criticism of the CAA presents one example. As the Shaheen Bagh-type movements involving Muslim women have gathered momentum, mainstream political parties have calibrated their criticism. Today, parties such as the Congress are no longer in favour of a blanket denunciation of fast-tracking citizenship to minorities from three neighbouring Muslim countries. They implicitly acknowledge the need to tie up the loose ends of Partition. What the mainstream critics are now seeking is an extension of the amnesty to cover Ahmediyas from Pakistan and including Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar in the list of persecuted minorities. While the case of the Ahmediyas - declared to be non-Muslims in Pakistan - is interesting, it is also notional. The fact is that no Ahmediya has actually applied for sanctuary in India. If Ahmediyas are to be included, the Government may as well extend the fast track scheme to Yezdis from Syria and Iraq. No Yezdis has, to my knowledge, applied for asylum in India.

The case of the Rohingyas is more complicated. Some Rohingyas - estimated at anything near a lakh - have already sneaked into India. Their presence

has aroused fierce antipathy in both Assam and the North-east but also in West Bengal. Unlike the Hindu and Buddhist refugees from Bangladesh who have merged in effortlessly into India's civic society, the Rohingyas stand out and create local tensions. This is recognised by the Congress and the Communist parties. Yet these parties are quite brazen in demanding their inclusion because it fits a narrative of Muslim exclusion.

The Kashmir issue is another case in point. That the fallout of the abrogation of Article 370 would present a challenge to the Government was never in doubt. Some tough action - which would be unwarranted in normal circumstances - was also inevitable. This was also the case in the mid-1990s when the Congress was in power. Yet, an attempt has been made to link the attempts to restore normalcy in the Kashmir Valley with some imaginary targeting of Muslims. The Opposition has tried and may have made Kashmir a Muslim issue.

Particularly irksome is the attempt by the Opposition to invite foreign criticism of India. This is not only deplorable but suggests an attempt to increase communal polarisation in India - in the hope that this will eventually backfire on Modi. It may but it could also harden nationalist resolve.

'Feel proud as Odia, promote mother tongue'

Mother Language Day held in B'pada



PNS ■ BARIAPADA

A meeting was held in the local Universal Coaching Point premises to mark the International Mother Language Day on Friday.

The function attracted many lovers of Odia language and literature of the town. The speakers participating in the programme called for Odias' self-respect and emphasised on the need for feeling proud of being Odias. They urged for popularising Odia language in all spheres and particularly among English-educated Odia people.

The meeting, organised by the Mayurbhanj Pustak Mela and convened by its secretary Manoj Dalbehera, was presided over by Pustak Mela vice-president Ajit Kumar Kabat. While Dr Banaja Mohanty was the chief guest on the occasion, poet Brundavan Dash and Jatun Kumar Das were the special guests.

The programme was attended by leading intellectuals like Himansu Sekhar Das, Kavi Vishnu Satpathy, Kaveri Mishra, Sunil Jena, Sudhamayee Das, Bichitranda Sahu, Shankar Jena, Swarupnand Bisoi, Dinabandhu Bhanj, Kamalakant Praharaj, Samarendra Basa, Jayant Dwarti, Narasingh Barik, Vishwvar Dwivedy, Bharati Beberta and Kaivalya Prasad Mohapatra.

'Women key to economic dev'

Says BJP Morcha chief

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The role of women who comprise 50 per cent of India's population in building a 5-trillion Dollar economy of the country is important, told BJP Mahila Morcha national president Vijaya Rahatkar here

on Saturday.

Joining a Morcha Sammilani at the BJP State headquarters office, Rahatkar said the women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) at the grassroots should not be limited to slogan only.

Efforts need to be made to provide market-linkage to their products.

She further said the Modi



Government has implemented several schemes for women including Jan Dhan for opening bank accounts and

MUDRA for easy loan besides giving stress on MSMEs, weaving, IT and tourism.

Among others, BJP State president Samir Mohanty, former Minister Surama Paddy and Morcha State president Pravati Parida were present.

Avoid non-essential travel to Singapore: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India and China indulged in blame game on an IAF plane not getting permission to evacuate Indians from the coronavirus-hit regions there, New Delhi on Saturday issued a fresh advisory asking flyers to avoid non-essential travel to Singapore. It also said screening at airports is now being planned for flight passengers coming to India from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia from Monday.

India's assertion that China was "deliberately delaying" permission to the IAF plane was refuted by the Chinese embassy. Official sources said Japan, Ukraine and France have been allowed to operate flights between February 16 and 20 but India's request has

not been approved.

An IAF transport plane C-17 is yet to fly to China to bring back Indians and carry relief material for people affected by coronavirus there. However, a Chinese embassy spokesperson said the current epidemic situation in Hubei province is complicated, and the prevention and control of Covid-19 has entered into a critical stage. "There is no such thing as China deliberately delaying granting flight permission," spokesperson Ji Rong said.

India was to send its military transport aircraft to Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, on February 20 but the plane could not take off as permission was not granted.

Sources said, Indian nationals stuck in Wuhan are

waiting to be brought back home and the uncertainty over evacuation is causing them mental stress and anxiety. The aircraft was to carry a large consignment of medical supplies to China and bring back more Indians from Wuhan.

Sources said, while the Chinese side continues to maintain that there was no delay in granting permission for the flight to go, the clearance has 'inexplicably' not been given.

In a letter to President Xi Jinping earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed India's solidarity to the people and Government of China in meeting the challenge of the coronavirus outbreak and offered to provide assistance to the country.

India then put together relief supplies in pursuance of

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Modi's commitment as a token of India's solidarity, particularly in the 70th year of the anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"These supplies have been offered even as India faces

tremendous shortage itself, given our ethos of helping others in their hour of need," said a source aware of the issue. The relief items include gloves, surgical masks, feeding pumps and defibrillators based on the requirements as indicated by

the Chinese side.

"The Chinese side always attaches great importance to the health and safety of Indian nationals in China, and provided assistance and convenience for the return of Indian citizens," Ji further said in reply to the query.

"We are carefully assessing the ground situation, as prevention work requires. Competent departments of the two countries are keeping communication and coordination in this regard," she said.

India's national carrier Air India has already evacuated around 640 Indians from Wuhan in two separate flights. According to estimates, over

100 Indians are still living in Wuhan.

Indian nationals in Wuhan continue their long wait for the flight. The delay is causing them and their family members in India tremendous mental anguish, said the sources.

They said relief and evacuation flights from other countries including by France are allowed to operate by China but the permission has not come through in India's case.

"Are they not interested in Indian aid provided as our token of support? Why are they creating roadblock in evacuating our nationals from Wuhan and putting them under hardship and mental agony?" said a person aware of the issue.

On February 17, India had announced that it will send C-17 Globemaster, with medical supplies to Wuhan, and bring

back its nationals as well as citizens from all neighbouring countries.

As regards the travel advisory, currently, passengers from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Singapore and Japan are screened at 21 designated airports in the country for a possible exposure to the novel coronavirus. Universal screening at airports is now being planned for flights from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia from Monday, the health ministry said. The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to take a stock of the status, actions taken and preparedness of states and Union Territories regarding management of novel coronavirus here on Saturday, the Ministry said.

Keep aside identities, think as one nation: BJP to Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit out at the Congress over its scepticism about US President Donald Trump's visit to India asking the Opposition party, why it is unhappy when the country's stature is being raised globally. The BJP said there are times when political parties should keep aside their identities and "think as one nation".

The BJP's counter came a day after the Congress said Trump's visit should not become an extension of the US presidential election campaign but yield concrete results for India. The visit should not be reduced to a photo opportunity or a PR exercise that would devalue the importance of Indo-US partnership, the Congress had said. Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters

here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in the Indo-US relationship and advised the Congress to "start taking pride in the nation's achievements". "This is a meeting of the world's largest and oldest democracies and it should be celebrated," he said adding, "There are times when political parties should keep aside their identities and think as one nation".

Underlining that Trump himself has said multiple times that India is a hard bargainer, Patra said the Congress should not be worried about India's interests.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hardwork, India's relations with other countries have further strengthened from Sochi to Mallapuram, he said. Taking a dig at the Congress, Patra asked if 10

Janpath (residence of party president Sonia Gandhi) had allowed former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to develop Prime Minister Narendra Modi-like rapport with international leaders.

Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in Indo-US relations and the Congress should "start taking pride in the nation's achievements", he added.

Responding to the Congress' questions about what the country will gain from this visit, Patra said the latest defense equipment and the deals that the US was offering to India were never offered during the UPA regime.

Patra said close cooperation with the White House has ensured that India remains at the front and centre of Trump's strategic blueprint.

Priyanka raises question on funding of panel formed to oversee US Prez visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday raised questions over the funding of the committee formed to oversee various programmes during US President Donald Trump's Ahmedabad visit on February 24. She wondered what the Government is "hiding under the guise" of the committee.

"₹100 crore is being spent on the visit of President Trump. But this money is being spent through a committee. The members of the committee do not know that they are its members. Does the country not have the right to know which Ministry gave how much money to the committee? What is the Government hiding under the guise of the committee?" the Congress general secretary tweeted.

The Congress also took a swipe at the 'Donald Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti' with a parody advertisement on its official Twitter handle. The poster read 'hiring now' for job of "waving at US President Donald

Trump". It also said that the vacancies were 69 lakh and remuneration would be "achche din".

The committee headed by Ahmedabad mayor Bijal Patel held its first meeting at the Circuit House in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The formation of the committee, first announced as Donald Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, had drawn flak from the Congress.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain who all are in this Samiti.

"Why is Gujarat Government spending ₹120 Crore for a 3 hour event organised by an unknown Pvt entity? India values its visiting dignitaries but pl note- Diplomacy is serious Government business & not a series of photo-ops & event management tactics," Surjewala asked.

The Congress had said the Trump visit should not become an extension of the US presidential election campaign but yield concrete results for India.

Bharat Ratna demanded for freedom fighter Savarkar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 'Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan' has demanded 'Bharat Ratna' for freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. The organisation announced a two-day All India Conference starting February 26 on Savarkar's life, thoughts, ideas and philosophy titled— 'Akhil Bharatiya Swatantrayvir Savarkar Sahitya Sammelan' where the demand for Bharat Ratna will be made in the presence of several Union Ministers including Home Minister Amit Shah.

The objective of the conference is to highlight the relevance of Savarkar's thoughts in present context. "His persona and deeds are incomparable in the history of modern India. His commitment to the cause of freedom struggle and ideological perspective has made him a great person. He was source of inspiration for millions of freedom fighters of India," said Ravindra Sathe, Secretary,

Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan in the presence of former governor of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and president organising committee, OP Kohli.

BJP President JP Nadra will be the Chief Guest at the Inaugural session on February 26 and the session will be presided over by Union Minister Nitin Gadhkari. Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel will be Guest of Honour in the programme and valedictory address will be given by Home Minister Amit Shah on the concluding day on February 27.

"Now, it is the time to understand and propagate ideas, thoughts and contribution of Veer Savarkar. This national convention will certainly help not only to understand him better but his philosophy as well," said Dr Sanjeev Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Organising Committee. He said the organization will demand for a Bharat Ratna for Savarkar.

Manmohan: 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' misused to construct militant India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent attack on the ruling BJP at the Centre, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said that nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a "militant and purely emotional" idea of India that excludes millions of residents and citizens.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of a book on Jawaharlal Nehru's works and speeches, Singh said that if India is recognised in the comity of nations as a vibrant democracy and, if it is considered as one of the important world powers, it should be recognised as its main architect.

Nehru had led this country in its volatile and formative days when it adopted a democratic way of life, accommodating divergent social and political views, Singh said. India's first Prime Minister, who was very proud of Indian heritage, assimilated it, and harmonised them into the needs of a new modern India, he said.

"With an inimitable style, and a

multi-linguist, Nehru laid the foundation of the universities, academies and cultural institutions of Modern India. But for Nehru's leadership, independent India would not have become what it is today," Singh said.

"But unfortunately, a section of people who either do not have the patience to read history or would like to be deliberately guided by their prejudices, try their best to picture Nehru in a false light. But I am sure, history has a capacity to reject fake and false insinuations and put everything in proper perspective," he said.

The book 'Who is Bharat Mata' contains selections from Nehru's classic books Autobiography, Glimpses of World History and the Discovery of India; his speeches, essays and letters from pre and post independence years; and some of his most revealing interviews. It was first brought out in English and now its Kannada translation has been released.

"It is a book of particular relevance at a time when Nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a militant and purely emotional idea of India that

excludes millions of residents and citizens," he said.

Singh also extensively quoted Nehru, saying he had asked, "Who is this Bharat Mata?, whose victory you wish?"

"The mountains and rivers, forests and fields are of course dear to everyone, but what counted ultimately is the people of India... Spread out all over vast land," Singh quoted Nehru as saying.

Nehru makes a very significant and time relevant remark on the dangers of leadership falling into a trap and getting removed far away from the common people whom they are supposed to serve, Singh said. "Conceit, like fat on the human body, grows imperceptibly, layer upon layer and the person whom it affects is unconscious of the daily accretion.

Fortunately, the hard knocks of a mad world tone it down or even squash it completely, and there has been no lack of these hard knocks for us in India. The school of life has been difficult one, and suffering is a hard task master," he quoted Nehru as saying.

TRUMP'S VISIT

being spent on the visit of President Trump. But this money is being spent through a committee. The members of the committee do not know that they are its members. Does the country not have the right to know which Ministry gave how much money to the committee? What is the Government hiding under the guise of the committee?" the Congress general secretary tweeted.

Manipur varsity V-C dismissed over irregularities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has dismissed Manipur University Vice Chancellor Adya Prasad Pandey following complaints of financial and administrative irregularities.

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on Friday dismissed Pandey after an inquiry report he was found indulging in "financial and administrative irregularities, including misconduct, dereliction of duties, abuse of power and lack of commitment, causing great harm to the academic environment and bringing the varsity into disrepute". Pandey was placed under suspension in 2018 after violent protests erupted on the varsity's campus which led to prolonged shutdown of the institute.

"The President of India, on consideration of facts and materials available on record and reply submitted by Adya Prasad Pandey... In exercise of the power conferred upon him in terms of sections 13 of Manipur University Act, 2005, has been pleased to dismiss him from his post with immediate effect," the HRD Ministry order stated.

Thackeray requires briefing on citizenship rules: Tewari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and gave a thumbs up to the amended citizenship legislation, Congress leader and former Union Minister Manish Tewari on Saturday said Thackeray requires a briefing on Citizenship Amendment Rules — 2003. Thackeray had also called on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi where the controversial CAA was discussed.

"CM Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray requires a briefing on CAA — 2003 to understand how NPR is basis of NRC. Once you do NPR, you cannot stop NRC. On Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), he needs to be reacquainted with design of Indian Constitution that religion cannot be basis of Citizenship," he said.

Thackeray's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act



(CAA) and National Population Register (NPR) has become a bone of contention among the allies in Maharashtra, as the Congress and the NCP are opposed to the measures.

Tewari's remarks came a day after Thackeray met Modi and said that nobody should feel threatened by the CAA or NPR as these measures are not meant to drive away anyone from the country.

Thackeray made the remarks at a Press conference held after his meeting with Prime Minister on Friday, the first after he took over as the Chief Minister. "We discussed CAA and NPR," Thackeray said, adding he has come to

understand the role of the Centre in the NRC.

Accompanied by his son and a Minister in his Cabinet, Uddhav met Sonia and held discussions on the current political situation and CAA-NPR-NRC. This was the first meeting of Thackeray with Sonia Gandhi after the formation of the coalition government in Maharashtra. AICC general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge and Shiv Sena leaders Aaditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut were also present during the meeting.

The meeting came soon after Thackeray asserted that one does not have to fear the CAA and no one will throw out of the country due to NPR, soon after meeting Modi. He said an atmosphere is also being created in the country that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is dangerous people have to queue up to prove their citizenship.

Indians hailed critical verdicts despite apprehensions: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said 1.3 billion Indians have disregarded apprehensions and "wholeheartedly" accepted recent critical judicial verdicts which were subjects of global discussion.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference 2020 - 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court, Modi spoke about recent crucial judgements, in an apparent reference to path-breaking verdicts including in the politically-sensitive Ayodhya case.

The Prime Minister said no country or society in the world can claim to achieve holistic development without gender justice and referred to laws on transgenders, 'triple talaq' and on the rights of 'Divyang' (persons with disabilities). He said the government has also taken steps to give rights to women in military service and in providing paid maternity leave for 26 weeks. He also hailed the Indian judiciary for redefining environmental jurisprudence to strike a balance between development and ecological protection.

Modi, while emphasising on the use of technology and the internet, said it would help in procedural management of courts and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad, Chief Justice of India Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde and other dignitaries at the International Judicial Conference 2020, in New Delhi on Saturday

would benefit the justice delivery system to a large extent.

He also referred to synchronisation of artificial intelligence with human wisdom and said it would bring "speed to delivery of justice".

"In addition, in the changing times, issues like data protection, cyber crimes pose new challenges for the judiciary," he said in his inaugural address.

"In recent times, there have been some critical judicial judgements and decisions which have been the subject of global discus-

sion. Before these judgements were delivered, several apprehensions were being expressed about the consequences. But look what happened! 1.3 billion Indians wholeheartedly accepted the judicial verdicts," Modi said.

He said it is going to be a decade of remarkable changes across the world which will impact all frontiers, be it society, economy, or technology, and these changes need to be rational as well as just and fair. Talking about the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi, the

Prime Minister said, "Gandhi's life was dedicated to the cause of truth and service, which are the foundational tenets for any system of justice and as you all know, he was himself a barrister and belonged to the fraternity of lawyers".

Hailing a vibrant judiciary, legislature and executive, the PM said, "Respecting each other's jurisdiction and dignity, these three pillars of the Constitution have resolved various challenges faced by the country on several occasions.

"We are proud of having developed such a rich tradition in India. In the last five years, various institutions of India have further strengthened this tradition".

He also referred to the Centre's endeavour in repealing 1,500 archaic laws and said, "Speed has been demonstrated not only in doing away with irrelevant laws but also in enacting new legislations aimed at strengthening the social fabric".

The Indian Constitution guarantees gender justice under the provisions of the right to equality, Modi said, adding that India is "among few nations which has ensured the right to vote for women since independence." PTI

ASCI upheld complaints against 248 ads out of 408

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Several advertisements featuring celebrities like cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Bollywood star Ajay Devgn, actress Shilpa Shetty have been found to making misleading and false claims.

Bollywood star Ajay Devgn's ad for Dabur Babool Ayurvedic Paste and Hindustan Unilever's (HUL) campaign for Rexona Whitening were among the marketing efforts found as "misleading". Similarly, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's ad for Orient Electric found misleading by Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

According to ASCI, the Dabur campaign on television and Youtube had a message in Hindi which alleges that ordinary white toothpastes are cheating consumers and the cheating will stop by using its toothpaste. "The advertisement featuring celebrity Ajay Devgn was considered misleading. The advertisement also denigrated the entire category of 'calcium containing white' toothpastes while implying superiority of their ayurvedic toothpaste," it said.

In the case of HUL, an ad for Rexona Whitening Roll-On in

Bengali claimed the product can help get rid of dark underarms in five days was "inadequately substantiated and misleading", the ASCI statement said. Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare campaign for 'Moov Advance Diclofenac Gel' with claims of being '#1 Doctor recommended active for acute pain relief' was also considered misleading, it said.

Orient Electric's advertisement having legendary cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni was found to be "misleading by implication". "It was observed that while the advertisement claims to have 'flicker control technology', it visually depicts 'no flicker' or absence of any flicker," ASCI said on Orient ad. The advertisement's claim "Livfast Inverter and batteries have 25% faster charging and provides 25% extra backup" featuring cricketer Dhoni was also inadequately substantiated.

Taking a strong note of misleading advertisements on Television, Print, Youtube and other social media platforms, the ASCI has probed complaints against 408 and upheld complaints against 248 while 137 were promptly withdrawn by the advertisers.

A television ad shows a police-

man riding the Platina with a barber riding pillion and shaving the policeman. The entire act was put up to showcase the ride comfort of the vehicle with the narrative of a 'Makhkhan Jaisi Ride' concept. "It was observed that the protagonist - a policeman in uniform who himself should be abiding by traffic rules, shown performing such stunts was inappropriate. The TVC shows dangerous practices, stunts in normal traffic conditions which manifests a disregard for safety," it said.

A complaint against a drama serial promo indicating the protagonist doing self-harm by stifling her neck with a cloth (dupatta) was also upheld. "The drama serial's promo contains a specific visual of the female protagonist stifling her neck with a cloth (dupatta) and then turning her body in upside down position. Such visuals shows a dangerous act (indicative of self-harm) with a disregard for safety and it is likely to encourage minors to emulate such an act which could cause harm or injury," ASCI added. VLCC Health Care's print and television ad claim 'Add figure to your shape in just one session' was not substantiated with treatment efficacy data, it said.

137 ads promptly withdrawn by the advertisers

Efforts of banks under PCA frameworks are being monitored: Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has said four banks under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework are taking efforts and they are being monitored.

Currently, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Central Bank of India, UCO Bank and United Bank of India are under this framework, which puts several restrictions on them, including on lending, management compensation and directors' fees.

"We would like them to improve their performance and come out of PCA as quickly as possible. We are engaged with

the banks. We are monitoring it. They are taking efforts. Banks are required to take several actions to come out of the PCA, and that is being monitored," Das told PTI in an interview.

Recently, the Government announced capital infusion of ₹11,521 crore into these four banks, with IOB getting the highest amount of ₹4,360 crore. Central Bank of India got ₹3,353 crore, UCO Bank ₹2,142 crore and United Bank of India ₹1,666 crore.

Besides, LIC-controlled IDBI Bank too received additional capital of ₹4,557 crore through the first supplementary demands for grants approved by Parliament in



December. Last year, the RBI removed five banks — Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank —

Currently, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Central Bank of India, UCO Bank and United Bank of India are under this framework, which puts several restrictions on them, including on lending, management compensation and directors' fees

from the PCA framework in two phases after capital support from the government that resulted in improvement in their financial parameters.

The capital infusion helped these lenders meet requisite capital thresholds and reduce their net NPA levels to below 6 per cent.

Out of the 11 banks put under the PCA framework last year, Dena Bank ceased to exist as a separate entity after its merger with Bank of Baroda in April, while IDBI Bank has been acquired by LIC.

With regard to the proposed mega merger of public sector banks announced by

the government, the governor said, the RBI has advised the lenders to take special measures to ensure that the normal activities do not face any disruption.

"The normal activity in terms of loan sanction in terms of recoveries and other activities are affected because of the merger process. So, and we are monitoring that, we will monitor that," he said.

Last year in August, the government announced the consolidation of ten public sector banks (PSBs) into four mega state-owned lenders. As per the plan, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce would merge with Punjab National Bank, making the proposed entity the second

largest public sector bank (PSB).

It was decided to merge Syndicate Bank with Canara Bank, while Allahabad Bank with Indian Bank. Similarly, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be consolidated with Union Bank of India.

In April 2019, Bank of Baroda in a first three-way merger exercise amalgamated Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with itself. The SBI had merged five of its associate banks - State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad and also Bharatiya Mahila Bank with itself effective April 2017.

Centre pays ₹50,850 cr to farmers under PM-KISAN scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said it has disbursed ₹50,850 crore to farmers so far under its landmark scheme PM-KISAN, enabling them to meet farm input cost and household expenses.

The agriculture ministry shared the progress made under the scheme, ahead of its first anniversary on February 24. The PM-KISAN was formally launched on February 24 last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of ₹6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status.

"February 24, 2020 is the 1st anniversary of starting of a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-

KISAN)," an official statement said.

The scheme was launched to provide income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs, it added.

"The Central Government has already released more than ₹50,850 crores till now," the ministry said.

Total number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme is about 14 crore, based on estimates of the Agriculture Census 2015-16.

As on February 20 this year, 8.46 crores farmer families have been given the benefits. The scheme is effective from December 2018. The cut-off date for identification of beneficiaries with regard to their eligibility was February 1, 2019. The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiaries rests with the state /UT governments.

The scheme initially pro-

vided income support to all small and marginal farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares. However, its ambit was later expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings.

Affluent farmers have been excluded from the scheme such as income tax payers in last assessment year, professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, chartered accountants etc and pensioners drawing at least ₹10,000 per month (excluding MTS/Class IV/Group D employees).

All instalments falling due on or after December 1, 2019 are being paid only on the basis of Aadhaar authenticated bank data of beneficiaries to ensure genuine beneficiaries and avoid duplicity in payments, except in Assam and Meghalaya besides the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which are exempted from this requirement till March this year.

Need to enhance global risk monitoring: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday emphasised the need to enhance global risk monitoring and explore the scope for policy co-ordination to deal with such risks.

Speaking at G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors meeting in Riyadh, she called upon all the member countries to enhance their efforts aimed at empowering women, youth and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"Finance Minister Smt @nsitharaman called upon the G20 to enhance global risk monitoring and explore the scope for policy co-ordination to deal with such global risks," a tweet by the Finance Ministry said. Sitharaman was the lead speaker during the session on "Enhancing Access to Opportunities for All" in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting on Saturday.

"Finance Minister Smt

@nsitharaman emphasised that growing inequality has slowed down the pace of inter-generational mobility globally. She pointed out that identifying the causes and developing solutions require co-ordinated policy solutions," the ministry tweeted.

The Minister also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Indian government for empowering women such as 'Stand Up India' and STEP scheme.

She emphasised the risk and collateral free MUDRA scheme for SME segment in the meeting, the ministry said.

Sitharaman held bilateral talks with her counterparts from other countries and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development officials on the sidelines of the G20 event.

She expressed empathy with the people of China, suffering from the coronavirus epidemic and extended India's support in this hour of need, the ministry said in a tweet.

India needs pro-business, not pro-crony policies: CEA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India has some distance to go in fully shifting from pro-crony to pro-business policies, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Saturday.

It will be the pro-business policies that will enable the "invisible hands of the market" and also take the country to the goal of USD 5 trillion GDP, he added.

"Pro-business policies are those that enable fair competition in the country. We have some distance to go in terms of enabling that fully. Pro-crony policies on the other hand just help incumbents and that is something that we have to stay away from in enabling the invisible hands of the market," he said at an alumni conference of his alma mater IIT-Kanpur here.

Indian policymaking has been criticised for favouring crony capitalists in the initial decades after Independence, till the country shifted gears by adopting liberalisation in 1991. Subramanian said after the CAG's report on telecom spectrum allocations came out in 2011, investor returns from "connected companies", a euphemism for crony firms, have been very low as compared to the broader indices.

The problem with cronyism is that it is not better business models and processes which drive the growth, he said, adding that we should always aim for "creative destruction" where the incumbents are challenged.

In a critique of the dominant policy choices in the initial decades after Independence, Subramanian said "the tryst with socialism did not deliver the tryst with destiny", referring to first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's famous speech when India attained freedom.

He also made a strong case for not depending only on recent work in economics to make policy choices and neglecting age-old texts like the Arthashastra.

"Scholarly work isn't

something that was written in the last 100 years but dates back millennia," he said.

The Arthashastra stresses on ethical ways of creating wealth, he said, adding that we need to focus on creating trust in the markets as well.

If governance standards have to be increased in the country, there has to be a greater focus on disclosing related-party transactions, the CEA said. The comments come in the wake of frauds like the one at non-bank lender DHFL.

Ireland an alternative to UK for Indian firms eyeing EU base post Brexit: Irish envoy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Post Brexit, Ireland can be a suitable alternative to the United Kingdom for Indian businesses looking at having a base in the European Union (EU), the Irish envoy here said on Saturday.

Ambassador Brendan Ward also said that there has been a surge in interest by companies from India for setting up a base in Ireland, where, as of now, 100 Indian firms have a presence, even as the bilateral trade between the two countries stood around Euro 4 billion annually.

"Ireland is a committed member of the EU and we work through the partnership which exists between the EU and India, while at the same time we have our own strate-

gic approach. Sometimes India is a little overshadowed by China and Japan and part of my work here and my team here in India is to raise awareness of India in Ireland and particularly among Irish business people and investors. At the same time, Ireland is rather little known in India and an important role for us is raising that awareness," Ward told PTI.

"One major factor that we have to deal with is that the United Kingdom has exited EU and for many Indian businesses thinking of a location for presence in Europe, the UK would have been the first choice. Now, a lot of them are looking at Ireland," he said, on sidelines of an education fair where Ireland promoted itself as a destination for higher studies for Indian students.

'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme: Cases in arbitration abroad eligible: I-T dept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Income tax cases being arbitrated abroad will be eligible to be taken up under the proposed 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme to settle disputes between the taxpayer and the tax payer, the department said on Saturday.

The I-T department issued advertisements in leading dailies saying the scheme was a "golden opportunity... To settle income tax disputes", bridge the trust deficit in cases of disputes and minimise tax-related litigation.

The public message spells out the main features of the scheme proposed by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on February 1, like the eligibility, disputes covered and payment terms. Under the eligibility head, the department said appeals and writs filed on

or before January 31 this year will be allowed to be taken up under the scheme.

Other eligibilities are: Orders for which time for filing appeal has not expired on January 31; cases pending before dispute resolution panel (DRP) or where the DRP issued direction on or before January 31, 2020 but no order has been passed; cases where assessee filed revision and in raid cases where disputed tax is less than Rs 5 crore in a year.

It added that disputes where the payment has already been made shall also be eligible; appeals or writs filed by taxpayers or the department and cases in arbitration in India or abroad.

The scheme, it said in the advertisement, will cover all disputes related to tax, penalty, interest, fee, tax deducted at source (TDS) or tax collected at source (TCS). Talking about

the payment of taxes under the scheme, it said for remittances made on or before March 31, 100 per cent of the disputed tax is to be paid (125 per cent in search cases) and if appeal relates only to disputed penalty or interest or fee then 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee is to be paid.

If the payment is made beyond March 31 but by the end date of the scheme on June 30, then 110 per cent of disputed tax is to be paid (135 per cent in search cases) such that it does not increase total demand.

If the case relates to appeal only on disputed penalty or interest or fee then 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee is to be paid under the scheme by March 31.

This amount will be 30 per cent if payment is made beyond after March, 31 but before June, 30.

FDI to be retail's next growth driver in India: Deloitte

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

Pitching for increased foreign direct investment in multi brand retail sector, global management consulting firm Deloitte has said that the move would expand the share of organised retail in the country, thus contributing towards consumption-led growth of the economy.

In its latest thought leadership publication titled, Retail FDI in India, Deloitte has highlighted the growing relevance of foreign direct investment (FDI) and the government's openness on FDI in retail trade in the country.

According to the publication, the FDI-led

expansion of retail would not only boost consumption but would also provide the country's mom-and-pop stores access to latest technologies that would form key to further growth of the sector. About 70 per cent of Kirana stores in big cities and 37 per cent of Kirana stores in tier II cities want to enable themselves with new technology. Availability of latest tools brought by global entities would thus help local businesses as well.

Retail trading witnessed a year-on-year increase of 98 per cent in FDI inflows in FY19. The foreign investments increased from \$224 million in FY18 to \$443 million in FY19.

WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. C78-1-117-VPU-12925-01-2020 dated 20/02/2020
 The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Division, DRM office building, Ground Floor, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for leasing of parcel space in additional Parcel Van (VP) of 23 tonnes capacity in train no. 12925/12926 on round trip basis on payment of lumpsum rates for a period of 05 years.
Details of VPU are as under:-

| Sr. No. | Train No. | Name of Train | From To and back | Frequency | Reserve Price per round trip (in ₹) | EMD (in ₹) | Guarantee Amount for commencing the contract in time (in ₹) |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------|---|
| 1 | 12925/12926 | Paschim Express | BDS-ASR -BDS | Daily | 2,28,535/- | 4,00,000/- | 10,00,000/- |

Note:- Reserve price is exclusive of development charges and applicable Goods & Service Tax presently @ 2% and 5% respectively. The percentage of charges is subject to revision as advised by Railway Board from time to time.
 Date & Time of submission of Tender: up to 15:00 Hrs on 20.03.2020 (through online www.treps.gov.in. only). Date & Time of opening of Tender: at 15:30 Hrs. on 20.03.2020.
 Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on twitter.com/WesternRly 17-22

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Dinesh Kumar, S/o: Ram Khilavan, R/o Jhuggi D-293, Brar Square, Naraina, New Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, wearing Yellow colour Jacket, Blue colour Jeans, Red colour Cap on head with Black colour School Bag and White colour Shoes in feet,** has been missing from his house since 29.01.2020 at 10:00 AM. In this regard a **FIR No. 98/2020 U/s 363 IPC, dated 01.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Naraina, New Delhi 25892010, 8750871122

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INDIAN AIR FORCE AIR HEADQUARTERS

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, **ONLINE BIDS** on prescribed tender form **UNDER TWO BID SYSTEM** are invited from firms who are registered with **ANY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION** on Defence procurement portal using their personal digital signature and developed sources for supply of the following item.

Details are as under:-

| Description and specification | PROCUREMENT OF IAF PUBLICITY ITEMS (SKAT) Specification as per RFP |
|---|--|
| Tender ID | 2020_IAF_327368_1 |
| Tender Reference No. | Air HQ/55208/1/PO-3 (Pub) dated 21 Feb. 2020 |
| Period and terms of delivery | As per RFP terms and conditions |
| Online Bid submission start date and time | 27 Feb 2020 at 1000 Hrs. |
| Online Bid submission end date and time | 05 Mar 2020 at 1030 Hrs. |
| Address of the website for bidding | www.defproc.aov.in |
| Time and date for opening of Online bids | 06 Mar 2020 at 1100 Hrs. |

davp 10802/11/0065/1920

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an **unidentified body of a male namely Munna Lal, S/o: Bhola Thakur, R/o: Unknown, was found on 19.02.2020 at about 11:15 AM at Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi but was later referred by Private Ambulance to R.B.T.B Hospital, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 14A, dated 19.02.2020** has been lodged at Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi mortuary for 72 hrs for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Munna Lal, Age: 58 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White kurta, black jacket and white dhoti.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi DP/4334/RLY/2020 Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871303, 9968056370

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION OF 2 LANE ROB
 Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Ratlam (MP), invites offer through E-tender portal www.treps.gov.in under single packet system for the following tender:- **Tender No: RTM/DY.CE(C)ROB/7 (LC 102), Name of work: Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridge (1x36.00m) + (1x18.00m) effective span (c o m p o s i t e girders) at km: 692/23-25 in lieu of X-line no.102, between Ratlam-Nagda section of Ratlam Division, Western Railway NIT Cost: ₹ 6,25,83,443.56. EMD: ₹ 4,63,000/-. Bid submission closing date: 16.03.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. Bid opening date: 16.03.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.**
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GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE
 No.NBC/MM/100049270/Brand Coupon/2020/1 Dt.15/02/2020
 Online bids are invited for the supply of the Brand Coupon for purchasing Cycle or Exercise Cycle, from the indigenous manufacturers of Cycle and Exercise Cycles. Item Description: **Brand Coupon, Approx. Qty.reqd. : 6200 Nos, EMD:Rs.2,50,000/-**, Last date of tender Submission: **29/02/2020 up to 1:00 PM.** Tender documents and online submission procedure can be downloaded from **NALCO's website i.e www.nalcoindia.com** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**. Please refer to the above website for any future updation and modification in NIT.

DGM (MATERIALS)

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 Dated:23-02-2020

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Kane keeps Kiwis ahead

Williamson's leads charge with gutsy 89 after Ishant's triple strike

Ishant Sharma's lion-hearted bowling effort met its match in Kane Williamson's elegance as New Zealand ended an attritional second day of the opening Test against India with a slight upper-hand, here at Basin Reserve on Saturday.

After another lower-order collapse that saw get India bundled out for 165, Ishant, coming straight back from an ankle injury, took three for 31 in 15 overs despite Williamson's effortless 89 in New Zealand's day-end score of 216 for 5.

New Zealand now lead by 51 runs.

Mohammed Shami (1/61 in 17 overs), during his final spell of the day, removed Williamson, who couldn't check an uppish drive. Henry Nicholls' (17 off 62 balls) struggle seemed to have hampered Williamson's rhythm.

During the final hour, Ravichandran Ashwin (1/60 in 21 overs), who also bowled beautifully throughout the day, relieved Nicholls of his agony with a delivery that had drift and a hint of turn as India skipper Virat Kohli snapped the low catch at second slip.

Williamson looked good as he hit some delightful strokes square off the wicket. The square drive on the rise off Jasprit Bumrah (0/62 in 18.1 overs), followed by a cover drive, showed his class.

In all, the New Zealand skipper hit 11 boundaries off 153 balls.

Bumrah, in particular, was punished by Williamson. Either Bumrah bowled too full and drivable length deliveries or too short that even Rishabh Pant failed to gather the ball over his head.

This was where Ishant came into the picture. While he was lucky to get opener Tom Latham out with



Kane Williamson returns to pavilion after he was caught out by Ravindra Jadeja off Mohammad Shami on second day of 1st Test at Basin Reserve

ICC/Twitter

NZ vs Ind (1st Test, Day 3)
Live from 4:00am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

a delivery drifting on leg-stump, the other opener Tom Blundell (30) had a typical Ishant dismissal written all over it.

The ball was full on the off-

stump channel and jagged back enough to find the gap between his bat and pad.

"Actually, the wicket became slow. It had tennis ball bounce at

the start but when we bowled, there was no seam movement available," Ishant said after the end of the day's play.

Williamson and Taylor then

had a partnership of 93 runs during which New Zealand also got the lead before Ishant, coming back for his third spell, bowled one that reared up from good length and

"We have confidence that we can make a comeback. That has been the speciality of this team."
— ISHANT SHARMA

"If we can carry on tomorrow (Sunday) morning, get a couple of partnerships together and try and build that lead, then going into the second innings it will be nice."
— TIM SOUTHEE



Poonam Yadav celebrates after wicket ICC/Twitter

Aus win will give India huge confidence: Mithali

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's demolition of a formidable Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup opener will give them a huge boost going forward, said star batswoman Mithali Raj, who also lauded leggie Poonam Yadav for her magical performance.

Poonam took four for 19 to help India complete a 17-run victory against defending champions Australia on Friday.

"Everyone has been talking about how much batting depth Australia have, yet they couldn't chase 132," Raj, a former India Test and ODI captain, said.

"India will take so much confidence from that victory, but this World Cup is still very open. The match between Australia and India proved how competitive the tournament will be. It proves it does not matter where you stand in the ICC rankings.

"We will be seeing more of the same drama yet. This victory proves every team has a chance," said Raj, who has retired from T20 cricket.

The 37-year-old veteran batswoman said "the opening match definitely lived up to the hype of the tournament."

"It was a whirlwind. There were so many ups and downs. It was a great start to the tournament not only because India beat the defending champions on home soil, but also because of how the game progressed altogether.

"At no point could you say it was going in one side's favour. First we saw our early wickets fall, then we recovered and Australia had to chase 132 before their middle-order collapsed. India and Australia both took the game their own way at different points which made it fascinating for spectators to watch."

Raj said Poonam's spell was the turning point.

"She's been one of the main spinners for India for quite some time now, and her style worked again. Getting their (Australia's) middle-order out really tilted the match towards India, she was brilliant.

"Although we recovered our innings through Deepti Sharma and her partnership with Jemimah Rodrigues, it was Poonam's flurry of wickets against Australia's megastars, which completely changed the game," Raj said.

Raj also praised 16-year-old Shafali Verma for scoring 29 off 15 on her World Cup debut.

"Shafali Verma impressed me too on her debut. She gave India's middle order the cushioning they needed to regain momentum. Verma has stuck with stroke play that she demonstrated in the tri-series," she said.

"I think she should be given that free range in the first six overs because when you're playing a top team, the runs in the first six overs are so important. It was great to be 40 up after just a few overs thanks to her contribution — Australia couldn't replicate that."



Ishant comes to Bumrah's defence: 'Funny how perceptions change quickly'

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India's seniormost player Ishant Sharma finds it "funny" that people are questioning Jasprit Bumrah's "ability" just after a few matches, ignoring his performances over the past two years. "It's funny that perceptions changed after one innings.

For two years, we have always taken 20 wickets, myself, Boom (Bumrah's nickname in Indian dressing room) and Shami along with Ash or Jaddu (at home). How can people question on the basis of one innings (Test)?" Ishant asked while defending his colleague. "I don't think anyone doubts Boom's ability. Since his debut, what

he has achieved for India, I don't think anyone should raise any questions," said Ishant. Bumrah also had support from New Zealand pacer Tim Southee, who called him a "world class bowler" and found nothing wrong in his execution.

"I don't think there's anything wrong. He is a world-class bowler. He is obviously coming back from injury, but he is a quality player, and we know a great performance is never far away when you're a quality player," Southee said.

Agar takes hat-trick in Proteas rout

AFP ■ JO'BURG

Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar took a hat-trick as Australia crushed South Africa by 107 runs in the first T20I at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

Steve Smith, back in South Africa for the first time since the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, hit a top score of 45 for Australia, who made 196 for six after being sent in.

South Africa made a bad start against the pace of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins before Agar's triple strike sent them hurtling to their all-time lowest T20 total of 89.

It was also the host country's biggest defeat in the format.

Man of the match Agar finished with career-best figures of five for 24.

"It was really exciting, a highlight of my cricketing life," he said.

But he gave praise to the fast bowling attack of Mitchell Starc, Kane Richardson and Pat Cummins who started South Africa's collapse.

South Africa were reeling at 40 for four when Agar came on to bowl.

He had Faf du Plessis caught at deep cover with his fourth delivery, trapped Andile Phehlukwayo leg before next ball and Dale Steyn superbly caught at slip by captain Aaron Finch to complete the hat-trick.

Earlier, Smith and Fin (42) set up Australia's big total with an aggressive second wicket stand of 80 off 52 balls, benefitting from some loose South African bowling.

The win extended Australia's unbeaten run in the format to nine matches, with eight wins and one no-result. Their last defeat was in November 2018.

The second match of the series is at Port Elizabeth today with the third and final game in Cape Town on Wednesday.



Pant's run-out was turning point: Southee

WELLINGTON: New Zealand pacer Tim Southee believes that Rishabh Pant's freak run-out went a long way in changing the course of the Indian innings that eventually folded up for 165.

Pant, who started the day with a six in the first over suffered because of Ajinkya Rahane's poor call and India lost five wickets for 33 runs from that point. Rahane himself fell to Southee as he inside edged to the keeper trying to shoulder arms and late inward movement became his undoing.

Asked if there was any strategy to dismiss Rahane, Southee replied: "No, the run-out of Pant was a big this morn-



Rishabh Pant hits six on day 2 AP

ing. With him (Pant) being such a dangerous player and leading into that second new-ball, he could have scored quickly along with Jinks (Rahane's nickname)."

Southee knew that Rahane had no option but to attack once Pant was dismissed.

"We knew though if we could open one end up with the bowlers, then Jinks was looking to play a little bit more aggressively, which brings us into play a little more.

"The way we bowled this morning was pretty good. To come off and finish the Indian batting line-up like that with two dangerous players in this morning," said Southee, who picked four wickets. PTI

SINGLES

SHARAN-SITAK LOSE IN DELRAY BEACH Q/F
FLORIDA: India's number two doubles player Divij Sharan and his partner Kiwi partner Artem Sitak lost to top-seeded defending champions Mike and Bob Bryan in the quarterfinals of the Delray Beach Open. The Indo-Kiwi duo lost 2-6, 6-4, (3-10) to the Bryan brothers who are playing their last Delray Beach open as they are set to retire post the US Open this year.

SAMMY TO GET HONORARY PAK CITIZENSHIP
KARACHI: The Pakistan government would confer honorary citizenship on former Windies captain Darren Sammy for his role in bringing international cricket back to the country. Sammy, who is presently leading Peshawar Zalmi in the fifth PSL season, will be given the honorary citizenship and Pakistan's highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Haider, on March 23 by President Arif Alvi. Sammy, who has appeared in the PSL since its inception, played an important role in helping the PCB bring back int'l cricket to the country when in 2017 he agreed to come to Lahore and play in the PSL final.

ROJAS SETS NEW INDOOR TRIPLE JUMP WR
MADRID: Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas set a new indoor women's triple jump world record of 15.43m at a meeting in Madrid. The 24-year-old world champion bettered the previous world record of 15.36m set by Russia's Tatyana Lebedeva in Budapest in March 2004. Rojas's new mark also left her just seven centimetres short of the outdoor world record of 15.50m set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets at Gothenburg back in 1995.

BAYERN EDGE PAST PADERBORN 3-2
MUNICH: Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich squeaked past bottom side Paderborn 3-2 on Friday as Robert Lewandowski netted twice to spare goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's blushes in their final game before facing Chelsea in the Champions League. Lewandowski now has a league-leading tally of 25 goals in the top flight, illustrating his importance to the team ahead of Tuesday's last 16, first-leg tie in London. Bayern twice surrendered the lead in Munich before securing the win which leaves them four points clear.

ROONEY SCORES IN SOOTH LEAGUE GAME
LONDON: Wayne Rooney celebrated his 500th appearance in English league football with a goal before Aleksandar Mitrovic saw second-tier high-flyers Fulham to a 1-1 draw away to Derby. Former Manchester United star and England national side's all-time leading goalscorer, Rooney struck from the penalty spot after Tim Ream handled early in the second half at Pride Park when he cheekily chipped the ball over Fulham goalkeeper Marek Rodak.

SIMON STUNS TOP SEED MEDVEDEV
MARSEILLE: Two-time champion Gilles Simon stunned top seed and world number five Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-0 in just 67 minutes to reach the semis in Marseille. The 35-year-old Frenchman, who was champion at the tournament in 2007 and 2015, will face Canadian seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime for a place in the final after securing a third win in three meetings with Russia's Medvedev. Auger-Aliassime defeated Egor Gerasimov of Belarus 7-5, 6-2 to move to within one win of a fifth career final.

LYON CLINCH KEY WIN AHEAD OF JUVE TEST
LYON: Five days out from facing Juventus in the Champions League last 16, Lyon clinched a morale-boosting 2-0 win at Metz in Ligue 1. A penalty from Moussa Dembele in the eighth minute of injury time at the end of the first half and a goal from Houssein Aouar after three minutes of stoppage time in the second half gave Lyon the three points on Friday. It was a first win for Lyon after two draws and two losses. AGENCIES



Wanindu Hasaranga celebrates scoring the winning run AP

Hasaranga's cameo takes SL home

AFP ■ COLOMBO

A late cameo by Wanindu Hasaranga helped Sri Lanka pull off a thrilling chase to edge out West Indies by one wicket in the first ODI on Saturday.

Hasaranga, known for his leg-spin bowling, hit an unbeaten 42 after coming in to bat at number eight as Sri Lanka chased down their target of 290 with five balls to spare and lead the three-match series 1-0.

Hasaranga held his nerve after Sri Lanka slipped to 253 for seven following the departure of Thisara Perera for 32 to register his highest ODI score.

He built crucial partnerships including a 38-run stand with Perera and then put on 27 runs with Lakshan Sandakan for the ninth wicket.

With one to get off the last six ball Sandakan was run out but Keemo Paul bowled a no ball.

"Of course, winning is the ultimate thing but we made couple of mistakes that we have to learn from," skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, who top-scored with 52, said after the victory.

For the West Indies, Alzarri Joseph claimed three wickets after Shai Hope made 115 in his team's 289 for seven.

Ervine keeps Zim on track

DHAKA: Skipper Craig Ervine scored a dogged century as Zimbabwe shared the honours with Bangladesh on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Saturday.

Ervine hit 107 off 227 balls — his third century in Tests — as the visitors reached 228-6 at stumps after opting to bat first in what is the 100th international match between two teams.

Off-spinner Nayeem Hasan bowled Ervine, who struck 13 fours, shortly before the stumps before finishing with 4-68, the best return for the home side on the opening day.

PTI ■ VALSAD

Medium-pacer Chintan Gaja grabbed a five-wicket haul before Gujarat stretched their overall lead to a mammoth 587 runs against Goa in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final here on Saturday.

On the third day, led by the 25-year-old Gaja (5-19), Gujarat came up with a clinical performance to bowl out Goa for a meagre 173 in 57.5 overs.

With two days to go, Goa would need nothing short of a miracle to escape a humiliation.

In the second innings, Gujarat openers Samit Gohel (70 not out) and Priyank Panchal (37) added 72 for the first wicket as their lead swelled beyond 500. Gohel and

Wicketkeeper-batsman Regis Chakabva was batting on nine alongside Donald Tiripano, not out zero, when stumps were drawn at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Mushfiqur Rahim returned to the Bangladesh lineup after missing out on their previous Test against Pakistan. AFP



Wicketkeeper-batsman Regis Chakabva

Bhargav Merai (49 not out) kept attacking the Goa bowlers and at stumps, the hosts were comfortably placed at 158/1, a staggering overall lead of 587 runs.

BENGAL TAKE LEAD

TANGI: Bengal rode on a disciplined pace attack to secure a first innings lead against Odisha.

The pace trio of Ishan Porel (3/72), Nilkantha Das (3/43) and Mukesh Kumar (3/51) shared nine wickets

Taylor too good for Thai

PTI ■ PERTH

Stafanie Taylor's all-round class helped West Indies survive a scare against debutants Thailand in their Women's T20 World Cup 2020 opener here on Friday.

Thailand chose to bat first but struggled to score heavily at the WACA, leaving teenage keeper-batter Nannapat Khoncharoenkai to step up and anchor the innings with 33 from 48 balls.

Captain Taylor held their Group B opponents to 78 for nine with her three wickets, but Thailand's fielding strength



Stafanie Taylor celebrates after Windies win ICC

came to the fore with Lee-Ann Kirby, Hayley Matthews and Deandra Dottin all departing before the seventh over to spark thoughts of an upset.

But Taylor and Shemaine Campbelle stayed firm and their unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership of 53 sealed the win. Taylor (26 not out) brought West Indies up to 50 with three boundaries and Campbelle (25 not out) swept three of her own to steer her country to their first WT20I victory in nine games.

By stumps on the third day, the visiting team extended the advantage by reaching 93 for 2 in their second innings.

J&K POISED FOR LEAD

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir were in a good a position to take the crucial first-innings lead after bowling out Karnataka for 206 on day three.

Resuming the day on 14 for two, Karnataka somehow managed to get past the 200-run mark with K Siddharth scoring 76 off 189 balls.

In response, J&K were 88 for two at stumps, needing another 119 runs to take the first-innings lead. With two days left in the game, the lead could prove decisive in JK's bid to make their first-ever semifinals.



Bengal players celebrate the wicket of Odisha's batsman Biplab Samantray PTI

among them to bundle out Odisha for 250 to secure an 82-run first innings lead and put one foot in the semifinals.

At close on day three, Bengal were 79 for two, extend-

ing their overall lead to 161.

In another game at Ongole, Saurashtra took control against Andhra by dismissing the hosts for 136 for a massive 283-run first-innings lead.

WAR AGAINST MAFIA



CRACKDOWN ON FOOD ADULTERATION, SPURIOUS GOODS & MATERIALS AND DRUG MAFIA

A Historic Movement in Madhya Pradesh



Kamal Nath
Chief Minister
Madhya Pradesh

Chief Minister Kamal Nath leads from front as citizens join charge to free the state from the clutches of malafide profiteering at cost of human health and life.

New Sand Policy of MP comes down on illicit sand mining

Besides destroying the organized mining racket, the policy earned a five-fold increase in mining allocation revenues for the state exchequer. Sand Mining Revenue touches Rs. 1234 crore from the previous Rs. 200 crores. Altering characteristics of the River and Riverbed, illegal mining causes irreparable damage to the ecosystem.

Action Against Spurious Farm Supplies

State-wide crackdown on those involved in the trade of spurious or adulterated fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. District level inspection teams collected and tested nearly 7000 samples. 1313 fertilizer shops and godowns inspected as part of campaign. Action initiated against 110 errant traders.

Anti-Drugs Campaign

- ❖ Massive awareness campaign reaches Schools, Colleges, Hostels.
- ❖ Over five lakh youths contacted as part of campaign in 2019.
- ❖ In a concerted drive against drug peddlers, 3270 cases resulted in the arrest of 4051 accused.
- ❖ 11.71 kg brown sugar seized from 426 accused.
- ❖ 171 kg opium seized from 134 accused.
- ❖ 9310 kg cannabis confiscated from 2903 accused.
- ❖ 6 kg hashish found in possession of 24 accused.
- ❖ 34875 kg poppy shell powder found with 339 accused.
- ❖ 1,13,448 units of chemical drugs seized with 121 accused.

SHUDDH KE LIYE YUDDH

Utilising powers conferred by the Constitution of India, Chief Minister Kamal Nath has taken up the fight against food adulteration as a top priority for his government. The constitution of India describes improvement of public health as one of the primary responsibilities of the State. Adulterated foods cause havoc on Public Health. While victims suffer

ailments ranging from bouts of food poisoning to heart ailments, continuing intake of contaminated edibles also leads to diseases like Cancer and a host of Renal complications. Besides destruction of citizen health, the adulterated food industry stresses public health and welfare budgets as most victims belong to socially and economically weaker sections.

Fight Against Food Adulteration



Highlights

- ❖ Formation of Division-level Flying Squads.
- ❖ Strengthening picketing at interstate borders.
- ❖ Consultations with citizens and traders in every district to create awareness for anti-adulteration campaign.
- ❖ 12089 samples of milk products, edibles and Pan Masala collected.
- ❖ 117 FIRs lodged against errant manufacturers.
- ❖ 42 offenders booked under stringent National Security Act (NSA).
- ❖ Rs. 24 Crore worth spurious goods confiscated.
- ❖ Rs. 25 Lakhs worth adulterated edibles destroyed.
- ❖ 835 cases filed.
- ❖ Rs. 4.56 Crore Penalty levied.

Umeenden Rang Layi, Tarakkie Muskurai

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Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways



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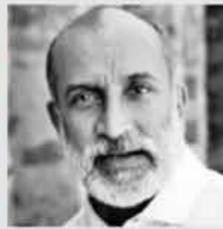
PRAHLAD S PATEL
Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture



BHARAT BALA
Filmmaker and Storyteller



RITU BERI
Indian heritage and luxury entrepreneur, fashion designer



AMAN NATH
Co-chairman, Neemrana group, architectural restorer



ROCKY AND MAYUR
Highway travellers, writers, TV show hosts



ZORAWAR KALRA
Restaurateur and progressive cuisine specialist



ASHWANI LOHANI
Ex-CMD, Air India



PRONAB SARKAR
IATO President



ANIL CHADHA
COO, ITC Hotels



MANDIP SINGH SOIN
Founder, Ibez Expeditions and Founder President, Responsible Tourism Society of India



SUMITRA SENAPATY
Founder, Women on Wanderlust



SUMANT BATRA
Boutique museum hotelier



SHILPA SHARMA
Curated travel expert



SUBHASH GOYAL
Tourism policy specialist



ANUP KUTTY
Co-founder, Ziro Festival of Music



ABU SUFIYAN
Founder, Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein



RAVEE SINGH AHLUWALIA
Chief Functionary, Patiala Foundation



HARKIRAT AHLUWALIA
Founder, Citrus County Farmstays



SAMIL MALHOTRA
Tirun Travel Marketing

EXOTICA
TOURISM SUMMIT

February 26, 2020
Hotel Shangri-La, New Delhi

