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Nationalism likened to Nazism: Bhagwat

PNS ■ RANCHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said the word "nationalism" is nowadays equated with Hitler's "nazism" or Mussolini's "fascism" and it is better to avoid this word, stressing on using some alternative terms.

Bhagwat's remark came amid continued protests in several cities of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which is branded by those opposing the CAA as a reflection of "Hindutva nationalism" that is detrimental to Muslims.

Besides, analysing the results of this month's Delhi Assembly polls, the BJP's ideological mentor RSS said in an editorial in its mouthpiece on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah cannot always help the BJP win Assembly elections.

Recalling an RSS event in the United Kingdom (UK), Bhagwat said, "During my recent visit to the UK, I was advised by an RSS worker not to use the word 'nationalism' as English is not our language and it could have a different meaning in England. It's okay to say nation, national and nationalism but not nationalism. Because it means (alludes to) Hitler, Nazism and Fascism (in



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses 'Sangh Samagam' at Ranchi College Football Ground on Thursday

PTI

England)." Calling upon RSS members to connect with people irrespective of their caste, language, religion or region, Bhagwat said India's characteristic is to bind everyone in one thread following the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is a family).

"We (Indians) live for each other, not for ourselves. We believe that the world has made us and we have to give back to it. We look at the world with gratitude," he said.

Sharing an anecdote, he said, a Muslim intellectual from the country once went for Haj and was sent to jail on blasphemy charges for wearing a "locket". The then Foreign Minister, Sushma Swaraj, intervened and got him released within eight days, he said, apparently suggesting that everyone from India is considered a Hindu outside the country.

"...Because Bharatiya sanskriti (Indian culture) is also known as Hindu sanskriti, reflecting its values, ethos and

culture," he said.

The RSS chief also gave a call to make India a superpower.

Bhagwat said, "The aim of the Sangh is to unite Hindu society. The Swayamsevaks are dedicated to their aim. By feeling proud of the culture of our country we have to work to take the country to new heights. We have to make India a world 'Guru'. It is time to make India a superpower, but not like other superpowers that misuse their influence."

Modi, Shah can't always help BJP win Assembly polls: RSS

RaGa likely to return as Cong prez in April

This comes after many leaders call for full-time party president

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi is all set to be back as the Congress chief in the party's plenary session in April. Rahul had quit the post following the Congress rout in the Lok Sabha polls last year.

Congress Working Committee (CWC) had appointed Sonia Gandhi as interim president of the party in August last year. But as the unwell Sonia had to skip the party's campaign in the recent Assembly polls, the calls for Rahul to head the party have become stronger.

The Congress on Thursday said Rahul was a clear choice for the party president's post. Party sources said Rahul was the only contender, hinting that elections in that case may not even be necessary.

"Rahul has acceptability across the country and also the capability to lead the party," said a senior Congress leader.

Several party leaders have called for the appointment of a full-time party president. On Thursday, former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor, who has been advocating elections



to the CWC, said, "I renew my appeal to CWC to hold leadership elections to energise workers and inspire voters."

"I was referring to my earlier call — eight months ago — for elections among the 10,000 party workers who constitute the 'AICC plus PCC delegates' list. These should be for the elected seats in the CWC as well as for the party presidency," said Tharoor.

Former MP Sandeep Dikshit has accused senior leaders of failing to find a new president because they are "scared who will bell the cat".

Reacting to the remarks, Tharoor tweeted, "What Sandeep Dikshit said openly is what dozens of party leaders from across the country are saying privately, including many with responsible positions in the party. I renew my appeal to CWC to hold leadership elections to energise

workers and inspire voters." Asked about the remarks made by Tharoor and Dikshit, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the CWC will decide on the Congress chief post.

"If anyone has any doubts about this, he should kindly read the resolution of the CWC before giving any statements in public," Surjewala said.

"Instead of giving statements on social media and interviews in the media, if Sandeep Dikshit works hard in his own constituency and politically encash the work initiated during Sheila Dikshit's rule, the Congress will emerge victorious."

It is my appeal to every leader like Dikshit that instead of giving knowledge to the entire country, they should first show the benefits of their own work done in their constituencies," he said.

CAPSULE

CONCERNS ADDRESSED ON TRUMP'S REMARKS: MEA
New Delhi: With US President Donald Trump claiming that India has not treated his country "very well" on the trade front, the Ministry of External Affairs said the context in which the remarks were made was balance of trade and there have been efforts to address the concerns.

'CHINA CAN'T OBJECT TO SHAH'S ARUNACHAL VISIT'
New Delhi: India on Thursday countered criticism from Beijing over Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that it did not stand to reason and understanding to object to the visit of an Indian leader to a State of India. China had registered its objection to Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh earlier in the day, claiming that India had violated territorial sovereignty and "sabotaged" political mutual trust with India.

'NO REASON WHY CENTRAL VISTA CAN'T BE REBUILT'
New Delhi: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said Government infrastructure, including the North and South Blocks, was built more than a century ago and there is no reason why the Centre should not go for a new-look Central Vista aesthetically while preserving the heritage.

GERMANY KILLING: MERKEL SLAMS 'POISON' OF RACISM
Hanau: Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned the "poison" of racism on Thursday after a shooter with suspected far-right beliefs killed nine people at a shisha bar and a cafe in the German city of Hanau.

Nirbhaya convict tries mental trick to escape death

Vinay moves court, seeks treatment for 'schizophrenia'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In what could be termed as another attempt to buy more time and delay the hanging of the four death-row convicts of the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case, Vinay Sharma, one of them, moved the court on Thursday and demanded better treatment for his "mental illness".

The court has sought response from the Tihar jail authorities on a plea by Vinay, who through his counsel sought remedy for his claimed mental illness, schizophrenia and the injuries suffered in his head and arms.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Dharmender Rana directed the prison authorities to file its reply on the plea of Vinay on Saturday.

"Vinay injured himself by banging his head on his cell wall in Tihar Jail. The incident happened in jail number 3 on Sunday afternoon and he got



some minor injuries and was treated inside the prison premises," said a prison official.

During the hearing, the prosecution opposed the plea saying it was not maintainable. Counsel for Vinay told the court that he was refusing to recognise people, including his mother.

The plea claimed that when Vinay's counsel visited him in the prison on the request of his family members, he found that he had sustained grievous head injury, fractures in his right arm with plaster and was suffering from insanity, mental illness and schizophrenia.

No light at end of Shaheen Bagh tunnel?

As protesters dig in heels, mediator says resolution needed otherwise SC will act

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The mediation attempt by Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors advocates Sanjay Hedge and Sadhana Ramchandran to persuade the Shaheen Bagh protesters to lift blockade of the Delhi-Noida main road remained futile for the second day on Thursday. The protesters patiently expressed their anguish but refused to budge from their Day 1 demand that they would end protest only after the CAA is repealed and proposed NRC is shelved.

After holding talks with the protesters, Hedge and Ramchandran left for the day. It is understood they are likely to visit the sit-in protest which has been going on since December 15 again on Friday to find an amicable solution to end the impasse.

Like Wednesday, Hedge and Ramchandran expressed their unwillingness to talk with protesters in the presence of the media. As Ramchandran started addressing the protesters surrounding the dais tried to suggest her on how to hold talks. It angered her, and she asked the media persons to leave the tent where the talks were to be resumed.

Ramchandran began addressing the protesters say-



Supreme Court appointed interlocutors — advocates Sanjay Hedge and Sadhana Ramchandran — during their visit to Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Thursday

ing, "Aapne bulaya, hum chale aaye (You called us and we are here)". Hedge said the SC has recognised their right to protest, but added "the rights of others have to be respected".

"When Shaheen Bagh has become an example of protests in India, let us set an example of a protest that does not disturb anybody. You all must be rest assured that we are here to fight for you. Don't think if you

change your spot, your fight will die down," Hedge said.

"We have seen many PMs come and go. Whoever comes in power and runs the country, sometimes some could be right and some could be wrong. Whatever you are saying the whole country and the PM are listening," he added.

Ramchandran said she is waiting for that day when the country's atmosphere will

change. Then an elderly man expressed his fear, "I am very scared... I am very scared for my children. Madam save me," he said. When Ramchandran asked him more about his fear, the man replied, "I am a single father. I will die but my children should get to live here fearlessly. My girls go to school where they are being told that you will go out of the country."

To joggers delight, Ashram to Naraina special corridor

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Jogging, cycling or long walk on the roads of the national Capital is fraught with risks as the sheer volume of traffic on the roads poses physical injury threat. In its bid to ensure safe

corridors for pedestrians, morning walkers and joggers, the Public Works Department (PWD) is going to create a separate and safe lane for the pedestrians and Non-Motorised Vehicles (NMVs) from Ashram to Naraina.

Part of the Delhi Government's dream project 'Street scaping, beautification and widening, the stretch will be completely redeveloped on the standards of American Road designs and architecture. The main agenda behind

Stretch to be redeveloped on lines of American Road designs, architecture

this project is to create a pedestrian-friendly road by making the people feel happy with green ambience and "zero" traffic hurdles while traveling on these roads. The total estimated cost of the redevelopment plan for this stretch is Rs 75 crores, said a Government official.

"The stretch from Ashram to Naraina barring Moolchand to Moti Bagh will be redeveloped, beautified and widened. The stretch will be developed on American standards with an aim to provide a pedestrian-friendly as well as disabled-friendly road because if you see, most of the roads in the city are

not disabled friendly. Encroachment and narrow roads are also another issue on this stretch, which will also be cleared," added the official.

As per the official, the proposal was passed by the Government last year but the project could not start due to the imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) of the Delhi Assembly elections. However, the work on the stretch has started and is expected to be completed by December 2020.

From AIIMS to Ashram is one of the identified and selected stretches from the 10 most



congested roads of Delhi. Currently on this stretch, the bus stops and pedestrian facilities such as FOBs and subways are also in un-designated places, for instance far from the bus stop or very close to ramp of the flyover, which becomes one of the main reasons for accidents. "Further, during the study of this stretch, the department found that there is no facility for NMV vehicles and pedestrians, termination of service lanes at junctions, parking are

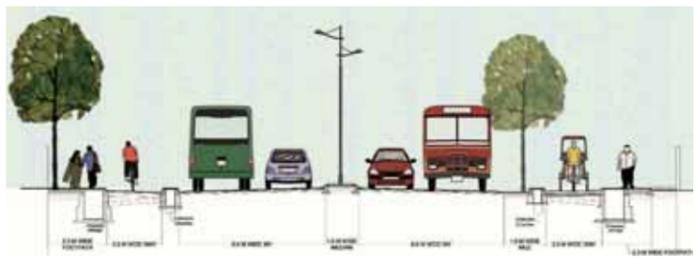
very close to intersections which hinder the movements. Moreover, due to the poor condition of the street, barrier-free movement becomes impossible," said the official.

"Thus, the PWD has decided to beautify and streetscape the roads by giving an aesthetic look and to provide maximum basic facilities to the road users as per the norms of United Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) (UTTIPEC) and pedestrians can walk, jog and cycle without any fear," said the official.

Under the street scaping and beautification of roads, the PWD will redesign and provide good infrastructure such as bus stops, separate

lane for pedestrians, stands for auto-rickshaws, cycles and e-rickshaws will be created.

The official further added that public toilets, drinking water points, police booths, separate parking for police and emergency vehicles would also be provided. It has been deemed necessary to provide basic amenities to the people and also ensure cleanliness on the stretches. Separate street vending zones, mohalla clinics, public canteens, maps, traffic signages, green carpeting and seating arrangements will also be developed. Once this project is completed, the outcome would be analysed and new such corridors would be developed in other parts of the city as well, the official said.



PUNJAB BUDGET SESSION

Assembly observes remembrance, obituary on first day

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Thursday paid tributes to four children who were charred to death in Sangrur van fire, three youth killed in cracker blast during nagar kirtan in Tarn Taran, young journalist Aman Brar, besides former leaders, journalists, literary personalities, among others on the first day of the Budget session.

nalist and writer Dalbir D Singh, who was also a close associate of Khalistan ideologue Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. His name was added on the request of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kuldeep Singh Sandhwan. In all, the House paid homage to 10 eminent personalities, including freedom fighters, political personalities and journalists, who had passed away during the intervening period between the two sessions. Speaking on behalf of the

House, the Speaker Rana KP Singh paid respects to the former MLA of joint Punjab (prior to reorganization) Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmed, and former MLA Raj Kumar Gupta, along with freedom fighters Gurdev Singh and Darbara Singh. Senior journalist and Editor-in-Chief of Punjab Kesari Publications of Delhi, as well as former MP from Karnal, Ashwini Kumar Chopra, was also paid tributes by the House. The House paid rich tributes to legendary Punjabi writers Dr Dalip Kaur Tiwana and Dr Jaswant Singh Kanwal, besides famous Punjabi folk singer Lachi Bawa.

Extending their condolences to the bereaved families, the House also paid tributes to four children — Simranjit Singh, Sukhjit Kaur, Navjot Kaur, and Arudhya Kumari — who were charred to death in the tragic school van fire incident at Longowal on Saturday. The names of four kids were mentioned in the list after the request by SAD MLA Bikram Majithia.

The Speaker also paid homage to 23-year-old Chandigarh-based journalist Amandeep Singh Brar, who passed away on Tuesday at New Delhi, in the prime of his youth. On the request of Cooperation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, the names of three children killed in Tarn Taran trolley cracker blast were also added to the obituary list.

Tourism and Cultural Affairs Minister Charajit Singh Channi also requested to add the name of noted Dhadi singer Idu Sharif, a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi and other awards, which was allowed by the Speaker. However, the Speaker refused to add the names of "27 farmers who committed suicide" as proposed by Majithia, and name of teachers' rights activist Gurnel Singh proposed by SAD MLA Pawan Kumar Tinnu.

INBRIEF

HP GOVERNOR, CM FELICITATE PEOPLE ON SHIVRATRI
Shimla: Himachal Governor Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur have felicitated the people of the state on the occasion of Shivratri. The Governor said, this was one of the most important festivals celebrated in the state as Himachal was considered as "Abode of Gods". He hoped that the auspicious occasion brings peace and happiness into the lives of people. Thakur said that the people of the state have been celebrating this festival with traditional fervour and gaiety in all parts of the state since the time immemorial.

BADNORE GREETES PEOPLE ON MAHA SHIVRATRI
Chandigarh: Punjab Governor and UT Administrator VP Singh Badnore extended greetings to the people on the sacred occasion of Maha Shivratri. The Governor said, this holy festival reminds us of our pursuit of truth and understanding and symbolizes salvation, devotion, dedication and fulfillment, in human life. This festival depicts our composite culture of peaceful co-existence and also reminds us to adopt a correct and positive attitude in our day-to-day life, he said. He appealed to the people to celebrate this festival collectively, rising above considerations of caste, creed and religion, in the true spirit of harmony.

CITY TO HOST SPORTS LIT FEST PLAY WRITE ON FEB 22
Chandigarh: The third edition of Play Write, India's premier Sports Literature Festival will be held on February 22 at the Hyatt Regency here. Vivek Atray, ex-IAS, Author and Co-Founder Play Write said, "A glittering array of sports personalities including famous Olympian and Dargal star Babita Phogat, along with hockey greats Ajit Pal Singh and Ashok Kumar from the 1975 Indian Team that lifted the world cup, and Joy Bhattacharya well known sports administrator will speak at Play Write 2020. Gurjot Singh Khangura, skeet shooter and Anjum Moudgil, Indian Sport Shooter will also be a part of the event."

THEATRE FESTIVAL FROM FEB 22-24 IN CHD
Chandigarh: To satiate the intellectual appetite of the theatre lovers of the city, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration will organize National School of Drama Theatre Festival from February 22-24 every day at 6:30 pm onwards at the Tagore Theatre. The festival is being held after a gap of 6 years. On February 22, a play 'Bayen' directed by Usha Ganugly would be staged depicting socio-economic disparity besides various shades of human life. On February 23, play titled 'Jaat Hi Poochoo Sadhu Ki' and on February 24, play 'Khamoshi Sili Sili' would be staged. The entry in the show is free for all.

FINANCE DEPT RELEASES ₹349.50 CRORE
Chandigarh: Punjab Finance Department has released ₹349.50 crore on account of General Provident Fund (GPF), Cooperative Sugar Mills, Verka Dairy Plant, Bassi Pathana besides the development of hi-tech Cycle Valley Project at village Dhanansu in Ludhiana district. A spokesperson said, funds to the tune of Rs 184 crore had been released for making payments of GPF (final/advances) to the employees till December 31, 2019. Another sum of ₹111 crore for medical, Petroleum Oil and Lubricant (POL), water/electricity, material supplies and office expenses has also been released up to February 18, 2020.

IEC TEAM CREATES AWARENESS ABOUT EOL SURVEY
Chandigarh: The IEC team of Municipal Corporation Chandigarh organized different programmes to create awareness in the masses regarding the ease of living survey. A live-band show was organized in Rock Garden and another similar event in Panjab University. Through the events, citizens were encouraged to fill the 24 question survey on eol2019.org/citizenfeedback and give their important feedback about the ease of living in the city.

TO RUN MARATHON FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH CHANDIGARH
Vegans in Chandigarh (VIC) and Ahimsa Trust have teamed up to create awareness about environment in the form of a 100 km run from Shimla to Chandigarh with an overnight stop in Barog. The run happening on February 22 and 23 will end at the Sukhna Lake at 4 pm on Sunday. This will be a series of such runs to spread protect the environment and spread awareness, announced VIC and Ahimsa Trust.

H.P.PWD TENDERS

Sealed item rate tenders on form No.6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Kotkhai Division, HPPWD: Kotkhai for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP: PWD, so as to reach in his office on or before 17.03.2020 up to 10.30 A.M and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M in the presence of the intending contractor or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be had from his office against cash payment (Non-refundable up to 4.00 P.M on 16.03.2020. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time deposit account/saving bank account/FDR in any of the Post office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the XEN must accompany with each tenders. Conditional tenders or tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The XEN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to drop the proposal of the tenders without assigning any reasons. The offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. All the contractors will have to bring with them the attested copy of registration/renewal of their enlistment failing which their application shall not be entertained. The contractor must be registered under H.P General Sales Tax Act 1968 and its proof must be submitted with application for tender, failing which tender will not be issued. If any date mentioned above happens to be a holiday, the same will be processed on the next day. The Firms/Contractors must quote the rate of each item in words as well as in figures, failing which their tenders are likely to be rejected.

Job No. 1:- C/o link road Lower Chaugan to Lower Geleheya road in km 0/0 to 1/900. (SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 meter wide road in km 1/510 to 1/600) Estimated cost Rs. 4, 96, 387/- Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/- time allowed 2 months, cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.2:-** R/R damages on Bandli link road km 0/0 to 3/00. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/765 to 0/780) Estimated Cost Rs. 1, 51, 644/-, Earnest Money Rs. 3, 100/-, Time Allowed 2 Months, Cost of Tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.3:-** R/R damages on Nehraghati Losta Bari Dakhal link road km 0/0 to 3/500. (SH:- C/o B/wall at RD 1/545 to 1/564 and 1/564 to 1/578 and B/wall in wire crate at RD 0/395 to 0/415.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 32, 449/- Earnest Money Rs. 8, 700/- Time allowed 2 months, cost of tender form 350/- **Job No.4:-** R/R damages on Kokunalla Dharonk road km 0/0 to 8/500. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 4/530 to 4/542 and crate wall at RD 0/285 to 0/295.) Estimated Cost Rs. 3, 74, 704/-, Earnest Money Rs. 7, 500/-, Time Allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 5:-** Construction of Kiavri Govindpur Reoghati road km 0/0 to 15/00. (SH:- C/o Hume pipe culvert at RD 11/430 both side wing wall 3 meter, 11/700 both side wing wall and 11/945 both side wing wall 3 meter) Estimated Cost Rs. 3, 78, 926/-, Earnest Money Rs. 7, 600/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.6:-** R/R damages on Barvi Gareog road km 0/0 to 7/00. (SH:- C/o wire crate R/wall & B/wall at various RDs between km 0/0 to 3/500) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 65, 780/- Earnest Money Rs. 9, 400/- Time Allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.7:-** Restoration of rain damages on Chaitla Kadyog Nagpuri Road km 0/0 to 3/50. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/487 to 0/495, B/wall at RD 2/140 to 2/165, and P/L, Kharanja stone soling between km 3/00 to 3/300) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 95, 580/- Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/- Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 8:-** R/R damages on Tharolla Dhalona road km 0/0 to 1/800. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 1/685 to 1/701) Estimated Cost Rs. 1, 32, 127/-, Earnest Money Rs. 2, 700/- Time allowed one Month, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 9:-** Restoration of rain damages on link road to Balog km 0/0 to 0/400. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/236 to 0/271) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 95, 541/-, Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 10:-** R/R damages on Dhali Dakhal Jakrari road km 0/0 to 7/075. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD0/564 to 0/584 & 6/884 to 6/900.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 91, 994/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9, 900/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 11:-** C/o link road to village Kundli km 0/0 to /850. (SH:- Improvement of formation deficiency, C/o R/wall, Kharanja stone soling at various RDs Between km 0/0 to 0/850.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 86, 810/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9, 800/- Time allowed 2 Months. Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 12:-** C/o link road to Jalath-II road (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 2/360 to 2/380.) Estimated Cost Rs. 3, 25, 849/-, Earnest Money Rs. 6, 600/-, Time allowed 2 allowed, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 13:-** R/R damages on Gazta Darkoti Jhandoli road km 0/0 to 6/00. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/377 to 0/390 & 0/621 to 0/626.) Estimated Cost Rs. 3, 94, 797/- Earnest Money Rs. 7, 900/- Time allowed 2 months, cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 14:-** C/o link road to Harijan Basti Protidhar road km 0/0 to 1/865.(SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 meter wide in km 0/240 to 0/360) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 95, 314/-, Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/- Time allowed two months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 15:-** Restoration of rain damages on link to Chajoli km 0/0 to 0/810. (SH:- Removal of slips at various RDs in km 0/0 to 0/810.) Estimated Cost Rs. 1, 17, 170/-, Earnest money Rs. 2400/- time allowed 2 months cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 16:-** C/o link road to saintari km 0/0 to 0/500. (SH:- C/o 900 mm Hume Pipe culvert with wing wall on both side at RD 0/412) Estimated cost Rs. 3, 51, 681/-, Earnest Money Rs. 7100/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 17:-** A/R & M/o PWD Rest House at Khaneyi in Tehsil Kotkhai Distt. Shimla HP. (SH:- Providing and laying Paver block in Lawn preprinted sheet in Chejia Painting and Distempering etc.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 99, 560/- Earnest Money Rs. 9100/- Time allowed 2 months, cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 18:-** C/O Link road Kulla Jubbar to Shiv Puri via Azadpur Km 0/00 to 6/500.(SH: Formation Cutting 5/7 mtr wide road Km 1/00 to 1/170) Estimated cost Rs. 4,98,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9960/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 19:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on Mail Matlu road Km 0/00 to 6/300.(SH:C/O B/Wall at RD 2/535 to 2/650) Estimated cost Rs. 2,01,322/-, Earnest Money Rs. 4026/-, Time allowed 1 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 20:-** S/R of Sr. Sec. School building at Baghi in Tehsil Kotkhai Distt. Kotkhai Distt. Shimla HP. (SH:- Providing and laying C.C flooring half brick masonry etc.) Estimated cost Rs. 71, 103/-, Earnest Money Rs. 1500/-, time allowed 2 months. Cost of tender form Rs. 350/-, **Job No 21:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on N.S.B upto Ghansidhar road Km 5/00 to 19/00.(SH:Extension of Hume pipe culvert 900mm dia along with wing wall at RD 17/455) Estimated cost Rs. 1,07,645/-, Earnest Money Rs. 2153/-, Time allowed 1 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 22:-** C/O Balance work of PHC building at Baghi in Tehsil Kotkhai Distt. Shimla H.P.(SH:C/O B/wall in back side ,Right side,left side of protection wall) Estimated cost Rs. 3,58,287/-, Earnest Money Rs. 7166/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 23:-** C/O link road from Village Mail Nalla to majhewat Km 0/00 to 1/760.(SH: Formation cutting 5/7 mtr. road wide road at RD 0/00 to 0/250) Estimated cost Rs.2,50,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 5000/-, Time allowed 1 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 24:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on Melath Chamera road Km 0/00 to 4/500.(SH: C/O R/Wall at RD 2/015 to 2/030) Estimated cost Rs. 1,45,488/-, Earnest Money Rs. 2910/-, Time allowed 1 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 25:-** Special repair of J.E. Residence building at Baghi in Tehsil Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla H.P.(Dismantling of roofing work P/F roof and tiles works etc.) Estimated cost Rs. 4,50,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9000/-, Time allowed 2Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 26:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on N.S.B upto Ghansidhar road Km 5/00 to 19/00.(SH:C/O R/Wall at RD 8/780 to 8/790) Estimated cost Rs. 2,80,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 5600/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 27:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on N.S.B upto Ghansidhar road Km 5/00 to 19/00.(SH:C/O R/Wall at RD 11/195 to 11/212) Estimated cost Rs. 4,95,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9900/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 28:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on N.S.B upto Ghansidhar road Km 5/00 to 19/00.(SH:C/O R/Wall at RD 17/360 to 17/370) Estimated cost Rs. 2,85,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 5700/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 29:-** C/O link road Rajtari via kalbog H.B. Nargan road km 0/00 to 3/500.(SH:C/O 900 mm dia Hime pipe culvert along with wing wall at Rd 0/280,0/410,1/450, and 1/600 and P/L Kharanja stone soling at RD 2/500 to 3/00) Estimated cost Rs. 4,92,450/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9849/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 30:-** C/O Kula Jubbar to Shiv puri via Azadpur Km 0/00 to 6/500.(SH:C/O Hume pipe Culvert at RD 1/450,2/735, 4/510 and P/L Kharanja stone soling in various slushy reaches at RD 0/500 to 2/000) Estimated cost Rs. 4,92,450/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9849/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 31:-** C/O link Reot to Knot road KM 0/00 to 1/500.(SH:-C/O R/Wall at RD 0/00 to 0/010.) Estimated cost Rs.1,08,279/-, Earnest Money Rs. 2166/-, Time allowed 1Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No 32:-** C/O link Kuinal to Vikasnagar road Km 0/00 to 1/500.(SH: P/L Kharanja soling on various RD's between Km 0/00 to 1/500 & C/O B/wall at RD 0/550 to 0/565.) Estimated cost Rs.3,14,943/-, Earnest Money Rs. 6299/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 33:-** A/R M/o of Police Station building at Kotkhai Distt. Shimla HP. (SH:- Repair of toilets and P/F cup board in Record room etc. and Providing and fixing collapsible steel gate) Estimated Cost Rs. 1, 39, 751/- Earnest Money Rs. 2, 800/- Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 34:-** R/R damages on Kotkhai Deori Khaney road km 0/00 to 1/100. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/0 to 0/012 and B/wall in wire crate at RD 0/070 to 0/080 & 0/140 to 0/152.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 95, 640/- Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of Tender form 350/- **Job No. 35:-** C/o link road to Amar Nagar road km 0/0 to 1/100. (SH:- C/o Hume Pipe culvert at RD 0/167, 0/490 and 0/560 both side wing wall 3.00 meter.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 41, 223/- Earnest Money Rs. 9000/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of Tender form 350/- **Job No. 36:-** R/R damages on Tharolla Dhalona road km 0/0 to 1/800. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 1/080 to 1/090.) Estimated Cost Rs. 1, 91, 177/-, Earnest Money Rs. 4000/- Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.37:-** R/R damages on Deorhingat Jashla Trehan road km 0/0 to 7/225 (SH - C/o R/wall at RD 4/940 to 4/955 & 6/395 to 6/410) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 10, 873/- Earnest Money Rs. 8, 300/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.38:-** R/R damages on Chander Nagar Sehrol Bandli Bankufer road km 0/0 to 5/130. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 1/830 to 1/842.) Estimated Cost Rs. 3, 32, 850/-, Earnest Money Rs. 6, 700/- Time allowed 2 Months, cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 39:-** R/R damages on Nalog link road km 0/0 to 1/500. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/130.50 to 0/147.) Estimated Cost Rs. 3, 78, 901/- Earnest Money Rs. 7, 600/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 40:-** Construction of link road to Cremation shed Near Giri Pul at Kotkhai Darbar GP Bag Dhumer km 0/0 to 0/630. (SH:- F/C 5/7 meter wide at RD 0/0 to 0/315.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 80,560/- Earnest Money Rs. 9, 600/- Time Allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form 350/- **Job No. 41:-** A/R & M/o of Devgarh Bean link road 0/0 to 7/885. (SH:- Maintenance of earthen shoulder, trimming of grass & maintenance of drain etc in km 0/0 to 7/885.) Estimated Cost Rs. 2, 31, 940/- Earnest Money Rs. 4, 700/- Earnest Money Rs. 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 42:-** R/R damages on Kotkhai Deori Khaney road km 0/00 to 1/100. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 2/195 to 2/210.) Estimated cost Rs. 2, 84, 398/- Earnest Money Rs. 5, 700/-, Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 43:-** C/o Ghasigaon Dhandroti Purag road km 0/0 to 3/930. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 3/930 Turning point.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 89, 888/- Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/- Time allowed 2 Months, Cost of tender form 350/- **Job No. 44:-** R/R damages on Kotkhai Deori Khaney road km 0/0 to 1/100. (SH:- C/o balance of R/wall above toe wall at RD 0/984.50 to 0/995.) Estimated cost Rs. 2, 42, 580/- Earnest Money Rs. 5, 000/- Time allowed two Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 45:-** R/R damages on link road to Saintari km 0/0 to 0/400. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/313 to 0/323) Estimated cost Rs. 3, 33, 497/- Earnest Money Rs. 7, 000/- Time allowed two Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 46:-** C/o Rajtari to Dhamrot road km 0/0 to 0/525. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/105 to 0/117) Estimated Cost Rs. 1, 18, 604/-, Earnest Money Rs. 2, 400/-, time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 47:-** C/o Rajtari to Dhamrot road km 0/0 to 0/525. (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/482 to 0/497) Estimated Cost Rs. 2, 09, 324/- Earnest Money Rs. 4, 200/-, time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 48:-** C/o link road from Rajtari Via Kalbog to Nargan H.B. km 0/0 to 3/500. (SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 meter wide road km 0/270 to 0/405.) Estimated Cost Rs. 2, 15, 122/-, Earnest Money Rs. 4, 400/-, time all owed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No.49:-** Restoration of rain damages on Gowach Vikas Nagar to Chulia road km 0/00 to 4/00. (SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 meter wide road km 2/510 to 2/645) Estimated cost Rs. 1, 95, 545/-, Earnest Money Rs. 4, 000/-, time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/- **Job No. 50:-** Improvement of black spot on N.S. B. up to Ganasidhar road km 5/00 to 19/00. (SH:- P/F crash Barrier on various RDs km 6/00 to 9/00. Estimated Cost Rs. 4,98,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/-, **Job No. 51:-** Improvement of black spot on N.S. B. up to Ganasidhar road km 5/00 to 19/00. (SH:- P/F crash Barrier on various RDs km 9/00 to 11/00.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 98, 000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/-, Time allowed 2 months, Cost of tender form Rs. 350/-, **Job No. 52:-** R/R damages on Dhali Dakhal road km 0/0 to 2/00 (SH:- C/o R/wall at RD 0/970 to 0/990 & 1/310 to 1/330.) Estimated Cost Rs. 4, 76, 240/-, Earnest Money Rs. 9600/- time allowed 2 months cost tender form Rs., 350/- **Job No 53:-** C/o link road Lower Chaugan to Lower Gelheya road in km 0/0 to 1/900. (SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 meter wide road in km 1/600 to 1/735) Estimated cost Rs. 4, 96, 051/- Earnest Money Rs. 10, 000/- time allowed 2 months, cost of tender form Rs. 350/-

RO NO. 4942/19-20 Dt. 20-02-2020

CM seeks increase of NABARD allocation

Shimla: Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday took up the issue of increasing the annual normative allocation to the state with NABARD from existing ₹700 crore to ₹1000 crore for the financial year 2019-20.

Presiding over a meeting held here with the officers of NABARD, Thakur said the increase in allocation would enable the State to create agriculture related infrastructure in rural areas besides strengthening road network in these areas.

He also felt the need to delegate sanction powers to the Regional Office NABARD so as to expedite the sanctioning and implementation process of the projects under RIDF programme. PNS

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
SCO : 99-102, NRI Branch, Sector 8C, Chandigarh, Ph: 0172-2726219, 9888490461

PROFORMA OF AUCTION NOTICE TO BE CIRCULATED AMONG LOCAL BULLION DEALERS / MERCHANTS / MEMBERS OF PUBLIC

The sale by public auction of ornaments pledged with the Bank in the following advance accounts will be held at the above branch premises on 20-02-2020 at 11:00 AM. The details of the ornaments proposed to be auctioned are given below:

Sr. No.	Account Number	Description of the Article	Gross Weight	Approximate weight of the precious stones in the ornaments (Grams)	Purity (Carat)	Net Weight (Grams)	Market Value in (Rs.)	
1.	37820270324	1 Necklace	25.990	7.990	22	18		
2.	--do--	2 Chain	37.280	6.280	22	31		
3.	--do--	4 Ring	13.920	2.920	22	11		
4.	--do--	8 Earring	22.080	4.080	22	18		
5.	--do--	1 Mangal Sutra	39.770	15.770	22	24		
6.	--do--	1 Tikka	5.550	0.550	22	5		
Total 17 Items							107	3,95,900/-

The said auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions.

- It is on 'as is where is' condition.
- Bidders may verify the quality, weight etc., of the ornaments before bidding. The bank will not entertain any claim/complaint regarding quality, weight of the ornaments, once the bid is concluded.
- The successful bidder should pay the entire bid amount (less security deposit) at once and take delivery of the ornaments at his/her absolute risk and responsibility and the said bidder shall not have any recourse to bank for any reason whatsoever.
- The bank at its absolute discretion reserves the right to put to auction all or any of the ornaments as considered necessary or stop auction at any time without any prior notice.
- The bank has absolute discretion to either reject or accept any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The bank has right to adjourn/postpone the auction sale at any stage to any future date at the convenience of the Bank without any Notice.
- If the successful bidder does not clear the bid amount and/or does anything which may give rise to a necessity of adjourning/postponing/holding fresh auction sale, he/she shall be liable to indemnify the bank to the extent of loss, if any, caused on account of his/her lapse(s) which may come in the way of completing the auction.

Date: 20-02-2020 Branch Manager

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES
From the trusted family of HDFC Bank

REGD. OFFICE: "RADHIKA", 2ND FLOOR, LAW GARDEN ROAD, NAVRANGPURA, AHMEDABD-380009
BRANCH OFFICE : SCO-9, FIRST FLOOR, SECTOR -7, ABOVE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, BEHIND GALAXY MALL, AMBALA CITY- 134003

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned borrowers, co-borrowers and guarantors have availed loan(s)/ financial facility(ies) from HDB Financial Services Limited by mortgaging your immovable properties (secureties) and defaulted in repayment of the same. Consequently your loan was classified as non-performing asset. Subsequently, the company has issued demand notice under section 13(2) of The Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3(1) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of alternate service upon you.

Details of the borrowers, co-borrowers, loan account no., loan amount, demand notice under section 13(2) date, amount claimed in the notice, NPA date and securities are given as under:

1. NAME OF THE BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS: Pritam Singh, Inder Mukhi, Pardeep Singh and Anjali Singh, House No 72, Adarsh Nagar, Panipat, Haryana -132103 Also At Plot No-72-73, Khasra No. 4257/1368 & 4256/4118/1356, Narian Bagh Colony, Panipat, Haryana -132103; LOAN ACCOUNT NO.: 809688; LOAN AMOUNT: Rs 10210404 (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Ten Thousand Four Hundred Four Only); DEMAND NOTICE DATE: 29.01.2020 ; AMOUNT CLAIMED: Rs. 9575483 /- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three Only) together with further interest thereon @ 18 % per annum till actual realization; NPA DATE: 03.10.2019; DETAILS OF SECURITY: All the piece and parcel of the Plot No-72-73, Khasra No-4257/1368 & 4256/4118/1356, Narian Bagh Colony, Panipat-132103, PROPERTY BOUNDED AS: EAST:-Plot No. 72, North:-Plot No. 78, South :- Road, West:-Plot No. 74.
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You the borrower/ co-borrowers and guarantors are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned hereinabove in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above-mentioned securities. (Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.)

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the said Act, you are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent and any non-compliance of section 13(13) of the Act is punishable under section 29 of the said Act.

FOR ANY QUERY PLEASE CONTACT MR. ASHISH MEHTA, PHONE: 9729438899
DATE: 21.02.2020 PLACE : MUMBAI Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER

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BUDGET SESSION: HARYANA

Govt focusing on good governance: Governor in Budget speech

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya on Thursday said the Government would celebrate this year as Sushashan Sankalp Varsh pointing out that focus would be given on launching several new good governance initiatives and on improving service delivery.

Delivering his address on the first day of the Budget session of the Vidhan Sabha, Arya said increase in the ease of obtaining government services by using technology and streamlining processes will help to improve ease of living.

On the occasion of the next 'Good Governance Day' on December 25, the State would submit its report card on such initiatives and reward officers, employees and departments that would have performed exemplary work.

According to the Governor, a record procurement of 6.19

lakh metric tonne mustard was done in 2019-20. Besides, 13,156 metric tonne of sunflower was also procured.

The entire payment at minimum support price for these crops was made directly into the accounts of the farmers. He said in this fiscal 93.60 lakh metric tonne of wheat was procured. He said the vision of the Government is complete digitisation of the land records so that owners could access details of their properties and their land records online any time. For this, an Integrated Haryana Land Records Information System has been developed.

In his speech, the Governor said the BJP-JJP Government is committed to securing the state's legitimate share of surplus Ravi-Beas waters through the Sutlej Yamuna Link canal. "Every possible effort will be made to bring to Haryana its legitimate share of surplus Ravi-Beas waters through the SYL

- ◆ 11 am- Governor reached Vidhan Sabha which followed by singing of Vande Mataram
- ◆ 11.03 am- Governor's address begins
- ◆ 11.13 am- Jana Gana Mana
- ◆ 11.16- Speaker adjourns House for 20 minutes
- ◆ 11.36- CM read obituary resolution
- ◆ 12.05- Speaker adjourns House till February 24 (Monday) at 2 pm.

canal at the earliest," he said.

The Governor concluded his speech in about nine minutes after reading out only a part of the 27-page address and told the House that the rest of it be treated as having been read. During his address, Arya touched upon the government various welfare initiatives, including those for farmers and women.

He said the Government has undertaken a new initiative to promote hygiene among



Haryana Governor S N Arya being greeted by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Speaker Gian Chand Gupta on the first day of the Budget Session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha at Chandigarh on Thursday. Pioneer Photo

BPL category of adolescent girls and women in the age group of 10 to 45 years under which sanitary napkins would be distributed free of cost to approximately 11 lakh BPL families in the state. It would cost the state exchequer ₹30 crore during 2020-21 fiscal year, he said.

He also said the State Government is committed to

making Haryana more safe for women. "The Government will strive to improve the safety of women at homes and in public spaces through a mass movement in the state," he said.

KHATTAR TO PRESENT BUDGET ON FEB 28

As Finance Minister, the Chief Minister will present the first budget of the coalition

Government on February 28. This was decided in a Business Advisory Committee meeting ahead of budget session on Thursday, chaired by Speaker Gian Chand Gupta in the presence of Khattar, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Singh Chautala, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kanwar Pal Gurjar and Deputy Speaker Ranbir Singh Gangwa.

The duration of the Budget session has been extended by one day. Earlier, the Budget session was supposed to last till March 3, but now it will conclude on March 4. The Speaker said the session will be conducted for 14 days with five holidays. It was decided that except on February 24 (Monday), the assembly proceedings will start at 11 am every day.

OPPOSITION DEMANDS

EXTENSION OF BUDGET SESSION

Congress MLA from Radaur, Bishan Lal Saini demanded extension of House proceedings. He said that during the Budget session, MLAs have to raise the problems of their constituencies.

Replying to this, Chief Minister Khattar said that sufficient days have been fixed for legislators to have a discussion on budget. However, if House members feel that session should be extended by a day or two, it will be decided on March 3.

OBITUARY RESOLUTIONS PASSED

On the first day of the Session, after Governor's address, obituary resolutions had not been acquired to those prominent personalities who have expired between the period from the end of the previous session and the beginning of the current session. Leader

of the House Khattar paid tributes and read out the obituary resolutions.

These including former Minister of State, former Member of Haryana Legislative Assembly, Freedom Fighters and martyrs of Haryana and close relatives of members of Haryana Vidhan Sabha. The members of House also observed silence to pay homage to the departed souls.

Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Gian Chand Gupta read out the obituary resolutions and paid tributes to the departed souls. Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda also read out the obituary resolutions on behalf of his party.

Those paid homage in the House included former Minister, Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmed and former Member of Haryana Legislative Assembly, Chaudhary Ude Singh Dalal.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

Drugs issue comes to Punjab House again

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The ghost of drugs on Thursday came haunting the Punjab politics with the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh assuring the Vidhan Sabha that a thorough investigation would be held into the drugs nexus of former SSB member Anwar Masih, who was recently arrested by the Special Task Force in a drug case, with political leaders.

The assurance came after the Congress MLA Kulbir Singh Zira flashed some documents and photographs to allege that Anwar Masih, caught by the STF on drugs in ₹1000 crore drug recovery case, was a close associate of SAD MLA Bikram Majithia.

Joining in, the Leader of Opposition and AAP MLA Harpal Singh Cheema also demanded investigations into Majithia's alleged role in the case, besides other political bigwigs.

Notably, the Punjab Police STF on drugs, a day before, arrested former Subordinate Services Board (SSB) member Anwar Masih in connection with the massive heroin haul, weighing 197 kgs, from his house in Sultanwind village on January 31. He was booked under the NDPS Act, and was remanded to two days' police



custody.

Taking serious note of the allegations, the Chief Minister maintained that all the documents or materials, shown or displayed by the members, would be forwarded to the STF for detailed investigations into the drugs network, launched in the wake of the seizures made from the house of Masih, an Akali leader. The Chief Minister assured the House that a detailed inquiry would be conducted and the report in this regard would be forwarded to the competent authority.

At the same time, the Chief Minister made it clear that anyone suspected to be involved in the drug racket would be thoroughly probed to ascertain their links.

"The entire network would be unraveled to ensure that all those involved in the drugs

racket were pinned down and action taken against them as per the law," he added.

Earlier, Zira demanded an extensive probe to find why he was made SSB member and on whose recommendation and appropriate action should be taken.

Demanding to nab the "black sheep" in the political circles, he openly demanded that Majithia should also be put behind bars on whose recommendation Masih was appointed SSB member.

In sync with Zira's demand, Cheema too asked the Government to investigate "Majithia's role" in Masih drug haul.

Cheema alleged that the multi-crore drug haul, involving the Akali leader Anwar Masih and councillor, had links with the political bigwigs. "Whether the Chief

Minister would give an assurance that he would investigate the role of Bikram Singh Majithia in the drug haul," he asked after which the Chief Minister made the statement.

MASIH IS CONG LEADER, INQUIRE INTO CONG LINKS WITH DRUG MAFIA: SAD TO CM

Under attack, SAD MLA Bikram Majithia furnished photographs and documents to claim that Anwar Masih was a "Congress man", and the Chief Minister should take into account detailed evidence of the involvement of Congress leaders in Amritsar heroin seizure case as well as drug trafficking in the State.

Majithia, at the same time, welcomed the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's statement in the Vidhan Sabha that he would order an inquiry into the political connections of Christian Dalit Front leader Anwar Masih.

"Masih's close connection with the Congress and the support extended to the party by Anwar and Christian Front President Munawar Masih in 2017 assembly elections, 2018 Gurdaspur Lok Sabha by-election contested by Pradesh Congress president Sunil Jakhar as well as 2019 parliamentary elections were a matter of record. It is a fact that

Munawar Masih was the only person whose term as Minorities Commission chairman was extended by three years by the Congress Government after being reappointed," said Majithia while showing pictures of Munawar and Anwar Masih with Cabinet Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa in 2019 and advertisements alongside senior Congress leaders to claim that both of them are Congressmen.

Demanding a detailed inquiry into political connections of those associated with Amritsar heroin seizure case, Majithia said that the kingpin in the case - Simarjit Singh Sandhu - was the son of Sarabjit Singh Sandhu who was appointed Member of the Subordinate Services Selection Board in 2006 during Congress Government tenure.

"Simarjit Sandhu's association with the Congress party should be investigated and all Congressmen associated with him should be exposed and booked," he demanded while speaking with the media outside the Assembly.

Majithia also condemned photo-dramas being enacted in the assembly to divert the people's attention from the power hike and power scams, farmer suicides, and the Congress Government's failure to provide jobs to the youth.

Govt to compensate farmers for land given to PSTCL towers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government may soon come up with a policy to compensate the farmers for their land being used for installing towers by the State transmission utility.

Announcing this on the floor of the House on the first day of the Budget session, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday made it clear that the Government would consider compensation only for installation of towers on farmers' land by the Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (PSTCL), but not for the land falling under the transmission cables.

"It is not possible to give compensation to farmers for their land falling under the transmission lines since a substantial chunk of 105 acres of agriculture land across the State is under the wires," said the Chief Minister while responding to the calling attention notice raised by Aam Aadmi Party's Talwandi Sabo MLA Prof Baljinder Kaur and AAP MLA Jai Krishan Singh Rori. The two AAP MLAs has drew the Chief Minister's attention towards the installation of

electricity poles on the farmers' land from Balanwali Thermal Plant to Talwandi Sabo refinery by PSTCL.

Capt Amarinder informed the House that the land under the towers in Bathinda district had not been acquired as there was no restriction on agricultural activity in land located under the towers and transmission lines, and such land would not hence be acquired. The farmers were being compensated for damage of crops according to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, he added.

The Chief Minister informed the House that during stubbing of 23 towers, a compensation of ₹6,38,087 had been paid to the farmers. Welcoming the decision, Baljinder Kaur requested the Chief Minister to install the towers with prior notice to this effect to the farmers.

She had earlier pointed out that while the farmers were not being compensated, the land rate had also taken dive in the market. "There is a lot of anger among the local farmers," she said while demanding compensation of ₹15 lakh per acre of land acquired by the Government.

Govt to probe into Behbal Kalan, Bargari sacrilege cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After the Supreme Court rejected the central probe agency's plea, Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday announced that the cases will now be "investigated by the Punjab Police only"

Decks are cleared for the Punjab Police to probe the Behbal Kalan and Bargari sacrilege cases. After the Supreme Court rejected the central probe agency's plea against Punjab Government's notification to withdraw investigations in the Behbal Kalan and Bargari cases from the CBI on the grounds of delay, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday announced that the cases will now be "investigated by the Punjab Police only".

The Chief Minister, on the onset of Zero Hour, announced in the House that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) petition before the Supreme Court, challenging an earlier order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court that had upheld the notification of the Punjab Government to withdraw the investigation in the Behbal Kalan and Bargari sacrilege cases from the central probe agency, has been dismissed.

"Supreme Court has upheld the Government's decision and now we would see what to be done," he said while assuring that the SIT investigation into these cases would be taken to its logical conclusion.

Intervening, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Aman Arora welcomed the decision, but demanded that the Punjab Government should ensure time-bound investigations into the cases so that the guilty could be awarded punishment.

At the same time, he sought clarification from the Chief Minister whether the Supreme Court verdict related to all the cases - Behbal Kalan, Bargari-Kotakpura firing incident - to be precise pointing that all those were separate cases.

Going into background, the CBI had challenged the legality of the State Government's September 2019 notification to withdraw the

three sacrilege-related violence cases from it in the High Court but it had ruled that the chain of events showed that the same were inextricably linked and thus it did not feel the need to interfere in the decision of the State Government to withdraw investigation from the CBI or to set aside the consequent notifications.

With this, the Apex Court has cleared the legal hurdle for the State to carry on its investigations into the sacrilege cases and the subsequent police firing in these cases, which were handed over to the CBI by the erstwhile SAD-BJP regime.

In view of the CBI's failure to complete the probe in the cases, the Captain Amarinder government had announced in the House earlier that the cases would be taken back from the central agency and would be investigated by the state government.

During the hearing in the Apex Court, a division bench of Justice Rohinton Nariman and Ravindra Bhatt dismissed the CBI case, rejecting the arguments of their advocate Aman Lekhi on the ground that instead of the 90 days given to the agency to file the SLP (special leave petition), it had taken 257 days to make its submission.

The Judge also rejected Lekhi's argument that the CBI team had a problem on the legal issue as it would form precedent, and not on the investigation being transferred. The Judge then ordered dismissal of the SLP on the ground of delay, while keeping the question of law open.

"Given this, the act of reverting the investigation to the State Police from CBI has now attained finality and no further fetter remains on the SIT to investigate the same," said the state Advocate-General Atul Nanda.

He underlined that as per previous judgments, "once investigation is transferred to CBI, it cannot be withdrawn. Those cases were decided on their own facts, but the question of whether the state legislature has the power to take back an investigation from CBI, in terms of general clauses act, was left open."

The prosecution's case was that the three FIRs in the sacrilege cases were initially registered by the Punjab Police but the investigation was later handed over by the State of Punjab to CBI. It was submitted that since the CBI had filed a joint Closure Report in the above said three cases, the state of Punjab requires the certified copy of joint report along with the copies of documents attached thereto for its official use.

It was further submitted by the prosecution that only the investigation was transferred and CBI had been informing the stage of investigation to the State of Punjab from time to time.

Further, the prosecution argued that later on, a resolution was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly which the investigation was taken back from the CBI and accordingly, on September 6, 2018, a notification was issued by the State of Punjab, withdrawing the consent to the CBI to investigate the case.

The said resolution and the notification were challenged in the High Court, which, vide judgment reported as 2019(2) RCR Criminal, Page 165, upheld the notification. The CBI did not file any SLP and thus, after the withdrawal of the consent, the State had full right to investigate the cases, it was argued for the state.

Haryana approves new excise policy

Number of liquor vends increased from 2500 to 2600

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Cabinet on Thursday approved the New Excise Policy for the year 2020-2021 in which the total number of liquor vends in the State have been increased from 2500 to 2600.

Talking to reporters, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, who also has the Excise Department, said that as per the new Excise Policy of the State, allotment of liquor vends for the year 2020-2021 shall be carried out in the units of zones. The number of vends per zone has been reduced from six vends to two vends. It will facilitate new entrepreneurs with modest

means to participate in the bidding process and would make the process more competitive. The practice of allotment by way of e-tenders will continue.

He said that to further streamline the trade and as a step to ensure the quality of liquor to consumers, it has been decided that retail licensees shall issue an invoice of sales. A separate POS machine will be required to be installed for IMFL and country liquor at the sale counter of all retail vends.

Chautala informed that temporary one day license for serving of liquor in functions or parties in form L-12A shall be made online. The fee struc-

ture has further been rationalized. Now, the commercial establishments hosting functions and parties shall have to mandatorily get themselves registered with the Excise and Taxation Department.

He said that the quota of IMFL in the State has been reduced from 650 Lakh Proof Liter to 550 Proof Liter whereas no change has been made in the quota of country liquor which is retained at 1050 Lakh Proof Liter.

Duties on various categories of low alcoholic drink beer have been reduced. The duty on beer with an alcoholic content between 3.5 percent and 5.5 percent has been reduced from ₹50 per BL to

₹40 per BL. The duty of BL containing alcoholic content more than 5.5 percent has been reduced from ₹55 per BL to ₹45 per BL. A new category of super mild beer has been created with alcoholic content up to 3.5 percent. The duty of super mild beer has been fixed at ₹35 per BL.

The hours of sales for bars operating in Gurugram, Faridabad, and Panchkula have been extended. Now, the bars would be allowed to operate till 1:00 A.M. in Gurugram, Faridabad, and Panchkula. These timings in these districts can be further extended by another two hours on payment of an additional license fee of ₹10 Lakh per hour.

State level hockey player, friend shot dead in Patiala

State level hockey player, friend shot dead in Patiala

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A state level hockey player and his friend were shot dead by their colleague in Patiala on Wednesday night over a petty issue.

The victims, who have been identified as Amrik Singh and Simranjit Singh Happy, were employed with Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. The police said the duo had an altercation with a person named Manoj Kumar and his son at an eatery. A case has been registered under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Punjab Budget session extended by 3 days

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Amidst demand by the opposition parties, the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Budget session has been extended till March 4, adding three more working days. Now, the session would have nine working days. The Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal will present the Budget proposals for 2020-21 on February 28, which was earlier scheduled for February 25.

The decision was taken by the Vidhan Sabha's Business Advisory Committee (BAC) with the Speaker Rana Kanwar Pal Singh as its ex-officio chairman. The BAC has Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra, Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot as its members, besides Leader of Opposition

Harpal Singh Cheema, and Congress MLA Kushaldeep Singh Kiki Dhillon as other members.

Sports Minister Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi and SAD legislative party wing leader Sharanjit Singh Dhillon were special invitees. As per the new programme, the session, which commenced on Thursday with obituary references, would resume after three holidays from Monday when the debate on Governor's address would be held for next three days.

Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore had addressed the Assembly during the two-day special session convened to ratify SC/ST Bill to extend reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another 10 years, on January 16-17.

The reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India will be tabled

on February 26, along with the supplementary grants for 2019-20, and appropriation bill on supplementary demand for grants for 2019-20.

After presentation of Budget estimates on Friday, the discussion on the same will be held on March 2 and 3, with the last day dedicated for the legislative business.

The session was extended after the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party had demanded extension of the session. While the SAD demanded 25-day session, AAP urged the Speaker to hold at least 15-day session.

Welcoming the move, AAP MLA Kulraj Singh Sandhwan said that a detailed discussion should be held on the Centre's proposed move to forego the MSP regime and the agriculture situa-

tion.

SAD PROTEST ON HIGH POWER TARIFF

Irked over the Speaker Rana KP Singh's decision to reject its adjournment motion over the high power tariff, the Shiromani Akali Dal on Thursday held a protest inside and outside the Punjab Assembly. During the zero hour, SAD MLA and legislative wing leader Sharanjit Singh Dhillon opposed the Speaker's order saying that it was not accepted.

Speaker clarified that the motion was rejected as the Budget is to be presented, and debate is to be held on the Governor's address to the House. "The house is very much functioning and that is why your adjournment motion cannot be accepted," said the Speaker.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that I lost my matriculation passing certificate of year 2007 Roll No. 2187266 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Akshay Kumar Naharia S/o Mukesh Prashad Naharia R/o 36B, Penta Homes, Zirakpur, Mohali, Punjab.

It is notified for the information that my original qualification Examination Certificate of Secondary Examination of year-2019 & Roll No. 2308475 issued by CBSE Board has been actually lost. Name-Amanjot Singh Tiwana S/o Swarnandeep Singh R/o Vill. Chanharta Kalan, (Fatehgarh Sahib) 140406.

I, Jitender Tayal S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Tayal R/o H. No. 318-L, Model Town, Near Shivaji Stadium Distt. Panipat. I have lost my original property documents of plot No. C-2109, Ansal Sushant City, Kurukshetra, M. 9812051064.

I, Jitender Tayal S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Tayal R/o H. No. 318-L, Model Town, Near Shivaji Stadium Distt. Panipat. I have lost my original property documents of plot No. A-0018, Ansal Landmark Township Sushant City, Kanral. M. 9812051064.

I, Savinder Kaur W/o Tariq Singh R/o Village Mann Khara Majitha Road District Amritsar declare that Registry Plot No.18, Khara No.70/231/1, 231/2, Khara No.83/63 vaska no. 14213 Bahai No.1 Jild No.3558 Page No.6889 dated 10-02-2009 has been lost.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. 4475640X Hav Dalbir Singh 3 Sikkh LL 99APO declare my son's name written wrongly Saranpreet Singh in my army record. Accordingly aadhar card his correct name is Saranpreet Singh he attended in my army record vide affidavit No. 2709/19-02-2020.

I, Praveen Gupta S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta R/o H.No.14, Housing Board Colony, Kalka and Praveen Kumar Gupta are the names of the same person.

I, Mohammad Rahish S/o Imamu Din S/o h.no.786 Gali No.1 Sefi Chowk Mahadev Colony Panipat declared that change my Rahish to Mohammad Rahish.

I, Narender Kaur W/o Rattan Singh R/o Nising Sub Tehsil Nising Distt Karnal declare that I have changed my name from Narender Kaur to Narender Kaur all of purpose.

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Sh. Kasturi Lal R/O H.No. 338 Phase 6 Mohali Have changed my name to Ashok Garg.

I, Poonam W/o Vimal Kant Sharma R/O 177, Mohalla Rajran, Teh/Distt Pathankot have changed my name to Poonam Sharma. Poonam & Poonam Sharma are the name of Single and Same Person.

I, Manpreet Singh S/o Deepinder Jeet Singh, Ward-12, Chak Alla Baksh, Tehsil Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name to Manpreet Singh Goraya.

I, Amrat Pal Singh S/o Sher Singh R/O VPO-Mussibid, Distt., Yamuna Nagar have changed my name to Amritpal Singh.

I, Kapil S/o Ram Pal R/O 401/97 2, Chuharpur Kalan, PO Malikpur Khadar, Distt., Yamuna Nagar have changed my name to Kapil Kumar.

I, Raj Bala W/o Mahender Singh Village Kheri Naru District, Karnal, declare that Raj Bala and Bala Devi both are the same person name.

I, Jatinder Kaur W/o Sukhchian Singh R/O Nising Sub Tehsil Nising Distt Karnal declare that I have changed my name from Jatinder Kaur to Jatinder Kaur all of purpose.

I, Ravi Kumar Oberoi S/o Kishore Kumar R/O H.No. 291-L Model Town Sonapat Declared My Name Ravi Kumar Oberoi to Ravi Oberoi.

I, Shakila Bano W/o Saleem Mohammed R/O #2239 Sector 45-C Chandigarh declare that my name has been misspelt as Sakila Bano in some of my documents. My correct name is Shakila Bano.

I, Varun Piplani S/o Ajay Piplani R/o Narainghar Tehsil Narainghar (Ambala) have changed my name from varun to Varun Piplani.

I, Antarjeet S/o Paramjeet Singh R/O H.No. 1734, Sector-5, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, declares that Antarjeet and Antareet Singh both names are of same person and both are my names. I have changed my name to Antarjeet Singh.

I, Manjit Singh S/o Prithi Singh R/O Vishwas Nagar, Ward-8, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.

I, Rameshwar S/o Raja Ram R/O Village Phaisanda Rangdun, Sub Tehsil Babain Tehsil Ladwa, Distt. Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Ram Kumar.

I, Salam Singh S/o Sita Pal R/O Village Ramtharsh Majra, Sub Tehsil Babain Tehsil Ladwa, Distt. Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Sulem Singh.

I, Suman Devi W/o Balwinder Singh R/O VPO Amin Tehsil Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Suman Rani.

I, Kamlesh Devi W/o Wazir Singh R/O H.No.1337/6, Shanti Nagar, Patiala Chowk, Jind, inform that I have changed my name from Kamlesh to Kamlesh Devi for all future purposes.

I, Mithun Babu S/O Sarjog Prasad R/O 1752 Mauli Jagran Chandigarh change my name from Mithun Babu to Ashutosh Kumar.

I, Raja Ram Anuragi S/o Sh. Ram Sanjeevan R/o Jhuggian, Sector 46, Chandigarh have changed my name to Raja Ram.

I, Anita Anuragi W/o Raja Ram R/o Jhuggian, Sector 46, Chandigarh have changed my name to Tidora Wali.

I, Patle Laxmi Doma spouse of No. 15801809X LNK Chaudhri Sachin Radhalek residing at Ambetalo P.O. Kallimat, Tehsil Gogergan Distt. Gondia have changed my name from Patle Laxmi Doma to Laxmi Sachin Chaudhari. Vide affidavit dated 27-1-2020 before Executive Magistrate Goregoan.

I, Atty Verma D/o Sh. Dheeraaj Singh R/O H.No.202 Old Hamida, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, have changed my name from Atty Verma to Atty Rana.

I, Seema Babbar D/o Sh. Gopal Dass Rana R/O Flat No.6A First Floor Surya Homes, Peer Muchalla Zirakpur have changed my daughter's name from Gora Sharma to Urvasi Babbar.

I, Sangita Shankar Garud spouse of No. 14939396H Rank Sep/ Mt. Name Patil Ghanshyam Prataprao R/O Vill. Mhore, Po. Mhore, Teh. Karad, Distt. Satara, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sangita Shankar Garud to Sangita Ghanshyam Patil vide affidavit dated 20/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Amarjit Singh (existing name of son as per change of Next of Kin) of Prem Singh (Name of father), resident of VPO-Juan, Tehsil and Distt. Sonapat, have changed his name & DOB from Amarjit Singh, DOB 05.04.1995 (Existing name and DOB of son as per NOK) to the proposed name & DOB as Amarjeet, DOB 02.10.1997, vide Affidavit dated 19.02.2020.

I, No. 4005238H Rank Ex Nk (Tn) Kiril Kumar S/O Son Nath Sharma R/O Village Farwal Po. Narot Jaimal Singh Teh & Distt Pathankot Declare That In My Service Record Dob Of My Son Pawan Kumar Wrongly Entered As 04-09-2009 Instead Of 26-09-2010. Affidavit No AK 125214.

I, Meena Kumari W/O Karan Bir Gautam R/O Vill-Chhani Mukimpur, Po - Farida Nagar, Teh/Distt-Pathankot Have Changed My Son Name From Lakshay To Lakshay Chaudhary.

I, Hassan Din S/o Anokh Din, R/O Near ITI Chowk, Bt. Ahmadabad, Tehsil Malerkotla-148023 (Sangru) Punjab Declare my name has been misspelt as Hussain Din in some of my daughter Shakila Bano's documents. My correct name is Hassan Din.

I, Rajbir S/o Munsri Ram R/O VPO Sandhri, Karnal declare that Dalbir Singh & Rajbir both are same & one person, Kindly note.

I, Kamaljit Kaur alias Kanwaljeet Kaur W/o Balbir Singh R/o Village Majri, Tehsil Gulha, District Kathal declare that I have changed my name from Kamaljit Kaur alias Kanwaljeet Kaur to Kamaljeet Kaur. All concerned please note.

I, Narinder Kaur W/o Jagdev Singh R/O House No. 280, Advocate Colony, Ward No. 15, Cheeka, Tehsil Gulha, District Kathal, Haryana (INDIA) declare that I have changed my name from Narinderji Kaur to Narinder Kaur. All concerned please note.

I, Sulvinder Singh Pawar son of Hazara Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. Z2057168 permanent resident of Village Lohchap Sekhwan, Gurdaspur, Punjab, India and presently residing at Varsan village, Block A, House # 1192, International City Dubai, United Arab Emirates do hereby change my name from Sulvinder Singh Hajar Hasan to Sulvinder Singh Pawar son of Hazara Singh.

I, Manju Kumari Sharma W/o Munish Kumar resident of H.No. 654, Sector-19, Panchkula, Haryana have changed our names in the school's records of our son, from Manju Sharma to Manju Kumari Sharma, Munish Sharma to Munish Kumar and minor son Shaurya Sharma to Shaurya. All concerned please note.

I, Krishan Gopal Kapila S/o Late Joginder chander Kapila # 7403/1, (A) Durga Puri, Mandir Wali Gali, Haiwaboli, Ludhiana, Punjab (India) declare that Krishan Gopal Kapila, Kishan Gopal Kapila and K.G. Kapila is one and the same person.

I, Kulbeer Singh S/o Sh. Jaswant Singh R/O Vill.- Mouji Khara, Tehsil & Distt. Sirsa have changed my name to Kulbeer Singh Sandhu. Concerned note.

I, Dinesh Singh Smaug S/o Sh. Hardev Singh Samagh R/O H.No. 15/345, Bhagat Singh Colony, Barnala Road, Sirsa have changed my name to Dinesh Singh Samagh. Concerned note.

I, No.6297901H Ex Nk Balbir Singh Lalora S/O Late Saran Singh R/O Village Nawar Pind, Taraf Gujran Post Office Ferozepur Kalan, T/D Pathakot. Have Change The Name Of My Wife From Prabha To Prabha Devi And Correct Date Of Birth Of My Wife Is 12.12.1947 Instead Of 02.03.1950

I, Je 130096X Ex Nb Sub Ram Singh Saini S/O Late Sh. Buaa Lal R/O Village- Dhoobra Post Office Jhakholar, T/D Pathankot. Have Change The Name Of My Wife From Swarna Devi To Swarni Devi And Correct Date Of Birth Of My Wife Is 10.09.1947 Instead Of 01.07.1953.

I, Surinder Singh S/O Ajmer Singh R/O Village- Sarje Chack Po-Dera Baba Nanak, Tehsil Kalanaur, Distt Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name To Sukhjinder Singh.

I, Meena Kumari W/O Jagjit Singh R/O Vill. Diwana, Pahawa, Kurukshetra Changed Name Meena Devi.

I, Ram Narain S/O Faqir Chand # 192/8, Pooja Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Changed Name Ram Narayan.

I, Chain Pal & Chain Pal W/O S/O Hushnak Rai R/O W.No. 17, Shastri Colony, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Both Names Are Single And Same Person.

I, Tejbir Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/O B-170, Ranjit Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Tejbir Singh

I, Smt. Jasbir Kaur W/o Service No. 2481680H Rank: Ex Hav Name: Balwinder Singh resident of Village: Kuka Po. Meksuor Teh-Bholath (Kapurthala) Punjab, have changed my name as Jasvir Kaur.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Service No. JC-138065N Rank: Ex Nb Sub Name: Joginder Singh resident of Dashmesh Avenue Circular Road (Kapurthala) Punjab, have changed my name as Manjit Kaur Kaura.

I, No.14938455M, NK, Bhagat Omprakash Mahendra Of Unit 25 Mech Inf Regt: C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Son Name From Divyanshu To Divyanshu Omprakash Bhagat Vide Affidavit Dated 20 February 2020 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sukhjinder Singh S/o Amrik Singh R/O Madho Jhanda (Kapurthala) changed my name to (Sukhjinder Singh Bassi).

I, Smt. Jasbir Kaur W/o Service No. 2481680H Rank: Ex Hav Name: Balwinder Singh resident of Village: Kuka Po. Meksuor Teh-Bholath (Kapurthala) Punjab, have changed my name as Jasvir Kaur.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Service No. JC-138065N Rank: Ex Nb Sub Name: Joginder Singh resident of Dashmesh Avenue Circular Road (Kapurthala) Punjab, have changed my name as Manjit Kaur Kaura.

I, No.14938455M, NK, Bhagat Omprakash Mahendra Of Unit 25 Mech Inf Regt: C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Son Name From Divyanshu To Divyanshu Omprakash Bhagat Vide Affidavit Dated 20 February 2020 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Tarsem Singh S/O Surjan Singh R/O Vpo. Chhaba Distt. Amritsar Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Manjeet Kaur To Manroet Kaur.

I, Pawanjit Kaur W/O Gurjant Singh R/O 188/189 Diamond Estate Near Sultanwind Canal Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Pawanjeet Kaur.

I, Pradeep Kumar S/O Jugal Kishore Chawla R/O H.No.418/39 A Outside Hakima Gate Roop Nagar Dhoi Ghat Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Pardeep Kumar Chawla

I, Kawaljeet Sandhu W/o Paramjit Singh Sandhu R/O Villa No.306, Phase-I, Heaven City Manawala Khurd GT Road Amritsar have changed my name to Kawaljit Sandhu

I, No. 15476431 A LD Chander Shekhar S/o Mukhtiar Singh R/O 67 Armed Regt. C/O 56APO have been changed my name from Chander Shaker to Chander Shekar vide affidavit No.AC 947567 dated 18 Feb 2020 Before Notary Public Amritsar.

I, Ranjodh Dalwal S/o Sukhwinder Singh R/O Village Gunawal Amritsar have changed my name to Ranjodh Singh.

I, Rajni and Rajni Chawla W/o Harjinder Pal R/O E/7 H.NO.4301, Bhalla Colony, G.T. Chheharta Amritsar have certified that above both names are mine one and the same person.

I, Harjit Kaur W/O Dilbagh Singh R/O H.No.938, Gali No.3, Kale Road Harkrishan Nagar Chheharta District Amritsar have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur.

I, Harnet Singh S/O Jagtar Singh R/O Vill. Sarhali Khurd, Po. Sakhira, Distt. Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Singh Harnet.

I, Bahadur S/o Lal Singh R/O Vill. Randhirpur, Po.Sultanpur Lodhi, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name as Bahadur Singh.

I, Ajay Kumari W/o Harmandir Singh R/O VPO Jalbhe, Distt. Jalanchar-144106, Punjab have Changed My Name To Sonia Powar.

I, Parveen W/o Som Raj R/O VPO. Budhabar, Teh. Mukerian, Distt.Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Parveen Kumari.

I, Shaina Verma W/O Ajmer Singh R/O H.No.1217 Block-2/1 Vijay Nagar Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Shaina Bagga, After Marriage.

I, Nirmla Ram Son Of Darshan Lal R/O Village Garupar Tehsil Nawanshahr District S.B.S. Nagar Have Changed My Name From Nirmla Ram To Nirmla.

I, Amandeep S/O Surinder Pal R/O Vpo. Musapur Tehsil Nawanshahr District. S.B.S. Nagar Have Changed My Name From Amandeep To Amandeep Mahay.

I, Rakesh Kumar S/O Bhushan Kumar R/O H.No.339, Vpo. Balianwali, Distt. Bathinda have Changed My Name Rakesh Kumar Mittal To Rakesh Kumar.

I, Ramanpreet Kaur D/O Nirval Singh R/O Vpo. Daultpura Nivran Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Ramanpreet Kaur Dhalwal.

I, Daljeet Kaur W/O Inderjit Singh R/O Vpo. Manawan, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Daljeet Kaur Alias Manpreet Kaur.

I, Pal Singh S/O Sarain Singh R/O Vill. Kahan Singh Wala, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Pal Singh Dhillon.

I, Harbans Singh S/O Nek Singh R/O Vpo. Buri Latha Singh Wala, Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Harbans Singh Brar.

I, Sandeep Kaur Chana W/O Gagandeep Singh R/O Plot No.90, Street No.2, Gura Nanak Nagar Gili Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Kaur.

I, Rajwinder Kaur D/O Jagseer Singh R/O Village Dehrka Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana have Changed My Name To Rajwinder Kaur Bhatti.

I, Sheela Devi Alias Baljit Kaur Kanda W/O Jaskaran Singh R/O Vpo. Sohian Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sheela Devi.

I, Gurdev Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O Vpo. Heran Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gurdev Singh Hehar.

I, Isha Kiran Dhiman W/O Nikhil Sood R/O H.No. 800 Civil Lines Moga Have Changed My Name To Isha Kiran Sood After Marriage.

I, Sanpreet Kaur Alias Sarbjit Kaur Gill W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O H.No.-B-31/6794/4 Street No.-7 Ward No.-9 Near Samrala Chowk Adarsh Nagar Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sarbjit Kaur.

I, Sandeep Kumar S/O Resham Lal R/O Vill. Panjawa Punjabwa (Sri Muktsar Sahib) Pb, changed my name to Sandeep Sidhar.

I, Sukhjinder Singh S/o Amrik Singh R/O Madho Jhanda (Kapurthala) changed my name to (Sukhjinder Singh Bassi).

I, Smt. Jasbir Kaur W/o Service No. 2481680H Rank: Ex Hav Name: Balwinder Singh resident of Village: Kuka Po. Meksuor Teh-Bholath (Kapurthala) Punjab, have changed my name as Jasvir Kaur.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Service No. JC-138065N Rank: Ex Nb Sub Name: Joginder Singh resident of Dashmesh Avenue Circular Road (Kapurthala) Punjab, have changed my name as Manjit Kaur Kaura.

I, No.14938455M, NK, Bhagat Omprakash Mahendra Of Unit 25 Mech Inf Regt: C/O 56 Apo Have Changed My Son Name From Divyanshu To Divyanshu Omprakash Bhagat Vide Affidavit Dated 20 February 2020 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, 15494203A, ALD, Utpal Kr. Manna 52 Armd Regt. Presently Residing At Vpo Osmanchek Tehsil Haldia District, East Medinipur (West Bengal) 721631 Have Changed My Daughter Name From Beas Manna To Disha Manna Vide Affidavit Dated 19 February 2020 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Vir Singh S/O Tara Singh VPO Usman Teh & Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name Vir Singh To Veer Singh.

I, Prabhjot Singh S/o Kulwinder Singh R/o Johlan (Ludhiana) changed my name to Prabhjot Singh Sidhu.

I, Sonia W/o Pankaj Sheokand R/o Village Dumarka Kalan, Distt. Jind have changed my name to Sonia Sheokand.

I, Pankaj Sheokand S/o Pritpal Sheokand R/o Village Dumarka Kalan, Distt. Jind have changed my minor daughter name from Vernika to Vernika Sheokand.

I, Partap Singh @ Gurpartap Singh S/o Lakhwinder Singh R/O Vill. Pippaltha Tehsil Narwana Distt. Jind is one and the same person Known by Partap Singh.

I, Gurdev Singh S/o Dyal Singh R/O Vill: Gondwal (Ludhiana) changed my name to Gurdev Singh Sidhu.

I, Tirath Kaur W/o Sukhvir Singh Cheema R/O Vpo. Malupur Teh-Shahkot (Jalandhar) changed my name to Tirath Kaur Cheema.

I, Sushma W/O Sanjay Sonkar R/O H. No. 56 Preet Nagar Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Sushma Sonkar After Marriage.

I, Beenu W/O Sunny Kapoor R/O House No. 19, Street No. 05, Ferozepur Cantt. Have Changed My Name To Beenu Kapoor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Garib Dass S/o Dhirju Ram & Malka Devi W/o Garib Dass R/O 255-A, Sector-19, Panchkula declared that our son Pardeep Kumar & his wife Shallu are out of our control. So we disowned them from our all moveable/immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with them at our risk.

I, Akash S/o Rajinder Singh R/O Village Bhukhi, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Distt. SAS Nagar declare that I have changed my religion from Hindu to Sikh.

I, Anil Kumar Bhala S/o Gulab Chander Bhala R/O 105, MC Colony, Bhiwani My son Shivam Maheshwari and his wife Priyanka out of my control. I disown them from my property. I shall not be responsible of their acts.

I, Ajay Kumar alias Ajay Saini S/O Sh. Ishwar Singh, R/O Village Dhana Kalan, Tehsil Hansi, Distt. Hisar, inform that in my daughter Himani's school record my name recorded wrongly as Ajay Saini. But in her all other documents my name is Ajay Kumar which is absolutely correct.

I, Gajje Singh S/o Sh. Ran Singh R/O H.No. 7/3 University Raod, Malkaganj North Delhi declare that my son Sunil Dahiya and his wife Medhavi Dabas are out of my control. I disown them from my moveable/ immovable property. Any body deals with them at our risk.

I, Ravi Dutt S/o Babu Ram Mehta R/O Vill Beh Nagal PO Kamahi Devi Tehsil Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur disinherit my son Dinesh Kumar and his wife Kajai Sharma from my moveable/immovable property. He is out of my control. Anybody dealing with him will do at his/her own risk.

I, Amardeep Singh Bhangu S/o Late Sohan Singh R/O D-515, Ranjit Avenue Amritsar have declare that my son Amardeep Singh Bhangu is out of my control I disinherit them from my all moveable and immovable properties any body deal with him is his own risk and responsibility.

We, Dara Singh S/o late Piyara Singh and Rajinder W/O Dara Singh R/O A-482, New Partap Nagar Amritsar inform that our son Inderjit Singh and his wife Rupinder Kaur R/O Mohali both are doing job in Mohali are out of our control and don't respect us. We disinherit both of them from our all moveable and immovable properties. We shall not be responsible for any act/deed done by them. We and our family have no relation with them.

I, No. 14919548M Hav. Nirmla Singh S/o Jager Ram W/No. 6 Nihalpur Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb, declare that in my army record my son Gulshan Singh's DOB written 15-12-2008 has been written wrongly. Actually DOB of my son is 01-05-2008 as per school records.

It is for general information that I Kulwant Singh S/o Sham Singh, residing at Village-Pota, Pota, Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) Punjab-144211 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Parminder Kaur in my passport No. J9972674. The actual name of my wife is Parwinder Kaur, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connections.

I, No. 14919548M Hav. Nirmla Singh S/o Jager Ram W/No. 6 Nihalpur Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) Pb, declare that in my army record my son Gulshan Singh's DOB written 15-12-2008 has been written wrongly. Actually DOB of my son is 01-05-2008 as per school records.

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RLA Chandigarh set to launch new smart cards, outsource its services



PNS CHANDIGARH

RLA has begun the process of outsourcing most of its services involved in issuing of driving licenses (DL) and vehicle registration certificate (RC)

The Registering and Licensing Authority (RLA), Chandigarh is all set to launch new smart cards based driving licence and vehicle registration certificate in line with the new design issued by the Central Government.

For this, the RLA has begun the process of outsourcing most of its services involved in issuing of driving licenses (DL) and vehicle registration certificate (RC).

"The work on issuance of revised smart cards will be started soon. The new design will conform to the uniform design across the country issued by the Centre," said a senior RLA officer. He said that the RLA has already floated tenders to hire a private agency, which will be undertaking the work related to G2C service delivery project, a comprehensive scheme for

modernization and computerization of the work of issuance of registration certificates and driving licences to the citizens, the officer said.

As per the Central Government's uniform smart driving licenses format, all new driving licenses (DL) issued by RTOs across the country will carry the same uniform look which means, same format, same colour, same design and same security features. All new DLs will also be embedded with a SIM card like microchip and QR codes.

At present, a composite card of 60 percent PET and 40 percent PVC (both types of plastics) are used here.

A centralized card personalization centre is also proposed to be set up by the private agency for printing the new smart card based DLs and RCs.

Housing Board Haryana Hisar

Public Notice: It is for the information of General public that Sumit Ranjan S/o Sh. Ravindra Kumar

TRUMP'S REMARKS

Efforts made to address concerns: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after US President Donald Trump said in Washington that India has not treated his country "very well," on issues of bilateral trade, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said the context in which the remarks were made was balance of trade and there have been efforts to address the concerns. The US President's remarks came days ahead of his maiden two-day visit to India commencing February 24.

Looking forward to his visit to India, Trump had said India has not treated his country "very well" on the trade front and indicated that a "very big" bilateral deal with New Delhi may not be signed before the American presidential election in November.

Trump, forcefully pursuing his 'America first' policy, has previously described India as a "tariff king" for imposing "tremendously high" tariffs on American products, also

DEAL DRAMA

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'America first' policy, has previously described India as a "tariff king" for imposing "tremendously high" tariffs on American products, also expressed dissatisfaction over the US-India trade ties.

expressed dissatisfaction over the US-India trade ties. "Well, we can have a trade deal with India, but I'm really saving the big deal for later on," Trump told reporters at the Joint Base Andrews outside Washington on Tuesday when asked whether he expects a trade deal with India before the visit.

Asked about his comments, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said here it is important to understand the context in which the remarks were made. The context was balance of trade and efforts have been made to address concerns, he said.

India is eagerly awaiting President Trump's visit and it will strengthen the bilateral global strategic ties, Kumar said. He also said "we don't want to create any artificial deadline" replying to question on when India-US trade deal will be signed.

On how many agreements will be signed during Trump's India visit, Kumar said around five MoUs were under discussion. Asked whether the issues relating to H1B visa will figure in Modi-Trump talks, Kumar said they could come up.

Trump will reach Ahmedabad on February 24 where a grand event - called "Namaste Trump" - to welcome him will "showcase India's rich and diverse culture that will have few parallels in India or elsewhere".

"US President Trump will land in Ahmedabad around noon, from there he will go to the Motera Stadium to address the 'Namaste Trump' event. The route from the airport to the stadium -- we expect a large

number of people will line-up," Ravish Kumar said.

Talking of the route from the Ahmedabad airport to the stadium, he said, "We expect a large number of people lined up along the route". So far, 28 stages have been set up which will represent various parts of the country, on which artists will be performing.

The roadshow will feature Mahatma Gandhi's life and the programme at the Motera Stadium would be like the "Howdy Modi" event, he said referring to the mega programme at Houston in US, where Trump had shared stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and addressed the assembled Indians.

The other stop on Trump's schedule is Agra and the last stop is New Delhi where Modi and Trump will hold talks on the entire range of bilateral issues including defence and trade. Incidentally, it will be the fifth meeting between Modi and Trump in the last eight months.

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN IN ARMY

SC verdict gives clarity in moving forward: Naravane

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the landmark Supreme Court judgment directing the Government to grant permanent commission and command postings to women officers, Army Chief MM Naravane on Thursday said his force has been championing gender equality and the apex court verdict has given the Army clarity to move forward.

In a momentous ruling on Monday, the apex court on Monday had called for a "change in mindsets" and directed that women officers of the Army, serving under Short Service Commission (SSC), be considered for grant of Permanent Commission, irrespective of tenure of service, and also for command posts in non-combat areas since "an absolute bar on women seeking criteria or command appointments would not comport with the guarantee of equality under Article 14."

Making the Army's stand clear, the Army Chief said here the Indian Army does not discriminate any soldier based on religion, caste, creed, or even gender. The outlook of the Indian Army has been through-out like this and "that is why we started inducting women officers as early as in 1993."

Outlining steps taken to induct women in the force, he said the Army has taken the initiative to induct women in rank and file, and the first batch of 100 women soldiers is undergoing training at Corps of Military Police Centre and School, he said.

Supreme Court's decision is a welcome one as it brings out a sense of clarity and purpose to gainfully employ officers for better efficiency of the organisation. I must assure that everybody in the Indian Army including women officers will

Army maintaining pressure on terror groups in J&K, says chief

Speaking on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, Naravane said terror incidents have seen a downturn and the Army is maintaining pressure on terror groups.

There is an external dimension to the decrease in cross-border terrorism, he said, in oblique reference to the ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary. Pakistan may have to rethink strategy as even China realised they cannot back

their all-weather friend all the time, the Army chief said on the FATF plenary.

On the health condition of headline Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the army chief only said security forces are geared up to take care of any situation. On the proposed creation of a theatre command exclusively for Jammu and Kashmir, he said there will be detailed discussions before anything is finalised.

New Army's headquarters to be ready in next 5 years

Regarding the new Thal Sena Bhawan to be built in the Delhi Cantonment, for which Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lay the first stone on Friday morning, the Army Chief said the proposed

"Thal Sena Bhawan will bring all Army Headquarters offices under one roof thereby improving the working

efficiency, while reducing the carbon footprint and logistics requirements."

However, he clarified that the office of the Army Chief will not shift to the new building, and will continue to be close to wherever the Defence Minister's office is. The new Army Headquarters will be spread over 35 acres and will be built in five years.

be given equal opportunity to contribute to the nation as also progress in their careers," he said hailing the verdict as enabling. Naravane also said letters are being sent to women officers asking whether they will prefer permanent commission.

The court has given three months' time to the Government to implement its verdict and Naravane said a roadmap has been prepared for its implementation. He also said there is equal opportunity for everyone and there is no gender discrimination. "We

have drafted a plan" he stated. Same procedure for male Short Service Commission (SSC) officers will be followed for women to give permanent commission, the Army chief clarified adding "it will be same rule for everyone."

Observing that the judgment is for those who have crossed a certain point in their career in the Army, he said those rules for young officers will not be applied on them. In the next batch of women officers trained all these factors will be discussed, he stated.

INSHORT

SC TO HEAR KERALA'S PLEA ON AIRPORT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Thursday it will hear next week the Kerala Government's appeal challenging the High Court verdict that dismissed its plea against the AAI decision granting rights to Adani group for operating and developing Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

SC'S NO TO PLEA ON MINORITY STATUS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to entertain a plea seeking to define the word 'minority' and laying of guidelines to accord minority status based on state-wise population of a particular community.

BAIL TO CHINMAYANAND: SC TO HEAR PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would hear on February 24 the plea against the Allahabad High Court order granting bail to former BJP lawmaker Swami Chinmayanand in an alleged rape case lodged by a law student.

DEFAULT IN PAYMENTS: SC NOTICE TO MILL OWNERS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from rice mill owners in Bihar who have defaulted in payment of more than ₹450 crore to the State exchequer.

MEA: Arunachal part of India, China's objection to Shah visit not reasonable

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As China on Thursday objected to Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, saying the visit had violated its territorial sovereignty and "sabotaged" mutual trust with India, New Delhi asserted the eastern State is an integral part of the country. Moreover, objection to an Indian Minister's visit there does not stand to reason, it reiterated.

The Home Minister is in Arunachal Pradesh to attend functions related to the 34th Statehood Day of the north-eastern state and launched projects including industry and road infrastructure. China has always claimed the border State as part of south Tibet and routinely criticises the visit of any Indian official to the region.

Objecting to Shah's visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said "China's position on the eastern sector of the China-India boundary, or the southern part of China's Tibet region, is consistent and clear."

Responding to a question about Shah's visit, the



Home Minister Amit Shah presides over the 34th Statehood Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh in Itanagar on Thursday. PIB

spokesperson said "the Chinese Government has never recognised the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' and is firmly opposed to the Indian politician's visit to the southern part of China's Tibet region as it violated China's territorial sovereignty, undermined stability of the border area, sabotaged political mutual trust, and violated relevant bilateral agreement," Geng. The official also said India should stop taking any action that may "further complicate the border issue."

Asked about China's objection to Shah's visit, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said here on Thursday India's consistent posi-

tion has been that the State is its integral and inalienable part. Objecting to visit to Arunachal by an Indian leader does not stand to reason, he said.

China last year too raised similar issue when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Arunachal Pradesh to take stock of the security situation in the frontier border region.

Earlier in 2019, customs authorities in a northeastern Chinese city had destroyed nearly 30,000 world maps showing Arunachal Pradesh as a part of India and Taiwan as a separate country.

CBI plea rejected against withdrawal of consent by Punjab to probe sacrilege cases

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the CBI's plea challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court order by which it had last year refused to interfere with the Punjab Government decision to take back all sacrilege cases from the Central probe agency. A Bench of Justices R F Nariman and S Ravindra Bhat dismissed the CBI's plea on the ground of delay.

"...Special Leave Petitions are dismissed on the ground of delay. However, the question of law is left open. Pending application stands disposed of," the Bench said. PTI

SC allows K'taka plea for implementation of Mahadayi Water Dispute tribunal's final award

New Delhi: The Supreme Court in its interim order on Thursday allowed the plea of the Karnataka Government for implementation of the final award by a tribunal for sharing of water between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra from the Mahadayi river.

The interim order was passed by a Bench comprising Justice DY Chandrachud and

Justice Hemant Gupta after hearing the counsel from the three States. The Bench said the final hearing in the matter will take place in July.

It also said the interim order is subject to the final outcome of the petitions filed by the three States against the tribunal's award. PTI

SC questions issuance of death warrants by trial courts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday questioned the issuance of black warrants by trial courts for execution of death penalty even before the expiry of 60-day time period for filing of appeals in the apex court by the convicts. The top court's observation came during the hearing of an appeal, filed by death row convict Anil Surendra Singh Yadav, alleging that the black warrant was issued by a Gujarat sessions court just 33 days after his conviction was upheld by the high court. PTI

Ravidas Temple: Ex-MP seeks action against DDA, Delhi Govt

New Delhi: Former Congress MP Ashok Tanwar moved the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking contempt proceedings against the DDA and the Delhi Government for allegedly "wilfully and deliberately disobeying" its orders allowing construction of a permanent structure for the Guru Ravidas temple at Tughlaqabad. The temple was demolished by the DDA following the SC's August 9 last year direction which had observed that "serious breach" was committed by Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti. PTI

No reason why Central Vista can't be rebuilt: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid concerns and criticisms, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said that Government infrastructure, including the North and South Blocks, was built more than a century ago and there is no reason why the Centre should not go for a new-look Central Vista aesthetically while preserving the heritage.

Speaking at a function, Puri said that some people are talking about the Central Vista makeover without knowing what is happening. "Look every 100 years somebody has to take charge and decide what the city is going to look like. Delhi is its present form...The current Delhi Governmental infrastructure (including)



Rashtrapati Bhavan, North Block, South Block, were built in 1910s or 1920s," Puri added.

The questions are being raised by experts from various quarters that what is the need to do so and what's the objective and why it is being implemented. "We are paying thousands of crores of rent to house Government buildings. We have the land, so there is no reason why we can't do it in an architecturally, aesthetic way, preserve the heritage etc and create a New Delhi," he said.

Sources said that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has received nearly 400 objections to the proposed change of land use for 101 acres in central Delhi for the Centre's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project. The objections range from questioning the need for the project to its impact on environment and traffic. Some also stressed on the need to protect heritage and demanded a proper assessment before going ahead with the plan.

LokPATH (people for Appropriate Transformation of Habitat), a collective of urban development experts, which was formed recently, has flagged the lack of transparency in the process of land use change. The Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA) has called the project an "inappropriate planning decision". Many have questioned the need for the project and said it contradicts the provisions of the Master Plan of Delhi 2021.

The redevelopment of the Central Vista — the nation's power corridor in Delhi — envisages a triangular Parliament building next to the existing one, a common Central Secretariat for ministries and the revamping of the three-km-long Rajpath - from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

India's first coronavirus patient discharged from Kerala hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the discharge of a woman medico, who was country's first novel coronavirus patient being treated at the Government Medical College hospital in Kerala on Thursday, India may have become a pathogen-free country for now, but the pathogen continues to take its toll in neighbouring nations.

One more Indian aboard a quarantined cruise ship off Japan was tested positive for the novel coronavirus and shifted to hospital, taking the number of Indian nationals infected with the virus on the vessel to eight, the Indian embassy said on Thursday. China has reported 2,118 deaths while the overall confirmed cases has climbed to 74,576.

The Indian embassy said that a total of 138 Indians, including 132 crew and 6 passengers, were among

the 3,711 people on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship. In a tweet, the Indian embassy here said, "1 Indian crew who tested positive for #COVID19 among 79 new cases on #DiamondPrincess yesterday too has been shifted to hospital for treatment. All 8 Indians receiving treatment are responding well. Rest all Indians on-board are braving out the trying circumstances."

Earlier, seven Indians were tested positive for the COVID-19. The mission said that infected Indians were responding well to the treatment.

Many countries have banned arrivals from China while major airlines have suspended flights to the country. In India, national carrier Air India has announced that it is extending the suspension of its flights to the neighbouring country till June 30.

The discharge of the women



medico student marked the recovery of all three cases of infection in India reported from Kerala. Two other students — one from Alappuzha and another Kasaragod — had been discharged recently

after they too tested negative for the virus in fresh tests days after being infected by it.

A total of 650 people were brought back from Wuhan in China on February 1 and 2 in two 747

Boeing Air India aircraft after the outbreak of coronavirus in that country.

Last month, the Air India had suspended its six weekly Delhi-Shanghai flights from January 31 to

ITBP honours staffers who served at its Delhi quarantine facility for coronavirus

The Indo Tibetan Border Police on Thursday honoured its doctors, paramedics, cooks and sanitation officials who served in a special quarantine centre set up here housing 406 people suspected to have been exposed to coronavirus, a spokesperson of the force said. "Thank you for what you did. The country and the force is proud of you," ITBP Director

General (DG) S S Deswal told the personnel after he held a special 'sainik sammelan' at the Chhawla camp of the force. Deswal gave away the top award of the force called the 'DG commendation disc' to 28 personnel, appreciation letters to three while 32 staffers were presented with cash rewards, ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said.

February 14. However, it did not restart the flight operations from February 15 onwards.

The national carrier had also suspended its Delhi-Hong Kong flights due to the coronavirus epidemic that has killed more than 2,000 people in China till date.

"Flight operations on both routes — Delhi-Shanghai and Delhi-Hong Kong — have been suspended till June 30," an Air India spokesperson said on Thursday.

Earlier, IndiGo and SpiceJet had suspended their flight operations between India and China.

20 die in in TN bus tragedy, survivors shell-shocked

Chennai: A road crash in Tamil Nadu early Thursday left 20 dead and 28 injured as a lorry collided with their bus reducing it to a mangled heap. Police said the accident occurred on the Salem-Kochi highway at Avinashi in Tirupur around 4 am as the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus was proceeding to Ernakulam from Bengaluru. Tirupur is located about 450 km from here.

Most of the passengers were asleep when the lorry crashed into the bus. The lorry driver, Ernakulam native Hemaraj, was arrested later.

The tiles-laden container lorry's tyre burst and it entered the wrong lane colliding with the bus, reducing the vehicle to a mangled heap, police said.

The 20, including six women, died at the scene while the injured were admitted to hospitals in Tirupur and some referred to Coimbatore, police said.

Palakkad Superintendent of Police Siva Vikram said "It was a high speed collision. The container lorry went out of

control." The accident came as a shock to many in the state since one of such a magnitude had not happened in Tamil Nadu in the recent past.

There were 48 passengers on board the bus.

The lorry suffered a tyre burst before colliding with the KSRTC bus, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami said in the State Assembly, adding, all the victims were Keralites.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Palaniswami, and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan consoled the deaths.

"Extremely anguished by the bus accident...In this hour of grief, my thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families. I hope those who are injured recover at the earliest," the PM's Office said in a tweet quoting Modi.

Though reports initially suggested the bus was proceeding towards Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, officials later clarified its destination was Ernakulam. Palaniswami said he has



Onlookers gather near the mangled remains of a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation bus which collided with a container lorry, in Tirupur district on Thursday PTI

asked the Tirupur administration to coordinate with their Palakkad counterparts, to expedite activities including sending the bodies of the deceased to Kerala.

Further, 23 people were seriously injured and were undergoing treatment while

five others sustained simple injuries and were proceeding to Kerala, he said.

"I have directed the Tirupur collector and police officials there to set up a help centre to assist the relatives of the victims and also expedite the process of sending the

bodies of the deceased by contacting Kerala officials," he said.

In Thiruvananthapuram, Vijayan deputed his cabinet colleagues—Transport Minister AK Saseendran and Agriculture Minister VS Sunilkumar, to Tirupur to

coordinate relief operations, his office said.

The Kerala delegation later arrived in Tirupur.

Saseendran, Sunilkumar, Palakkad MP VK Sreekandan, and Alathur MP Ramya Haridas besides MLAs from Kerala are camping at Tirupur.

"The State Government will provide a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the bereaved families, ₹two lakh will be given within a week. The rest of the amount will be given following the procedures," Saseendran said.

"The families of the KSRTC employees will be given ₹30 lakh each under the insurance scheme," he added.

The State Government has also declared that it will take care of the medical expenses of the injured passengers.

The Health department has sent ambulances to Tirupur to bring back the bodies. The accident left the survivors shell-shocked.

Karishma, on her way to Ernakulam, said she was seated on the left side of the bus and was sleeping when the accident occurred.

"When I woke up suddenly, I saw many people running around and the injured being taken in ambulances," the woman told the media.

Alan, also from Kerala, said he was still finding it difficult to overcome the shock.

"I have sustained a minor injury on my leg. But my friend is injured on the nose and I am taking him to hospital," he said.

Jemin George, an injured

passenger, said he suffered a cut on his lips and an injury to his forehead that required 10 stitches.

"I do not know what exactly happened. I was sleeping in a seat behind the driver's seat," he said, adding, he was referred to a hospital in Coimbatore.

A weeping woman passenger alleged the container lorry was overloaded and there were not many vehicles on the road.

6 pilgrims from Nepal killed

Salem/Chennai: Six pilgrims from Nepal, including two women, were killed and 24 others injured in a road accident near Salem on Thursday, police said.

The accident happened on the Salem-Bengaluru highway after a bus rammed the minibus the pilgrims were travelling in when its driver tried to swerve to the right near Omalur in the district, police said.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami consoled the death of the six pilgrims and

said the accident happened in the early hours of Thursday when they were proceeding to Rajasthan from Kaniyakumari.

Speaking in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, he said that the accident happened around 1 AM. "Six Nepalis including two women travelling in the bus were killed," he said and expressed his condolences.

The injured have been admitted to hospital, he said, adding he has directed the Salem Collector to ensure they received the best medical treatment. PTI

Didi Govt to provide Z-plus security to Prashant Kishore

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal is mulling enhanced security for election strategist Prashant Kishore, sources in the State Government said adding already the security directorate has reviewed his security status and submitted its recommendations before the Government.

Accordingly, Kishore who has reportedly been hired by the ruling Trinamool Congress to chalk out its strategy road map ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections is likely to get 'Z' category security cover which is provided among others former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, senior Ministers like Partho Chatterjee, Firhad Hakim, Suvendu Adhikary, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and another 5-6 persons.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and his nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee gets 'Z

Plus' security cover.

The security personnel will be drawn from the trained officers of Kolkata Police and Bengal Police, sources said adding the decision to provide security cover to Kishore was taken following a meeting of the security directorate officials.

Significantly the meeting took place following two developments. First, Kishore's expulsion from the Jantadal United Party of Nitish Kumar and second his decision to launch 'Baat Bihar Ki'.

"A meeting was called where his security was reviewed and its upgradation was recommended to the State Government," sources said. However officials in Kishore's election management company said they did not have any information about the new security proposals.

Bengal has seen a lot of political murders over the past one decade or so. One such vic-

tim of recent escalated political hostilities was a Trinamool Congress MLA from Nadia.

Satyajit Biswas Krishanganj MLA was murdered near house in Nadia. Local BJP MP who was named among 43 others was recently grilled for four hours by the State CID regarding his alleged role in the murder.

With TMC's position improving since the losses it suffered in last year's Parliamentary elections—when the party conceded 18 out of 42 seats to the BJP —thanks Kishore's reported strategic manipulations the Bengal ruling party wants him secured at any cost, experts said.

One of the major reflections of Kishore's successes with the TMC was a remarkable comeback staged by the Trinamool in the recently held Assembly elections to three seats in which the BJP suffered humiliating defeat.

Mamata writes to Modi about 'steady reduction' of funds

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing concern over 'steady reduction' of central funds to the State and 'inordinate delay' in their release.

The BJP called the letter a "political ploy to befoul people" ahead of civic polls in the state.

In her letter, Banerjee asserted that despite the decline in central funds the state's GSDP grew by 10.4 per cent against the national GDP growth of 5 per cent in 2019-20. "I write to you with deep concern regarding steady reduction of central funds to the state and also inordinate delay in release of funds to us from the Government of India," Banerjee wrote.

She said the state is yet to receive its share of central

funds totalling ₹50,000 crore till January, 2020.

This "extraordinary situation" is creating major difficulties in meeting obligations for the welfare of the state, she said.

The letter said, "You will, no doubt, appreciate that both the central and the State Governments are expected to fulfil the constitutional obligations and the commitments to the people, so that respective governments run smoothly... However West Bengal is being deprived of the huge outstanding dues."

Banerjee said West Bengal's index of industrial production (IIP) in April-November 2019-20 stood at 3.1 per cent against the national figure of 0.6 per cent, while growth of the services sector at 16.4 per cent was much higher than the national number of 6.9 percent. PTI

Class 9 boy threatens 'Pulwama-like attack' in school, detained in UP

Bareilly (UP): A class nine student has been detained by the police here for allegedly threatening to blow up his school building in a 'Pulwama-like attack' if he was not paid ₹2 lakh as extortion amount, an official said on Thursday.

Senior SP Shailendra Pandey said the boy, who also works as a newspaper hawker, has been sent to a reform home.

The principal of the school had complained to police that someone dropped a letter at his house on Friday threatening to blow it up and also the school building. On Tuesday, the accused student handed him a letter carrying the "Pulwama-like attack" threat, the police officer said.

On receiving the complaint, a case under relevant sections of the IPC was registered and the boy was questioned.

After changing his statement frequently, he confessed to have written the letter to make easy money, the police said. PTI

PHE workers extend strike by 72 hours across Jammu

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) workers on Thursday extended their ongoing strike by 72 hours in support of various demands including release of pending wages and regularisation of services.

The PHE workers had begun their strike on February 7. The stir has led to a drinking water crisis in most parts of the Jammu region.

"We have decided to extend the ongoing strike by 72 hours and if the Government failed to address our issues, we have no option but to hit the roads," a leader of the protesters said. Police on Wednesday foiled an attempt by thousands of PHE workers to stage a rally from the office of the chief engineer to the Raj Bhavan here.

"After the end of the 72-hour deadline, over 22,000 workers from across the Jammu region will gather here and come on the roads to press for their genuine demands," the leader said. He said the wages of the workers are pending for the last 65 months, while they have served the department for over two decades with a hope that their services will get regularised one day.

"We have only got assurances from time and again and therefore, we will not budge till our demands are met...With or without Article 370, our fate remains the same and our families are suffering due to the failure of the Government to address our issues," he said.

Question papers of Manipur Class 11 board exams leaked

Imphal: The Manipur State education board cancelled the class 11 final exams after question papers of at least five subjects were leaked, a senior official said on Thursday.

Question papers of Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Biology and Manipuri were leaked, Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) secretary Ch Biren Singh told PTI.

The final examinations, which began on February 17, of all streams of class 11 have been cancelled as "concrete evidence regarding the leakage" was found, COHSEM chairman L Mahendra said.

The council has instructed principals of all the affiliated schools to return the question papers "in their original forms as collected" by February 24, he added.

Mahendra assured stern action against those found responsible and said the principals who do not comply with the council's direction will be considered as individuals responsible for the leakage.

"Authorities of private institutions found guilty will have their affiliation cancelled," he said, adding that the council will announce new dates for the exams soon. PTI

Mizo accord beacon of hope for lasting peace, says Guv

Aizawl: Mizoram PS

MIZORAM STATEHOOD DAY since attaining statehood Sreedharan Pillai hailed the Mizo Peace Accord, signed in 1986, as a beacon of hope for enduring peace as the north-eastern state celebrated its 34th statehood day on Thursday.

Pillai, while addressing a programme here on the occasion, said, "The signing of the historic Mizo Peace Accord on June 30, 1986 remains a beacon of hope for the world that peace can be attained and sustained if the people and leaders choose it over violence."

Mizoram became the 23rd state of India in 1987 after the Mizo National Front (MNF) signed the peace accord with the Centre, ending a two-decade-long insurgency.

Before attaining statehood, Mizoram was union territory. Observing that Mizoram's endeavour

been to attain self-reliance, Pillai urged the state government and denizens not to solely rely on central funding.

"Mizoram is abundantly blessed with resources in horticulture, handloom, handicrafts, human resource and tourism sectors, which we need to tap. It is our duty to provide a congenial socio-economic setting where our youth can flourish with pride," he said.

He called upon the state government to work towards achieving a welfare state. Pillai said the Centre has allocated 10 per cent of the Union budget for the development of the Northeast.

He also urged the churches and the NGOs to help the State Government in combating AIDS and cancer. Several programmes were held across the State on the occasion. PTI



A boatman waits near his 'shikara' for tourists at Dal Lake in Srinagar on Thursday PTI

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

Woman raises pro-Pak slogans in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Leaving the organisers of an Event to protest against the CAA, NRC and NRP here red-faced, a young woman on Thursday raised 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogan in the presence of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, who denounced her action and asserted "we are for India".

The woman, identified as Amulya, asked people to shout with her 'Pakistan Zindabad' after the organisers of the event under the banner of 'Save Constitution' invited her to address the gathering soon after Owaisi came on the stage.

Soon Owaisi rushed to snatch the mike from her hands and was joined by others who tried to remove her from the stage.

But the woman was adamant and raised the slogan again repeatedly.

Later, the police stepped in and removed her from the dais.

JD(S) corporator Imran Pasha claimed she was planted by some rival group to disrupt the event

Owaisi then addressed the gathering, saying he did not agree with the woman.

"Neither me nor my party has any link with her. We denounce her. The organisers should not have invited her here. If I knew this, I would not have come here. We are for India and we no way support our enemy nation Pakistan. Our entire drive is to save India," the AIMIM MP said.

JD(S) corporator Imran Pasha claimed she was planted by some rival group to disrupt the event. The woman, he said, was not in the list of speakers and demanded that the police investigate the matter seriously. PTI

TN: Protest site turns marriage venue for Muslim couple

Coimbatore: A Muslim couple entered into wedlock amid protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act here by over 1,000 people, including women, on Thursday.

The ceremony took place under a canopy erected at the protest venue at Aathupalam and was witnessed by the protesters, who have been on a sit-in since Wednesday seeking withdrawal of the CAA, proposed National Register of Citizens and National Population Register.

The marriage was solemnised by an Imam, with the bride Reshma and groom Abdul Kalam exchanging vows amid slogans against the new law.

Family members and those present at the venue blessed the couple.

A Muslim couple, holding an anti-CAA placard, got married at the venue of the ongoing protest against CAA in Chennai on Monday. PTI

Darapuri, Sadaf Jafar to challenge UP Govt's recovery notices in court

Lucknow: Social activists S R Darapuri and Sadaf Jafar said Thursday they intend to move court against the Uttar Pradesh Government's recovery notices on them for damage to public property during anti-CAA protests here last year.

They stated they have not yet received any official communication seeking recovery, but a senior Government official said the notices have been issued to 28 people including them.

Darapuri told PTI on Thursday, "I am hearing news that I've been issued recovery notices by the district administration, though I have not received any such notice till now. I will challenge it in the High Court if I get any."

Social activist Jafar, who is also a Congress leader, said if she receives any recovery notice she too will move court. "The State Government is sending recovery notices unconstitutionally to

people. There is no proof against me of inciting violence but instead of arresting antisocial elements, they arrested and tortured me," she said.

She was arrested on December 19 in connection with the violence.

Lucknow Additional District Magistrate (East) KP Singh had on Monday issued recovery notices to 28 people stating that they have to deposit Rs 63 lakh by March 20, otherwise action will be taken against them.

Besides Darapuri and Sadaf, the notice also names Mohammad Shoab of Rihai Manch, and social activists Robin Verma, Deepak Kabir, Pawan Rao Ambekar, among others. Darapuri, a retired IPS officer, was accused of instigating violence during the anti-CAA protest in the state capital on December 19 last year. He was arrested on December 20, but later granted bail. PTI

AMU students take out protest march against UP CM's remarks

PTI ■ ALIGARH (UP)

Students of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) took out a protest march under the banner of Students' Coordination Committee here on Thursday against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, accusing him of shielding the State police from allegations of brutalities.

"The Chief Minister is deliberately twisting facts to falsely implicate students and thus, shielding the police from allegations of brutalities," committee spokesperson Faizul Hasan said.

Hasan, a former president of the AMU Students' Union, said, "Either the Chief Minister has been grossly misinformed or he is deliberately trying to frame those who were protesting against the

Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)."

Adityanath defended the Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday over the deaths of anti-CAA protesters, saying they were shot by other rioters and nothing could be done to save someone with a death wish.

Wrapping up the discussion on the governor's address in the State Assembly, he said the role of the police in dealing with rioters during the anti-CAA protests should be appreciated.

Meanwhile, in a statement, AMU Employees' Union president Professor Ramesh Rawat described Adityanath's remarks that 15,000 students of the university had attempted to indulge in arson on December 15 last year as "false and fabricated".

Nirogi Rajasthan, wealthy farmer top priorities for Raj Govt: Gehlot

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Budget is based on seven resolutions, including Nirogi Rajasthan and efforts are being made so that development is not interrupted in the State despite various challenges, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Thursday.

Presenting the Budget for FY2020-21 in the Rajasthan Assembly, Gehlot referred to the public welfare measures in the last Budget, and said that his Government has tried to present a concrete action plan in this Budget also.

He levied no new tax proposals and announced to fill 53,151 new vacancies. He also announced rebate of ₹130 crore in different kinds of taxes.

This is the second Budget of the Congress Government,

which came to power in the state in December 2018.

"For us the entire Rajasthan is like a family. For this family, I want to make seven resolutions as priorities of this Budget," Gehlot said.

These resolutions are healthy Rajasthan, prosperous farmers, welfare of women, children and elderly, capable labourers, youth-students, education, water power and roads, skills and technology, he added.

Chief Minister Gehlot who also holds finance portfolio said the Central government's revenue has reduced due to its wrong economic policies and Rajasthan is also suffering due to this.

He said that state's share in the central taxes has been



keeping in mind the views and suggestions of farmers, cattle rearers, women, students, youth, industrial and business organisations and civil society," Gehlot said.

He said, it is important to present the true picture of the economic situation of the country before giving details of far-reaching steps that are likely to be taken in the coming year by the state government to achieve the overall development of the state.

"The reason for mentioning the financial position of the states in our federal system depends on the policies and decisions of the Centre to a large extent and noted that today most economic indicators indicate that the country's economic condition has derailed.

"We have made efforts to make it an inclusive budget by

omy indicate that the country's economy is currently going through a bad phase," he said.

The World Bank, IMF and ADB have slashed growth rate projections. According to the Economic Survey 2019-20 India's GDP growth rate is estimated to be 5 per cent, he added.

The Chief Minister said the Central Government raises funds in many ways such as by taking money from the Reserve Bank, disinvesting in Air India and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), reducing the stake in LIC whereas the states have no such option. He said that despite these challenges, we have tried that the road to development in this budget is not obstructed.

Opposition dubs it routine, directionless

Jaipur: The Opposition BJP on Thursday criticised the Budget presented by the Congress-led Rajasthan Government, saying it was a 'routine budget' and an "example of poor financial management".

The BJP also said the budget failed to fulfil the expectations of the people of the state.

Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Assembly, Gulab Chand Kataria said the Ashok Gehlot-led government has burdened electricity consumers with ₹12,000 crore annually by increasing the power tariff. He added that the state had come into surplus in terms of revenue receipts in the previous dispensation led by the BJP.

"Power companies are reeling under losses. They have put an annual burden of ₹12,000 crore on people by increasing power tariff. There is no relief to people in the budget. We are not able to see any development in the budget," Kataria said at a press conference.

The Congress government had recently announced the power tariff hike of 11.21 per cent.

Replying to a question on decreasing state share in tax collection from the Centre, Kataria said the State share in GST has increased concurrent with the income of the Centre.

He claimed the State Government was earning ₹21,000 crore through value-added tax (VAT), the highest in any state of the country, and despite that there was no word about development in the budget.

Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia said it was a routine Budget of the routine government and did not fulfil the expectations of the people of the State. They will blame the Centre and will also expect from the Centre. It is an example of their poor financial management. The Budget does not seem to be fulfilling the expectation of the people of the state.

Uddhav to meet Modi in Delhi today

Sena describes it as 'courtesy call'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday, in what is being described by the Shiv Sena as a 'courtesy call'.

Though Uddhav had met Modi briefly on December 6 during the latter's visit to Pune to attend a national conference of directors general and inspectors general of police, Friday's will be — for all practical purposes — the first formal meeting between the two leaders, after the Shiv Sena snapped ties with the BJP and formed a government in Maharashtra in alliance with the NCP and Congress November 28.

Confirming Uddhav's scheduled meeting with Modi

Nagpur grants bail to Devendra Fadnavis

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Nagpur court on Thursday granted bail to Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Devendra Fadnavis in a case seeking criminal proceedings against him non-disclosure of criminal cases registered against him in his 2014 election affidavit.

Fadnavis, who had been granted exemption from personal appearance on four previous occasions, finally appeared before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate PS Ingle amid tight security, and sought bail in the case.

After recording Fadnavis' appearance before the court, the CJM granted him bail on a personal bond of ₹15,000.

Fadnavis had been given

last chance to appear before the court on Thursday. While granting bail to Fadnavis, the CJM observed: "The presence of the accused (Fadnavis) is secured. The offences are bailable. There is no apprehension of him absconding. Hence, bail is granted".

The court was hearing an application filed by advocate Satish Uke, seeking criminal proceedings to be initiated against Fadnavis for alleged non-disclosure of criminal cases registered against him in his election affidavit in the 2014 Assembly elections.

The court, while granting bail, directed Fadnavis to remain present at the next hearing and also as when directed by the court in the matter. The court has scheduled the next hearing for March 30.

Earlier, advocate Satish Uke

opposed Fadnavis' bail application on grounds that he had skipped earlier hearings on various grounds and citing the precedence of a similar case concerning Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Uke had initially had moved a magisterial court which dismissed his complaint against Fadnavis on September 7, 2015. Subsequently, he moved a sessions court in Nagpur which transferred the matter to the magisterial court for a "de novo" (afresh) consideration.

Not happy with the Sessions court's order, Fadnavis moved the Bombay High Court, which on May 3, 2018 set it aside.

Later, in its judgment on

Uddhav to meet Modi in Delhi today

on Friday, Shiv Sena's MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut — in a tweet posted on Thursday evening — described the meeting as "courtesy call". He, however, declined to go into further details relating to the meeting.

Informed sources in the Shiv Sena, meanwhile, said that at Friday's meeting, Uddhav would press for release of pending tax dues and also seek financial assistance from the Centre for the unseasonal rains hit farmers in the State.

It may be recalled that in a letter written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on December 11 last year, Thackeray had sought the State's "legitimate dues" of ₹15,558 crore from the Union government by way of GST compensation and tax devolution.

"The State is awaiting legit-

imate dues of ₹15,558.05 crore from the Government of India.... Timely release of GST compensation and tax devolution amount will help my state to manage the finances efficiently," the Chief Minister had written in his letter.

At that time, the pending dues comprised ₹6,946.29 crore by way of tax devolution and ₹8611.76 crore towards GST compensation up to November 2019.

"As per the Union budget 2019-20, the tax devolution to Maharashtra was ₹46,630.66 crore which is 11.15 per cent more than ₹41,952.65 crore received by the state during 2018-19.

But, the state has received only ₹20,254.92 crore till October 2019 which is 25.53 per cent less compared to the budget estimate of 2019-20," the Chief Minister had said in his letter to Sitharaman.

Man sentenced to 12 years for raping minor

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A special court here on Thursday sentenced a man to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old mentally-challenged girl.

Special Judge S P Ponskhe found the accused guilty of offence committed under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

As per the minor victim's testimony, the incident took place in November 2016 when the accused worked as a sweeper at a housing society in Mulund where she lived.

The accused forcefully took the victim to the watchman's bathroom in the building's compound and raped her.

He then threatened her with dire consequences if she complained about the assault.

When the incident subsequently came to light, the minor's family lodged a complaint with the police and an FIR was registered.

Security of woman increased after her rape charge against UP BJP MLA

Bhadoli (UP): A day after registration of an FIR against local BJP MLA Ravindra Nath Tripathi and six others, including his three sons, for allegedly raping a woman repeatedly for a month in 2017, police have beefed up the victim's security on her claims that she was getting threats to her life.

"The woman alleged that she was getting threats after which her security has been enhanced. She has been provided three constables, including two women constables, who will provide her round-the-clock security," Superintendent of Police Ram Badan Singh said.

The 40-year-old woman, who is a widow, had lodged a complaint with the police on February 10, following which an FIR was registered on Wednesday, they said.

The woman alleged that she was first raped by Tripathi's nephew Sandeep Tiwari, who has also been named in the FIR, in 2016. She said she did not lodge a complaint back then as Tiwari had promised to marry her.

She also alleged that during

No scheme of BJP Govt worth mentioning: Cong

Bengaluru: Calling BJP Government in Karnataka as "a child born illicitly from Operation Kamala", the Opposition Congress on Thursday warned the ruling party that people would punish it, if it does not keep the promise of making the state a 'Rama Rajya'.

Alleging that the BS Yediyurappa-led Government in the state has not come to power with the mandate of the people, but only by engineering the defection of 17 Congress-JD(S) legislators, the Leader of Opposition in the assembly Siddaramaiah said there was no programme from the current dispensation worth mentioning in the last seven to eight months.

"There is no programme of the BJP Government in the last 7-8 months that is worth mentioning; all the mentions made in the address are of previous Congress and coalition Government, he said.

He accused the Government of failing to get the right share of central funds to the state on time, despite having the same party in power at the Centre.

Siddaramaiah said there would be over a ₹11,000-crore

shortfall in tax devolution to Karnataka during 15th finance commission, while warning that "We are going to suffer if this continues and the administration doesn't act."

You (BJP) people had said that you will make Karnataka a Rama Rajya if party comes to power both at the state and the Centre...Where is it? Do it," he said.

You (BJP) will construct Ram Mandir and bring in Uniform Civil Code, because it is your agendabut also make efforts towards building Rama Rajya as you had promised or else you may have to eat your own words, he said.

Participating in the debate on the motion of thanks to Governors address in the assembly, Siddaramaiah said the state government has failed to give any preview through the address.

The Governors address doesn't have anything from this Government, except the state providing ₹4,000 crore in addition to the Central governments ₹6,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme," he said.

Congress to dare 10 MLAs who joined BJP to quit, seek re-election

Panaji: The Goa Congress has said it will challenge its 10 former MLAs, who joined the BJP last year, to resign and seek fresh mandate on the saffron party's ticket.

State Congress spokesman Urfan Mulla told PTI on Thursday that his party leaders will visit homes of the 10 MLAs and challenge them to re-contest the election.

After the 2017 Goa polls, a hung Assembly had emerged. But, the BJP outsmarted the Congress by cobbling together a coalition quickly.

In July last year, 10 Congress MLAs switched over to the BJP. "The Congress will challenge them to re-contest as MLAs and then re-contest on BJP's ticket from their respective Assembly constituencies. If they think they can get re-elected on BJP's ticket, they should try their luck," Mulla said.

These MLAs got elected in the 2017 polls on Congress' ticket, as the voters had rejected the BJP, he claimed.

"But these ten MLAs ditched the voters and join the BJP," he alleged. The state Congress leaders will start visiting these 10 MLAs later this week, Mulla said.

Man sentenced to 12 years for raping minor

Man convicted for raping daughter in Muzaffarnagar

PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

A special court here on Thursday convicted a man for raping his 14-year-old daughter while the grandfather, grandmother and uncle of the victim were acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court judge Sanjiv Kumar Tiwari has fixed February 24 for quantum of punishment in the case.

According to special lawyer for POCSO Dinesh Kumar Sharma, the mother of the girl had filed a complaint with the police alleging that her husband raped the daughter when she had gone to her parents' home on July 7, 2016.

The woman had also alleged that her father-in-law, mother-in-law and brother-in-law supported the accused and did not take any step to prevent him to commit rape on his daughter, Sharma said.

Law student raped by lawyer in Bareilly

Bareilly (UP): A law student was allegedly raped by a lawyer and his accomplice inside his chamber in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly district last week, police said on Thursday.

The incident happened on February 15 in Bahedi area of the district, Bahedi SHO Pankaj Pant said.

The woman, said to be around 21, had gone to the chamber where the lawyer and his accomplice raped her, the SHO added. An FIR has been registered on Wednesday following a complaint by the victim's mother, he further said. A manhunt is on for the accused men who are absconding, Pant said.

UP: 15-yr-old girl raped by youth

Shahjahanpur (UP): A teenage girl was allegedly raped by a youth in the Banda area here, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday when the girl (15) was going to market, they said.

She was dragged into a toilet by the youth and raped there, Assistant Superintendent of Police Aparna Gautam said.

The girl narrated the ordeal to her family members, who filed a complaint with police, she said. Subsequently, an FIR was lodged in this connection, Gautam added.

10 years RI to Manager of BOM for bank fraud

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Pune-based Special CBI court has sentenced Shaliwahan Solegaonkar, then Branch Manager, Bank of Maharashtra, Pune to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and levied a fine of ₹24 lakh on him, while it has awarded three years rigorous imprisonment to one Rakesh Yadhav, a private person, along with a fine of ₹10,000 on him.

The CBI had registered a case on June 28, 2018 on the allegations that during the period 2009 to 2017, Solegaonkar, a Branch Manager in 5 different Branches of Bank of Maharashtra at Pune, had allegedly entered into criminal conspiracy with Jadhav and other unknown persons and both the accused fraudulently misappropriated an approximate ₹2,56,15,998 from the bank's funds.

The modus operandi used in the alleged crime was Solegaonkar while working with the bank in different capacities — as Clerk, Dy. Manager at

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI: DELHI JAL BOARD				
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PR) SR-I				
SECTOR VI: POKHET D7: ROHINI: DELHI 110085				
NIT No-06 (2019-2020) EE (PR) SR-I (Re-Invite)				
PRESS NOTE				
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money/ (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution
1.	P/F barbed wire fencing and watch & ward arrangement at proposed site for construction of Sewerage Pumping Station at Prem Nagar & Pratap Vihar, under Kiran GOC.	Rs. 29,81,663/-	Rs. 59700/-	19/02/2020

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI				
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CENTRAL)-II				
ANDHA MUGHAL PARTAP NAGAR (NEAR METRO STATION) DELHI-110007				
PRESS NIT No. 66 (2019-20)				
S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)
1.	Shifting of 200mm and 450mm dia. water line due to construction of Electric Sub Station by DTL near Than Singh Nagar UGR AC-23, Karol Bagh under EE(Central)-II.	37,54,793/-	75,100/-	500/-

BSES				
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi				
TENDER NOTICE				
Date: 21.02.2020				
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.				
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission
CMC/BR/19-20/SV/AR/840	AWARD OF WORK FOR CARRYING OUT METER-READING FOR SINGLE PHASE METERS (SLCC) AND BILL DISTRIBUTION FOR SINGLE PHASE AND THREE PHASE METERS (SLCC AND MLCC) IN BRPL	96.87 Crores	12.10 Lacs	12.03.2020 1530 HRS

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW) II				
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI				
NEAR DWARKA, WTP, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110043				
NIT No.54(19-20) (Item No. 01.02 & 03)				
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	EMD & Tender Fee	Completion period
1.	Replacement of Old Damaged Water Line by P/L 150/100mm dia D.I. Water Pipe Line at Ghanmanhera Village in Maliaia Constituency under EE(SW)-II (Re-Invite) Tender I.D.: 2020_DJB_188310_1	Rs.49,33,975/-	Rs.98,700/- & Rs.500/-	90 Days
2.	Making Functional the Internal Sewer System by P/L Sewer Lines in Leftout area and Tracing, Raising, repairing and Desilting of manholes in Mhipalpur Village in AC-36 under EE(SW)-II (Re-Invite) Tender I.D.: 2020_DJB_188310_2	Rs.41,14,986/-	Rs.82,500/- & Rs.500/-	120 Days
3.	P/L 100mm dia D.I. Water Line at 20 Point Programme Colony, Dhulbas in Bijwasan Constituency under EE(SW)-II Tender I.D.: 2020_DJB_188310_3	Rs.30,15,846/-	Rs.60,500/- & Rs.500/-	30 Days

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI				
NEAR DWARKA, WTP, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110043				
NIT No.54(19-20) (Item No. 01.02 & 03)				
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	EMD & Tender Fee	Completion period
1.	Replacement of Old Damaged Water Line by P/L 150/100mm dia D.I. Water Pipe Line at Ghanmanhera Village in Maliaia Constituency under EE(SW)-II (Re-Invite) Tender I.D.: 2020_DJB_188310_1	Rs.49,33,975/-	Rs.98,700/- & Rs.500/-	90 Days
2.	Making Functional the Internal Sewer System by P/L Sewer Lines in Leftout area and Tracing, Raising, repairing and Desilting of manholes in Mhipalpur Village in AC-36 under EE(SW)-II (Re-Invite) Tender I.D.: 2020_DJB_188310_2	Rs.41,14,986/-	Rs.82,500/- & Rs.500/-	120 Days
3.	P/L 100mm dia D.I. Water Line at 20 Point Programme Colony, Dhulbas in Bijwasan Constituency under EE(SW)-II Tender I.D.: 2020_DJB_188310_3	Rs.30,15,846/-	Rs.60,500/- & Rs.500/-	30 Days

Priyanka for RS?

The Cong is hoping that the gambit of putting her in a Central role will hold out some hope of reviving the party



There may be a host of recommendations for the Congress to revive itself and capitalise on its pan-India matrix as a cohesive Opposition force. But there's nobody to accept them. There may be umpteen calls to restore inner-party democracy by holding organisational elections and choosing capable leaders and its president based on cadre choices. But there's nobody to "bell the cat" as one of its own self-deprecating leaders said. There may be articulate and activist young leaders, who have sought to shine their light

for a 2.0 recast but have been fobbed off by old hawks who fear their irrelevance, even if that applies to holding on to the crumbs of a fast disintegrating party. There may be seasoned leaders with wise words of wisdom that run in different directions, justifying them as inner party democratic dialogues although the world sees them as terrible infighting. There's the old matriarch, who is still keeping it together, the Gandhi tag the party's brand adhesive that's as scapegoating for party leaders in failure as grandstanding in success. But Sonia Gandhi doesn't know how to pass it on to her offspring. Reconciling some issues and the generational divide, infusing fresh breath energy with his band of followers was son Rahul, reluctant yet stubborn, a cocktail that's more impulsive than explosive. Then there is Priyanka Gandhi, the more willing and capable scion with some strike capabilities, who could have been the galvaniser had not her *brahmastra* potential been wasted by benching her. So the Congress is tempted to play its last family card to mend the party by assigning her a Central role now rather than waiting for the next round of parliamentary elections. As 51 Rajya Sabha seats will be falling vacant in April, of which eight are from the three party-ruled States, there's a growing clamour to elect her to the Rajya Sabha.

Can this reset the Congress' narrative indeed? On the face of it, she has not been able to sway the Lok Sabha verdict even though she was made party general-secretary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh (UP). In fact, the Gandhis lost the home bastion of Amethi, too. Beyond some crowd-pleasing speeches, dramatic optics with the boatmen of Varanasi and campaign colour, Priyanka was compromised by an organisational matrix that had been floundering in the face of the BJP's phalanx. She herself admitted as much. And although she is probably the only politician other than Modi who can produce a mass resonance, she has two handicaps — the people's rejection of the politics of entitlement and a disconnect with the grassroots. Which is why one must credit her with not abandoning UP even after the Lok Sabha debacle while her brother chose exile. She worked the ground unlike her brother, who chose to be a disembodied conscience. She has been taking up the cudgels on behalf of the dispossessed tribals in Sonbhadra, praying with Dalits and has been visiting the anti-citizenship law protesters at the receiving end of police brutality. She has also been articulating her positions on national issues rather vociferously on social media. There is a rooted realism to her brother's exalted escapism, one that is now translating into huge crowd turnouts at her roadshow to the utter discomfort of caste-based parties, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Not only has she lived down her tag, her political sensibilities are primed and she has based herself in Lucknow with diligence of purpose. But the real problem is how she negotiates the tricky territory between her and Rahul camp followers and obviates criticism that by getting elected to the Rajya Sabha, the Gandhis would ensure family representation in each House and were just living out their timelines as legislators. But Priyanka could make herself heard that much more nationally as a parliamentarian and counter the BJP's oratory and propaganda. Comparisons are being drawn about how her grandmother Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1966 as a Rajya Sabha member. However, the context was different as Indira had the Congress as the dominant political party ruling in most States and at the Centre. That position has been wrested by the BJP today, leaving Priyanka with virtually no enablers. She has a classic glass cliff situation; she could emerge in her own right if she manages to bring the Congress out of the ventilator or she could be condemned for inefficiencies if she fails. Besides, she has a better connect with and a sensibility to deal with both senior and junior leaders, who are claiming fiefdoms of importance and fighting each other, be it Milind Deora, Ajay Maken, Pawan Khera, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Kamal Nath or Jyotiraditya Scindia. She could still be the balancer and end the confusion at least. But how would she avoid her Achilles' heel, businessman-husband Robert Vadra, who is entangled in vigilance probes? If she manages the political dissociation from personal, perhaps she could still get the party back on keel.

Tesla's second coming

The company announces it is working on improved EV batteries to reduce 'range anxiety' among drivers



South Africa-born entrepreneur Elon Musk is a polarising figure. His late night tweets are analysed by venture capitalists and tech journalists as much as that of US President Donald Trump's morning tweets, which are examined by diplomats and political journalists alike. It would not thus be incorrect to argue that Musk has become one of the most important human beings in the world alongside Trump. That's because his automotive venture, Tesla Motors, which makes Electric Vehicles (EVs), is now valued at \$100 billion, more than the entirety of India's automotive sector combined and even more than that of Volkswagen AG, the German automotive colossus. Only Japanese carmaker Toyota is worth more by quite a bit. But Tesla Motors, named after the famed Serbian inventor Nikola Tesla, who promoted the alternating current system, is now miles ahead of the rest of the global automotive industry as it pivots towards an electric future. It is not only taking a lead with its readily available products but dominates the software world, too, with its autonomous driving system.

Musk and Tesla are also leading the charge when it comes to battery technology. The company is now developing batteries that can ensure an electric car can travel almost 600 km on a single charge. It will make for the longest journeys possible on a single charge, diluting "range anxiety" that is still the single-most quoted reason for people not to buy electric vehicles at this time. Yet, while Tesla solves problems for the first world, India is still miles away from adopting an electric future, with infrastructure and manufacturing far behind the curve. That said, the few electric cars that have been launched in our country right now are promising and have decent enough range for daily commuting, if not long-distance travel. With Musk bemoaning high Customs duties for imported cars, Tesla Motors is yet to come to India. It would be wise for the Government to keep a lower degree at least initially on electric cars to promote their usage going forward.

The war on rationality

Shutting down N-power plants only to replace them with coal burning is the height of illogic. Nobody is as crazy as the Germans and the Japanese



GWYNNE DYER

Germany and Japan are finally winning a war together. Unfortunately, it is the "war on rationality". Coal, as everybody knows, is by far the most damaging source of energy we use, in terms of both the harm to human beings and the impact on the climate. It's twice as bad as natural gas and dozens of times worse than solar or nuclear or wind power. Yet both Germany and Japan have been building a lot of new coal-fired power stations. But why are they still betting on coal?

Would it upset you if I said it's because they are, despite their apparent sophistication, superstitious peasants at heart? Well, go ahead and get upset. Germany still gets more than a third of its energy from burning coal and most of it is ultra-polluting lignite or "brown" coal. Solar, wind, geo-thermal and hydropower generation provide just 17 per cent of the country's electricity needs. If most of Germany's 17 nuclear powers had not been shut down after 2012 (the last are scheduled to close within two years), then at least half the coal would not have been needed.

There had been an active anti-nuclear power movement in Germany for some time but what triggered the 2012 decision to shut the entire sector down was the Fukushima disaster of the previous year. I am deliberately avoiding the words "calamity", "disaster" and "catastrophe" because while the Fukushima tsunami killed 19,000 people, the subsequent problem with the four nuclear reactors on the coast killed nobody. Yet, the German people, or at least a large number of German anti-nuclear activists, insisted that any nuclear reactor anywhere was a mortal danger and the Government agreed to shut all nuclear plants down. The country pulled a 180 and decided to embark on ending its use of nuclear power entirely.

The same thing happened in Japan. The Japanese planners were foolish to put four reactors on the coast in a region where earthquakes and consequent tsunamis were to be expected from time to time. What needs to be condemned is the decision of the planners and not nuclear power. Nevertheless, all 50 Japanese nuclear reactors, which accounted for 30 per cent of the country's electrical power, were immediately shut down.

The Japanese are not as blindly dogmatic as the Germans: Two of those nuclear plants reopened in 2015 and seven more resurfaced recently. A further 17 are in the lengthy process of restart approval. So by 2030, the Japanese Government hopes to be getting 20 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power again. But that's only half the amount of



nuclear power that Japan originally planned to make available by 2030. The gap between 20 per cent and the planned 40 per cent of the country's energy needs will be made up by burning coal.

Japan recently announced that it plans to build 22 new coal-burning power plants in the next five years. Its Government has argued that these coal plants use ultra-supercritical boilers that are vastly more energy-efficient and pollute less per unit of energy. But these plants still emit greenhouse gases and are a non-starter for activists who want the world to zero out carbon emissions.

This is deeply irresponsible behaviour and the worst thing is that the decision-makers know it. They are just deferring to public opinion, which in this instance is entirely wrong. The "superstitious peasants" should really be frightened of global warming, for which coal-burning is a major driver, not of relatively harmless nuclear power.

That's not to say that nuclear power is the solution to all our problems, or even most of them. It is generally

OTHER COUNTRIES CAN BE IDIOTIC, TOO. DUE TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE GLITCH, CHINESE PROVINCES ARE CURRENTLY BUILDING HUNDREDS OF UNNECESSARY COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS THAT MAY NEVER BE USED SINCE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE COUNTRY'S COAL USE TO PEAK THIS YEAR

the most expensive option because it costs so much to build the reactors and the associated controls and safety devices. Indeed, nuclear is no longer cost-competitive with other "clean" sources of power like wind and solar.

So there is a case for not building any more nuclear power stations, at least in regions and countries that have ample resources in terms of sun and wind. But there is no case for shutting down existing nuclear stations and burning more coal to make up the difference. That is so stupid, it verges on the criminal.

Other countries can be idiotic, too. Due to an administrative glitch, Chinese provinces are currently building hundreds of unnecessary coal-fired power stations that may never be used, since the Central Government expects the country's coal use to peak this year — and most existing Chinese coal plants already sit idle more than half of the time.

China is using coal power financing as a key element of its Belt and Road Initiative to expand its economic and political influence throughout Asia and Africa. Both Japan

and China are now racing to secure lucrative construction contracts in developing countries to expand their strategic reach.

At least China is also building nuclear plants as fast as it can. Last year, it accounted for more than half the world's output of solar panels. (On the other hand, it is providing work for the Chinese construction industry by building a planned 300 coal-fired power stations in other countries, presumably on the unspoken assumption that carbon dioxide emissions elsewhere won't affect China's climate.)

But nobody is as crazy as the Germans and the Japanese, who have been shutting down nuclear plants and replacing them with coal-fired plants. France will close its last coal-fired station in 2022 and Britain will do the same in 2025. But Germany says 2038 and Japan just says "eventually." That's far too late: By then the die will be cast and the world will be committed to more than 2°C of warming.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Gwynne Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

SOUNDBITE

Problems of radicalism, environment and the belief that one is right while the rest are wrong are the basic issues disturbing the peace in the world.

RSS chief — Mohan Bhagwat

It is hypocritical that only female actors are accused of going under the knife or getting botox when male actors do the same. Why point fingers at women?

Actor — Raveena Tandon

In all fairness, the Chinese have slowed down. It is India that is an even bigger problem but it is an enormous problem. Nobody is doing anything about it.

US presidential aspirant — Michael Bloomberg

China has realised that it cannot back its all-weather friend all the time. If FATF comes down heavily on them (Pakistan), it may have to do a rethink on rhetoric and activities.

Army Chief — General MM Naravane

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Threat of extinction

Sir — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) operates with four levels of language endangerment between "safe" (not endangered) and "extinct" (no living speakers), based on inter-generational transfer. At a time when nations are talking about the decline of languages, India still ranks one among those countries that have the largest number of living languages. But it is depressing that our country has also earned the dubious distinction of being one with the most number of endangered languages in the world. India has reportedly lost one-fifth of its languages in the past five decades.

It's not surprising that those languages that are at risk are the ones spoken by marginal tribes. Mother tongue languages, too, rank at the bottom. When there's no education in the mother tongue, children drop out when they go to high school. The best way to conserve a language is to create livelihood opportunities for those who speak it.

Dimpay Bhatia New Delhi

Speak up to save languages

The mother tongue forms the very basis of "identity" of an individual or a community. Every effort must be made to build strong foundations at the formative stage to preserve languages. To stress the importance of mother tongue in one's life, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day to celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. However, it's disturbing that India is not doing enough to preserve its rich native languages. In the 1961 census report, a total of 1,652 mother tongues were mentioned. The 1971 census mentioned only 108 languages. Further, a 2017 study, carried out by the Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, titled *People's Linguistic Survey of India*, arrived at the conclusion that the country had lost at least 300 languages since Independence. It predicted that at least 400 Indian languages were at the risk of dying over the next 50 years. The extinction of hundreds of languages indicates the loss of culture, too.

The importance of languages must be realised. They permeate every facet of our lives and form the very basis of our civilisation. They play a significant role in creating and strengthening bonds among people. Preserving

Welcome move

Sir — It wasn't surprising that a special court pulled up the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for not conducting a lie

detector or psychological test on its former Special Director, Rakesh Asthana, in an alleged bribery case. But it was happy that Special CBI Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal has asked the probe agency to submit the case diary

for examination. It also enquired about the previous investigating officer, Ajay Kumar Bassi, who was taken off the case and had been transferred to Port Blair after the then agency Chief, Alok Kumar Verma, was shunt-



and protecting our cultural heritage is the constitutional duty of the citizens. Social scientists and concerned authorities, too, must rise to the occasion and rescue dying languages and cultures to keep heterogeneity and spirit of "equality of all languages" alive. The protection and promotion of languages is the responsibility of both the citizens and the Government. The best way is to constantly use them. A start can be made at schools by making mother tongue the medium of instruction for children.

Kajal Chatterjee Kolkata

ed out. People are fully aware that Asthana is the blue-eyed boy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. How can one forget that in 2002, the then Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani had introduced Asthana to the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi?

Back then, he was heading the probe on the Godhra train burning case and had sent the State into an unprecedented carnage and helped Modi to get clean chit from the Supreme Court appointed-SIT, headed by R Raghavan.

To clear the matter, Special Judge Aggarwal has directed the initial investigating officer in the case, Ajay Kumar Bassi, to appear before it on February 28. Hope the case diary clears the role of Asthana and Prime Minister Modi's much hyped *na khaunga, na khane dunga* mantra and simultaneously, the skeleton of the country's highest probe agency's alleged wrongdoing.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

We must come up Trumps

Leaders of both nations have to look at meaningful and time-bound solutions to address each other's concerns on emerging trade issues



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

In the run up to President Donald Trump's maiden visit to India, a bunch of eye-catching, US Secret Service men have started fanning out in locations which the leader is expected to visit. Make no mistake, that's not the only spectacle India will witness for the next week or so. "Namaste Trump" formerly "Kerncho Trump", promises to be a grander display of abundance and strategic friendship than "Howdy Modi" in Houston. Trump has already made statements on being "Number one" on Facebook, ahead of Modi, and expressed elation over the millions and millions of people who are expected to greet him in India.

Meanwhile, thousands of eyes would be scanning for inches or miles moved in the crucial Indo-US strategic partnership corridor. Trump is keen for India to open up its markets further for US goods and services and act as a key balancing partner in the region that is facing threats of dominance from China. Pushing his "America first" policy, Trump has been chipping away at any preferential treatment to India, specially in the field of trade. A few days ago, he declared India with a national average income of \$2,000 and, therefore, an approximate \$3 trillion economy as "developed" at par with China. He thereby justified taking India off any list of a preferential trade policy. Perhaps in the same breath a US-based think tank *World Population Review* has ranked India as the fifth-largest economy, overtaking the UK and France. While it may have led to celebrations in some quarters, many look at this development under the bleak prospect of a meaningful trade deal.

India's key ask from the US at this stage is a reinstatement of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSPs) programme which will allow it to export nearly \$6 billion worth of goods to the US under nearly zero tariffs. While it may be less than 10 per cent of India's overall exports to the US, it is a sticking point. Several trade watchers and policy analysts have indicated that the US is pushing for an increase of nearly \$5-\$6 billion in additional trade value of goods. Hopeful of a deal, nearly \$3.5 billion defence agreements between India and the US are ready to be signed when Trump visits India. These include nearly 30 armed helicopters meant for naval operations, a key tool in the strategic Indian Ocean where China has been seen flexing its maritime muscles. Whether a sale of weapons and military copters will be seen within the broad contours of Indo-US trade, will be a complex question to answer.

That leaves — fraught with screaming lobbies on both sides — high attention agricultural produce and medical equipment sectors. In the run-up to the visit, reports have surfaced of India's willingness to allow low tariff import of some frozen meat products, along with berries and nuts. Conditional import of dairy products with strict compliance to the vegetarian nature of the produce, could also be made. Limited concessions on medical devices' price caps imposed in the post-GSP era, can also be brought to the table.

However, right now chances of a restricted or "mini" trade deal are also looking like a distant possibility. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who was supposed to be in India at least a week before Trump to give final contours to the deal, has given it a pass, substituting it with hectic video conference calls with his Indian counterpart Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. It is unclear if the duo would be able to strike a lighting deal in under a week to come up with cracking billion figure hopes.

Many point at previous last-minute dashes for making major announcements, sometimes literally minutes ahead of crucial leadership meetings. Take the example of US support to India's permanent seat at the UN Security Council, a decision which was taken "15 minutes" ahead of then President Barack Obama's address to the Indian Parliament. This gives rise to hopes of a fig leaf trade deal pending since the "Howdy Modi" event in Houston last year being accomplished during the "Namaste Trump" extravaganza.

This deal or no deal, from what we gather, still leaves an impactful chunk of digital trade between India and the US. Trade in services between the two nations — large portions of it digitally-aided — remains a key area of negotiation. US companies have raised concerns with Indian counterparts and the Government on the restrictive nature of tariffs and non-tariff barriers which limit the access of US tech firms to India. For instance, the upcoming Data Protection Bill has text additions which suggest compulsory data localisation and sharing of non-personal data with the Government. These are seen as growth and innovation barriers in a connected, seamless, shared digital economy of two great democracies. Technology collaboration by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, specifically in the technology segment, could be great lever of strategic and public policy partnership for both countries. One clear area to work together is looking at developing protocols beyond fifth generation or 5G followed by communications. India and the US can be natural partners in the new digital trade world. Rhetoric and spectacle aside, leaders of both nations have to look at meaningful and time-bound solutions to address each other's concerns on emerging trade issues while ensuring prosperity for local markets.

(The writer is Country Manager, India, ITC Council)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

ALL WHO WORK AS BRAND AMBASSADORS ARE AT A RISK OF BEING FRAMED BY THIS (MODI) GOVT. TAPAS WAS THE THIRD VICTIM OF THIS VENDETTA POLITICS.

—BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
 MAMATA BANERJEE



MAMATA, TOO, FOLLOWED A SIMILAR VENDETTA POLITICS IN BENGAL AND PUT HUNDREDS OF OPPOSITION WORKERS IN JAIL.

—CONGRESS LEADER
 ADHIR CHOWDHURY

No country for women

Govt apathy and hopelessness have led many farm widows to take their lives. Just how many more suicides will it take for the State to take action?



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Mudapu Yadamma, 38, is from Mallareddipalli village in Nalgonda district, Telangana. Two years ago, her husband, a farmer, committed suicide by consuming pesticide and left her with a debt of ₹3.5 lakh. Kamatham Lakshmi, 31, is from Danduripalli village in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh. She, too, was left with a debt of ₹8 lakh after her husband, also a farmer, killed himself two years ago.

Vidya More, 38, is from Maharashtra. When her husband ended his life in 2012, his suicide was declared not eligible (as a farm suicide) thereby denying her the right to ex-gratia compensation.

They may live in different States but the fate of farm widows across the country is worryingly similar. Not only do farm widows suddenly become invisible to the State, they are ostracised by their families and are left to fend for themselves, especially when they are hounded to repay the debts taken by their farmer husbands. Latest statistics released by the Government show that 11,379 farmers killed themselves in India in 2016. In other words, there were 948 suicides every month or 31 growers committed suicide daily. One big reason for this was mounting debts. While the inability to pay back loans can be attributed to several reasons, including failed crops, the agrarian crisis and the unavailability of alternative opportunities for earning a livelihood, the burden of repaying the debts has fallen on their widows.

At present, there is no programme or policy that frees these farm widows from debts incurred by their husbands. The harrying by banks or moneylenders begins almost immediately after the husband's death, leaving hardly any time for the widow to mourn her spouse.

The need to survive and look after her children pushes her to earn a living. But studies have shown that the woman farmer often adopts the same kind of farming as the deceased husband. She also resorts to the same practice of chemical-intensive and external-input-driven farming requiring investments and borrowing. But with women farmers not seen as credit-worthy and access to Government schemes and credit being limited, the situation can be so hopeless and dire that women farmers are often forced to take the same path as their husbands and end their lives. Women accounted for 8.6 per cent of farmer suicides in the country.

A prime cause has been the inadequate efforts by the Government to prevent farmer suicides coupled with insufficient and lopsided support to families affected by them, according to the Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM), an informal forum comprising 120 organisations of women farmers and civil society groups in 24 States working to secure rights of women growers.

Recent consultations on the "Status of Women Farmers in Farm Suicide Families" held by MAKAAM and UN Women also revealed that the lack of recognition by the Government of the deaths as farm suicides in many cases further exacerbated the conditions of the marginalised widows as the State refused to extend any support to them.

Korra Shanthi is one such victim of State apathy. A resident of Nalgonda district, Telangana, Shanthi and her husband were engaged in cul-

“ LACK OF RECOGNITION IS A MAJOR HURDLE IN THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF WIDOWS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS IS ACCORDING TO A MAKAAM STUDY ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN FARM SUICIDE-AFFECTED FAMILIES IN THE SIX STATES OF MAHARASHTRA, KARNATAKA, TELANGANA, ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU AND PUNJAB ”



ivation on leased land. When her husband ended his life in 2018, Shanthi was left with a debt of ₹6 lakh. Although she applied for ex-gratia payment with the help of local activists, she has not received any money yet. Shanthi has been told that she is unlikely to receive it because her husband did not own any land in his name, making her ineligible for ex-gratia payment.

Since several State Government rules specify that only land owners and land title holders are considered as farmers while extending support to the suicide-affected family, those toiling on leased land fall through the cracks. With land ownership being the main criteria, tenant farmers and women farmers, especially farm widows who do not have land in their names, are not recognised as real farmers. Further, farmers who have borrowed from moneylenders also don't get counted as eligible or genuine cases and their widows and families are denied compensation. "This is one of the biggest problems in Punjab," contends 40-year-old Veerpal Kaur. A resident of Mansa district, Punjab, Kaur has witnessed the despair that led to her husband, father and father-in-law ending their lives. But their families were not considered eligible although the suicides were due to farm distress.

Lack of recognition is a major hurdle in the relief and rehabilitation of widows and their families. This is according to a MAKAAM study on the status of women in farm suicide-affected families in six States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. One of the important findings was that in Maharashtra, Punjab and Karnataka,

only those farmers who had institutional debt were considered as genuine and eligible for support, not those who ended their lives due to pressure from moneylenders.

Moreover, there was a wide variation in the relief and rehabilitation package given by these six States. The study showed that the criteria used to determine "farm suicides" were different across States and even within the relevant agencies like the police, agriculture and revenue departments.

According to MAKAAM's Seema Kulkarni, even in the States where compensation was being paid, it was not uniform. "While Andhra Pradesh provides a compensation of ₹7 lakh for each family, in Maharashtra, which has the largest number of farm suicides in the country, this is only ₹2 lakh. In the case of Telangana, although its policy states a compensation of ₹6 lakh, hardly any payment had been made since subsuming farm suicide cases into the Farmer Insurance scheme called Rythu Beema Padhakam", says Kulkarni.

Of all the States, only Andhra Pradesh had a one-time settlement mechanism, (used in certain cases), to settle all outstanding institutional as well as private loans within ₹1 lakh to liberate woman from never-ending debt. However, its use was limited.

The study also found that only Karnataka had a policy to support education of children from farm suicide families, including reimbursement of fee of those studying in private institutions. "However, even here, the implementation was poor and lacked coordination between different agencies, states", Ashalatha Satyam of Rythu Swarajya

Vedika, a MAKAAM partner. She points out that such a policy does not exist in other States. This is why many widows in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh had to pull out their children from schools. Although the Maharashtra Government had announced a support package related to education fee, nothing has been finalised so far.

In cases where land is in the name of the husband, wives have the opportunity to eke out a living once they are able to get it transferred in their name. But even here it is usually a long and uphill battle as relatives don't want to give her the rightful share in the property. Lack of land ownership has forced most of the women to either become labourers or seek other means of employment, often at the cost of their safety. So, Mudapu Yadamma is dependent on wage labour to keep her three children in school since her in-laws are not prepared to give her a share in the family land. Kamatham Lakshmi, too, was denied her share in the family land cultivated by her husband and does any work that helps her earn a living. Vidya More has taken up sewing and wage labour to make ends meet. But all this isn't enough to repay the huge debts incurred by their husbands.

They are not the only ones struggling for survival and their rights. Hundreds of farm widows have fallen off the Government's radar. Government apathy and hopelessness have led many to take their lives. This is not unknown to the political masters. Then what is the Government waiting for? Just how many more suicides will it take for it to take action?

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Strive to preserve your identity

Maintaining and retaining the languages of ethnic and cultural groups is critical for the preservation of cultural heritage and identity. Using one's mother tongue at home is part of this exercise



MJ WARSJI

To promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and bolster social and multilingual identity, the International Mother Tongue Day is celebrated every year on this day (February 21).

Mother tongue refers to a person's native language, that is, a language learned from birth. The first International Mother Tongue Day was observed in 1990 after the declaration by the United Nations (UN) to recognise the sacrifices of people who lost their lives for the sake of their mother tongue in Bangladesh.

Language is one of the most precious gifts that we have and each tongue represents a unique and distinct cultural heritage. Language is a

means of communicating values, beliefs and customs and has an important social function as it fosters feelings of group identity and solidarity. It is the means by which culture, traditions and shared values may be conveyed and preserved.

About 50 per cent of the world's out-of-school children live in communities where the medium of instruction is different from the language used at home. This is perhaps one of the most astounding facts about second language education. Schools have tried to tackle the problem by going to the families of these children for assistance in helping students gain confidence in the use of the second language. They ask the parents to use the second language at home so that the students become more comfortable with it and are able to cope with it in school. This does more harm than good for reasons other than that of a second language being much harder to learn regardless of copious levels of effort put in to achieve fluency.

In developing areas, usually there aren't resources enough to prepare

students at this level, so the efforts made by the parents and the students are futile in that sense.

This second language education also causes a rift between families and their native languages in a wholly unnecessary way. Families feel alienated from their mother tongue simply because the school gives the impression that they should feel this way. By propagating this attitude, these education systems are essentially destroying diverse cultures and backgrounds that make our species so great.

The different languages and dialects spoken throughout the globe reflect how history and culture have shaped the way in which people speak, think and reflect. Our mother tongue helps to link new generations to the past, which is part of our cultural and plurilingual heritage. It is a well-known fact that everyone had a language that they grew up speaking and a good proportion of the world spoke more than one tongue. However, the idea that someone would regularly have to be taught in a language that wasn't

native to them had never occurred previously. "This was, undoubtedly, exacerbated by the fact that I never made significant strides towards becoming fluent in another language. The closest I had ever come was a working proficiency in Spanish during my junior year of high school. When I think back on my perspective on this subject in the context of my parents, their accents never bothered me because I had just always been so used to them", says a 21-year-old former student Tej, who is pursuing higher studies at Washington University in St Louis, USA.

Leanne Hinton, a Professor of linguistics at the University of California in Berkeley, says in *Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education*, "More broadly, the loss of language is part of the loss of whole cultures and knowledge systems, including philosophical systems, oral literary and musical traditions, environmental knowledge systems, medical knowledge and important cultural practices and artistic skills. The world stands to lose an impor-

tant part of the sum of human knowledge whenever a language stops being used. Just as the human species is putting itself in danger through the destruction of species diversity, so might we be in danger from the destruction of the diversity of knowledge systems".

These problems are hard to fix. If one were to approach educators and tell them to fix the issue, they would undoubtedly point to a lack of resources. Nevertheless, an effort must be made by educators to have respect for the mother tongue of their students, even if it is different from their own.

The beauty of academic education is that the majority of it comes from books that can be more easily produced in areas with greater resources. It is for the educators in these parts of the world — who are multilingual — to produce orthographical and instructional materials for use in developing areas. Given the resource crisis in the developing world, this is likely to be one of the most practical solutions. Children in developing areas have the

thirst for knowledge, we must do what we can to satiate it.

Language is the essence and identity of culture and is a major tool of communication and for exchange of ideas and emotions. To know your language is the simplest and most important way to keep and preserve your culture. In recent times, the idea of linguistic and cultural awareness has increased; thus allowing the mother tongue to be more culturally accepted.

It is clear, that we must strive to reform the systems that educate the youth, in order to further the quality of learning in the first language or mother tongue and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

Maintaining and retaining the languages of ethnic and cultural groups is critical for the preservation of cultural heritage and identity. Using one's mother tongue at home will make it easier for speakers to be more comfortable with their own linguistic and cultural identity.

(The writer is Chairperson, Department of Linguistics, AMU)



FOREIGN EYE



GENERATING JOBS NEED OF THE HOUR

Is there any sign that Boris Johnson understands that monetary policy has failed and there needs to be fiscal intervention to bolster demand for jobs? Not much. Just increasing the fiscal deficit won't help. However, most of the cash flows via tax cuts to the richest, who do not spend it. Johnson promises infrastructure spending in Labour areas that voted Tory. The economic returns from this won't materialise for a decade — not in time to impress anyone who voted for the Tories. (The Guardian editorial)

AGRCASE

Govt may seek balance between SC order, telcos' health

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

With the telecom sector reeling under severe financial stress and Vodafone Idea staring at bankruptcy in case it is made to pay its adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, the Government is considering options to stick to the Supreme Court's directive but with least possible impact on the financials of the stressed operators.

According to people in the know, the Government will try to ensure that its action regarding AGR dues takes care of all the perspectives, firstly, compliance with the Supreme Court's order, then, ensuring minimum impact on the health of the telcos along with making sure that the consumers are not impacted adversely.

The Government, among other options, is considering to set up a fund to facilitate oper-

ations of telcos post the payment of their AGR dues, sources said.

According to sources in the know, the dues which have to be paid to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) would have to be put in the telecom fund, and can then be lent to the companies at lower interest.

This will allow companies to maintain their going concern status and continue operations without running to banks to raise funds.

With the sector in trouble, none of the banks would be ready to lend to telcos, so the fund would act as critical funding support. The telecom fund is likely to help telcos manage their cash flows and would be fiscally neutral for the Government.

The sources also said that two other options are being looked at — waiver of penalties

or staggered payments with interest. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Law and Finance Ministries would take the final call.

The DoT has maintained that it will execute the top court's directive and stick to the spirit of the order.

In the last couple of days, chiefs of telecom majors, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have met Government officials and Ministers in a bid to get some relief.

On Wednesday, Mittal and Vodafone Idea Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to apprise her the current stressed state of affairs in the telecom sector due to huge AGR payment and are learnt to have sought relief for sustenance. Both the telco bosses have also met Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash.

AGR unprecedented crisis, sought cut in taxes for industry: Mittal

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal on Thursday met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in the wake of the current AGR payment to be made by the telcos, saying he suggested that for the overall health of the industry, taxes needed to be brought down.

Mittal, however, said the issue of AGR payment per se did not figure in the talks. The discussion was on the overall industry, he said.

"Adjusted Gross Revenue has been an unprecedented crisis for the telecom industry. I made certain suggestions on the overall health of the industry. Industry has been heavily taxed and taxes need to be

looked at. The issue of very low revenues left in the kitty of the industry needs to be addressed and the AGR also need to be dealt with", he said after the meeting with Prasad.

He said Airtel will make the balance payment expeditiously. "The demand for reduction in taxation for the telecom sector has been for a long time. The regulator has been supporting it", he said in response to a query if he has sought any cut in levies.

Mittal met the minister amid reports that said government was looking at some form of relief for the sector in view of huge AGR dues to be paid by telcos.

The telcos, particularly Vodafone Idea, which is severely

hit by the AGR payment, has sought a bailout. The options here before the government are limited. There could be a cut in licence fee and spectrum usage charges, staggered payment of AGR over long years with interests, a waiver of interest and penalties on AGR dues.

So far the Government has neither stated nor indicated any relief for the telcos. On Wednesday, Mittal met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and sought sustainability for telcos in the stressful times. He had said Indian telecom industry has been under stress for the last three-and-a-half years and the Government should ensure sustainability of the sector.

"The only thing

Government needs to do is to focus on how to ensure sustainability of the sector," he said after meeting the FM.

Airtel faces ₹35,500 crore AGR dues. The company has already announced its plans to pay the dues that arose from the Supreme Court ruling.

Earlier this week, Bharti Airtel had paid ₹10,000 crore to the telecom department as part of its AGR dues. The company plans to pay the balance amount before the next date of Supreme Court's hearing which is on March 17.

Former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has said in a blog that telecom crisis is not limited to AGR and that the problems are much deeper.



Govt to verify telcos' AGR math via test checks before March 17: Sources

New Delhi: The telecom department will verify telcos' claims of lesser AGR dues by initiating random 'test checks' before March 17, sources said. The 'test check' will happen for all telcos firms but will start with those claiming they have already made full and final settlement towards their statutory liabilities. The exercise will help the department assess the gap between telcos' claim of what their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues are and its own estimates.

Govt to bar vendors of countries that disallow purchase from Indian firms

New Delhi: The Department of Telecom will bar telecom vendors of those countries that would disallow or exclude Indian suppliers from providing network gears used for wifi, fixed line and cellular networks, including 5G services, in their respective local markets, according to an official order.

The order is part of Government's Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order 2017 which

envisages to source domestically manufactured products to encourage 'Make in India'.

"Any foreign Government which is not allowing Indian suppliers to participate and/or compete in procurement of telecom equipment, provision of clause 10 (d) of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order 2017 be invoked in relation to the aforesaid telecom items," the order sent by the DoT to all Central Government depart-

ments and public sector units on February 19 said.

This includes wifi access points, routers, optical fibre cable, enterprise routers and related technology, integrated broadband systems, broadband transmission equipments, modems etc. Section 10 (d) of the order states that if nodal ministry finds that Indian suppliers of an item are not allowed to participate or compete in procurement by any foreign government

then it may restrict or exclude bidders from that country from eligibility for procurement of that item and other items relating that nodal ministry.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade identifies DoT as the nodal department for implementing the provisions related to procurement of goods, services or works related to the telecommunication sector.

Vodafone Idea pays ₹1,000 cr to DoT towards AGR: Sources

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea on Thursday paid ₹1,000 crore to Department of Telecom towards its AGR dues, official sources said.

Earlier this week, the telecom company had paid ₹2,500 crore and had said it would pay ₹1,000 crore more on weekends. But Friday is a holiday, so the company has made the payment on Thursday, however, Vodafone Idea did not comment on it.

The DoT seeks ₹53,000 crore AGR

payments from Vodafone Idea as it has been hit maximum by the AGR dues demand. On Wednesday, VIL chairman KM Birla and his Airtel counterpart Sunil Mittal individually met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and learnt to have sought relief from the government.

While the Government has so far not taken any decision on a bail out, Birla and Mittal have also met Telecom secretary Anshu Prakash to press for supporting the industry for sustainability.

₹ slides 10 paise to over 1-month low of 71.64 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Thursday declined by 10 paise to settle at a more than one-month low of 71.64 against the US dollar amid heavy selling in domestic equities and strengthening of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said investor sentiments remained fragile amid coronavirus fears and sustained foreign fund outflows. The death toll from the coronavirus epidemic in China has climbed to 2,118, while the overall confirmed cases increased to 74,576, Chinese officials said on Thursday.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 71.75. During the day, it lost ground and touched a low of 71.80 and finally settled 10 paise lower at 71.64 against the US currency, a level not seen since January 8. The

rupee had settled at 71.54 against the US dollar on Tuesday. Forex market was shut on February 19, on account of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti.

"Indian rupee recovered early morning losses following Asian peers. Foreign fund inflows, dollar selling by state owned banks and stable crude oil prices also supported the rupee," said V K Sharma, Head PGC and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

Sharma added the near-term bias for rupee is bearish amid stronger dollar vis-a-vis major trading currencies. On a weekly basis, the rupee lost 33 paise. "Despite a lackluster week, we saw an appreciation in USD/INR spot tracking some uncertainty over coronavirus along with sharp surge in dollar index and crude oil prices," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research- Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services.

Round-the-clock power supply by bundling renewable with thermal power: Draft policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has proposed a draft policy for the supply of round-the-clock (RTC) power to distributors through a mix of renewable energy and electricity generated in coal-based plants.

Addressing the issues of intermittency, limited hours of supply and low capacity utilisation of transmission infrastructure, the draft policy provides for reverse bundling, wherein high-cost thermal power is being allowed to be bundled with cheaper renewable energy.

Accordingly, a power generating firm will have to supply electricity such that at least 51 per cent of the annual energy supplied corresponds to renewable energy and the balance is drawn from thermal sources.

The generator will supply RE power complemented with thermal power, in RTC man-

ner, keeping at least 80 per cent availability on an annual basis, the draft said.

"The main objective of the scheme is to provide RTC power to the discoms through bundling of RE power with thermal power and to scale up renewable capacity additions. It will also facilitate fulfilment of renewable purchase obligation (RPO) requirement of the obligated entities," the ministry said inviting comments from stakeholders on the new policy.

While India is committed to installing 175 GW of renewable energy (RE) sources by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030, intermittent power generated through such sources and its implication on the grid safety has been a concern. Parallely, there is around 26 GW of stranded thermal power assets lying unutilised which can provide firm power to the grid.

To bridge the gap, the MNRE has come out with the draft RE-based round the clock (RTC) power.

Centre to come up with new rental policy very soon: Puri

New Delhi: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) will soon come out with a rental policy.

The policy would help alleviate housing shortage in urban areas by encouraging renting of homes as millions of houses lie vacant across the country.

"Very soon you will see a rental policy out," he said here at a function. The Minister said that a lot of people do not want to give their properties on rent because they think that "if you have a weak legal system, you might not get your property back". He expressed hope that the new policy will overcome this concern. "You have got the template etc (of the policy). States can tweak it to the extent they like. You will have a situation where large amounts of residential accommodation which is not being utilised will then be released into the market," the Minister said.

Economic activity remains weak: RBI rate setting panel minutes

Mumbai: Economic activity remains weak and high frequency indicators do not point to "bottoming out" of the downturn, the RBI Monetary Policy Committee noted while keeping the key interest rate unchanged earlier this month.

According to the minutes of the MPC released by the central bank on Thursday, member and RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra observed that economic

activity remains weak. "... There are indications of the momentum of growth stabilising, with sector-specific upticks underlying this guarded optimism, but they are far from gaining economy-wide traction. In some sectors, the slowdown is deep, and activity is stalled by sizable slack in demand.

"High frequency indicators are not offering definitive evidence yet that the downturn is bottoming out," he said dur-

ing the meeting of the MPC that concluded on February 6.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, who heads the six-member panel, said "some green shoots are, however, visible". India's economic growth is estimated to have slowed down to 11-year low of 5 per cent during the current financial year ending March 2020. High frequency indicators like automobile sales and capital goods output are moderating since last several months.

Central Govt releases ₹19,950 cr GST compensation to States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government has released ₹19,950 crore as GST compensation to states, taking the total amount released to them to over ₹1.2 lakh crore.

In a statement, the finance ministry said ₹19,950 crore was released to states and union territories on last Monday.

When the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

came into force in July 2017, states, which lost powers to levy taxes such as VAT, were guaranteed to be compensated for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation. This compensation was to come out of a pool that is to be created by levy of cess on certain sin and luxury goods over and above the GST tax rate. The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that one unknown male person was found unconscious Gali No.5, Ambedkar Nagar, Haiderpur, Delhi on Dated 05.02.2020, was admitted at BJRM Hospital refer to L.N.J.P Hospital vide MLC No. 185181/19, during the treatment declared dead by Doctor on dated 13.02.2020. The dead body has been preserved at L.N.J.P Hospital Mortuary identification for 72 hrs. In this regard Case DD No. 20A, Dated 14.02.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

The description of the dead body is given as under Name Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age: 33 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", Face: Long, Build: Thin. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi Ph.: 011-27495198 8750870226 DP/02/NW/20



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Arjun Singh S/o Ram Singh R/o K-1861, Jahangir Puri, Delhi Aged-38 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 04.02.2020 vide DD No.28A Dated 05.02.2020 registered at Police Station Jahangir Puri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'7", Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Clothing: Blue coloured jacket and Yellow coloured shirt, Black coloured pant and white coloured slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped male, may inform SHO, Jahangir Puri, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Jahangir Puri, Delhi DP/9728/NW/2020 Tel.: 011-27636000, 27631600



Fixed broadband speed dips in India in Jan, mobile download speeds slightly up: Ookla

New Delhi: Mean download speeds on fixed broadband network in India slipped to 38.84 megabit per second (Mbps), but the same on mobile network improved slightly to 11.58 Mbps in January, a report released by Ookla said on Thursday.

"India's performance in mean download speeds on fixed broadband has gone down from 40.11 Mbps in December 2019 to 38.84 in January 2020. Mean download speeds on mobile broadband have gone up from 11.46 Mbps to 11.58 Mbps in January 2020,"

the broadband speed analysis firm said in its report.

The index placed UAE on first position for mobile broadband speed with a mean download speed of 87.01 Mbps. Singapore still holds the top spot for fixed broadband speed with a significant increase in mean download speeds at 202.21 Mbps. Ookla's Speedtest Global Index compares internet speed data from round the world each month, and the data for same comes from tests taken by people using Speedtest application.

BUSINESS CORNER

OBC CELEBRATES 78TH FOUNDATION DAY



New Delhi: On the occasion of 78th Foundation Day of the Oriental Bank of Commerce, event was organised at Siri Fort Auditorium New Delhi on 19.02.2020. Various cultural activities were organized and staff members from Delhi/NCR attended the event with great zeal and enthusiasm. The guest of honour Shri. Yuzvendra Chahal, Brand ambassador of the bank along with Shri.S.K.Soni Ex.CMD OBC, Shri.T.M.Bhasin, Chairman ABFB and the other retired staff members attended the event. The celebration of Foundation Day were extended all over Circle offices and the branches on Pan India basis.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : 65 years, Face : Round, Height : 5'7" Complexion : Sallow, Build : Normal, wearing black colour jacket and black colour pant, was found unconscious on 15.02.2020 in Safdarjung Emergency, he was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi by unknown person, during the treatment doctor declare him dead. In this regard a DD No. 09-B dated 15.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi Tel. No. : 011-24106345, 24106346 DP/01/SW/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Sneha, D/o Amit Kumar, R/o: H.No. 3025, Ranjit Nagar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from her house since 10.02.2020 at morning 10:00 am from the area of P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi In this regard a case vide FIR No. 35/2020 u/s 363 IPC, dated 10.02.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped girl is as under: Age: 15 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green colour salwar-suit, white colour shoes. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- FAX No. 011-24368639 P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi DP/6930/CD/2020 Ph.: 011- 25704008, 8750870436

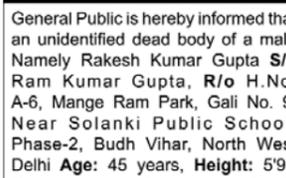
SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Roshni, D/o: Sh. Late Arun Kumar Singh, R/o: RZ-28F, Gali No. 11, Durga Park, Sagarpur, New Delhi has been missing since 04.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Sagarpur Delhi. In this regard a case FIR No. 526/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 05.11.2019 has been lodged at PS Sagarpur, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: Age: 12 yrs 11 months, Sex: Female, Height: 4' 10", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue colour T shirt and jeans. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID - cic@cbi.gov.in Fax No. 011-24368639 Sd/- Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi DP/7162/SW/19 7065036228 Ph.: 011-28522655, 7065036228

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Rakesh Kumar Gupta S/o Ram Kumar Gupta, R/o H.No. A-6, Mange Ram Park, Gali No. 9, Near Solanki Public School, Phase-2, Budh Vihar, North West Delhi Age: 45 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Strong, Face: Round, Eyes: Black, Wearing: Sky blue shirt and navy blue pant was found dead in B-1, Jal Board, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 06.02.2020. In this regard a DD No.52A, dated 06.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO P.S. Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi Ph.: 011-26892530 DP/06/SW/2020 Mob.: 9971632959, 7065036224

Trend Blazer

'Glad critics felt I am worthy of an award'

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU**, who recently won the Filmfare Critics' Choice Award for Best Actor (Female), has reacted on the controversy that the awards ceremony has generated this year, over Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy* sweeping most of the awards.

She said she is happy that her name wasn't dragged in the controversy as I am so used to it. And that she is glad that critics felt she was worthy of an award. "It took time but finally I got it and what should I say other than that? I was preparing my speech for it since 2016 and it was of no use. But this year I didn't prepare a speech and that day I had to deliver it, Taapsee said.



'Happy birthday Patralekhaa. I still remember seeing you in an advertisement and

wondering I wish I could meet this girl one day. And as destiny would have it, much to my desire, I met you a month later. It has been so many years of togetherness yet it feels like we've just met. You are the prettiest and the strongest girl I've met.' —Rajkumar Rao



Badlapur, an action-thriller, has completed five years since it was released, and its actress **RADHIKA APTE** is super nostalgic.

Reminiscing about working with Sriram Raghavan, who helmed the film, Radhika said, "I think Sriram has a very peculiar eye about thrillers like no one else does, he is one of the most passionate people I have met, I mean he watches cinema, everything that is made available to him."

The film featured Varun Dhawan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in the lead roles.



Jennifer returns to acting after marriage

Actor **JENNIFER LAWRENCE** is all set to return to the screen for the first time after marriage last year. She has taken up a role in director Adam McKay's forthcoming Netflix comedy titled *Don't Look Up*.

The Oscar-winning actress wed Cooke Maroney last year. Her new film follows two scientists who discover a meteor that is set to strike Earth in six months' time and attempts to warn the rest of the world.

"She's what folks in the 17th century used to call 'a dynamite act'. And the fact that Netflix sees this film as a worldwide comedy sets the bar high for me and my team in an exciting and motivating way," McKay said.



Even though the results may be slower, organic skin care products are gentle on skin and won't harm in the long run, explores **AYUSHI SHARMA**

THE NATURAL LOOK

When organic skincare products came into India, it was assumed that they would be another elitist fad, which would eventually fade away with each passing day. However, as the benefit of natural, plant-based cosmetics spread, the bigger brands spurred an interest in our native traditions and birthed home brands as well.

One of the major reasons why the demand kept on growing in India is due to the country's constantly increasing digital literacy rate, shares Vedika Sharma, Director at Mantra Herbal. She feels that people are now becoming more conscious of and familiar about the benefits of organic products and trying to avoid the harmful effects of chemicals and fertilisers used during farming. "The personal care space has mostly been defined by three terms — ayurveda, wellness and organic. From a marketing standpoint, ayurveda is more of a mass play. On the other hand, organic has emerged as an alternative to ayurveda with a more premium positioning," says she.

While the Director at The Imperial Spa and Salon, Jacqueline Tara Herron, who recently announced association with French luxury skincare brand, Olivier Claire, tells us that from the growers to the market place and on to the consumer, the economy is greatly influenced by these intelligent choices. Director at O3plus, Vidur Kapur, believes that even though the future of organic products is bright, the degree of result may vary if you compare it to a dermatological product.



IMPACT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Certified organic products are derived from plants and other naturally occurring ingredients. More importantly, those ingredients are grown without the use of pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilisers, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and other additives or chemicals. Tara says, "More and more of us are seeking ways to redress the balance of pollution that can damage the skin and destroy the skin's ability to regenerate. The synthetic ingredients found in non-organic products may be fast acting, but they are also invasive, causing harm that cannot be seen. Olivier Claire products and treatments have an integral protective and preservative nature that combats the effects of negative stress on the skin caused by environmental hazards."

Vedika tells us that the use of toxic chemicals worsens the skin's natural barrier and accelerates the damage by disrupting pH balance and can even cause skin cancer in the long run. "Given Delhi's air pollution level and atmosphere, it causes many skin problems brown spots, wrinkles, redness, enlarged pores and dry patches. Even though the results may be slower, organic skin care products are gentle on your skin and



won't harm you in the long run," says she.

NEWER NATURAL INGREDIENTS

On the surface of the skin, there is something known as microbiome, which is made up of bacteria, fungi and viruses. This makes certain chemicals that keep the skin healthy and help your skin's barrier stay intact. Skincare experts note that this is set to go mainstream this year.

The trends also points towards 'less-but-better' attitude. Experts say that brands need to evolve with this concept understanding that consumers are looking to purchase fewer items that still deliver all of the results they want.

Vedika feels the concept of "blue beauty," is on the rise, which will push peo-

ple to use marine-friendly products. The say if it is bad for marine life, why do you think it is good for your skin? "Waterless beauty is the next thing in the industry, which means that brands will reduce water consumption in making the products," says she. Keeping in mind the current air pollution situation, anti-pollution skincare will become synonymous with sun protection, she adds.

Also, the biggest shift in Vidur's opinion is going to be towards mens skincare range of products. "While the mainstream media has historically targetted women when it comes to grooming products, more options for men's personal care are emerging," she says and adds that the star ingredient of the products is going to be caffeine.

PERCEPTION OF BEAUTY MAY VARY

A good state of health isn't a process that you can master overnight, it takes a lot of baby steps and determination. The definition of beauty keeps on changing but something that stays constant is the fact that internal beauty really does matter over the external charm. And skincare brands must prioritise internal intangibles — like being comfortable in one's own skin and feeling confident — over external features.

The good news is that focussing on a

few, simple things can make a massive difference to how you look and feel. In Vedika's opinion, healthy skin comes from a combination of a good diet and use of natural skincare products. She says, "Good nutrition implies what to avoid. Veggies and water can only hydrate your organs. Skin is also an organ of the body and water also evaporates from it easily. Hence, moisturisers seal moisture in skin. Skincare have ingredients that penetrate and work on the problem area directly. For instance, dark circles won't just fade away with an eye cream. A healthy diet and sound sleep will work together along with a good skincare product."

Tara believes that inner beauty is long lasting. You don't need costly cosmetics or expensive surgeries to keep it intact. There are many brands that cater to this concept. One such example is Dove. Olivier Claire focus on it too. The products have been harmlessly harvested from natural sources. Key ingredients such as native stem cells from sunflower pollen, wakame seaweed and sea fennel are scientifically tested to achieve the best results.

Inner beauty enhances your external charm. It gives you the confidence to face the world and its problems, which is something far greater than the standards that had been set by the society, feels Vidur.

Your next car will not be electric

Electric cars have come a long way in India but they still cost far too much for a majority of Indians. For now



KUSHAN MITRA



First things first. We have to keep in mind that we live in a country where the people who are in power believe that cars are a luxury item. That was made clear by Prime Minister Narendra Modi the other day when he said that 1.5 crore luxury cars have been sold in India over the past five years. Now, while I believe WagonR and Santro are fairly nice cars, BMW is not, because as much as the i3 tries to be basic, it really isn't.

Luxury or premium cars in my book are cars that cost upwards of ₹30 lakh, which would include the higher-end of mass-market brands. That means cars like the Hyundai Santa Fe and, of course, all the German premium brands as well as Lexus, Volvo and the like. The figure for sales of such cars would at best be around 250,000 over the past five years. Because the total sale of cars in India is 1.5 crore. So now we know, according to the government cars are a symbol of bourgeoisie, the moment you move to four wheels, whether it is a Maruti Alto or an Audi, you are a member of the entitled classes. Not for politicians and bureaucrats, of course, because they need cars to tell us how bad we are for not paying taxes.

Anyway, back to the topic. Which again involves excise duties, Customs and taxes again. The fact is that electric cars are far too expensive for mass adoption in a country like India. The two electric SUVs that have been launched so far, the Hyundai Kona and the MG ZS EV, are both cars that can definitely be lived with on a daily basis without any worry about range. If you live in a city like Delhi where you have parking, and if you can afford a ₹25 lakh car you possibly do have parking, charging is not a problem. With ranges of 300 kilometres, and the average daily commute being 25-30 kilometres, you will easily survive a week on a single charge. As for long-distance driving, well, Delhi-Lucknow may be a bit of a stretch but Agra, Chandigarh, Dehradun and Jaipur should be easily



achievable as long as you have planned for a charging point at your destination. There are few, if any, public chargers outside Delhi and even those in Delhi are often not compatible with all cars as I have discovered in the past. But one assumes that will change going forward.

But until it changes and until cars like the Kona and ZE EV will make no sense whatsoever. Cars with more limited ranges such as the Tata Nexon EV and the Mahindra e-Verito are entering governmental and taxi fleets in Delhi, the latter being a bit bizarre given the usage of taxis over long distances and without any fast-charging infrastructure. That is because decent range costs money and battery costs make up the bulk of the cost of an electric car. Without any battery manufacturing in India, all batteries are imported from China and as the last couple of weeks have shown, our neighbour is integral to the global supply chain. As China gets the flu, even India's automotive industry will sneeze. That is just for some small components. Can you imagine what will happen if unrestricted imports of batteries are allowed from China? Indian manufacturing and jobs will be hollowed out. India needs to secure lithium resources and establish battery factories and work towards reducing costs of electric cars.

There is little doubt that electric



vehicles are the future of mobility across the world but we should not make the assumption that the world is equal. In the United States, a \$50,000 car is a standard family car and the Tesla Model 3 serves that purpose but the optics of a ₹35 lakh car in India, possibly ₹70 lakh after Customs duties particularly with politicians railing against the rich, won't work, right? India has to take smaller, more sustainable steps towards electrification. Even for public transport, forcing electrification down the throats of transport bodies when they do not have enough buses to transport the people they need to now, is counter-productive. There is far too much misinformation

about the benefits of electrification of vehicles out there. The plain and simple fact is that electric vehicles are expensive, and it does not make sense for India at the current time and the current economic environment to move to electric cars and buses. Hybrids, where smaller engines are coupled with small batteries, make much more sense in the next decade in India. And in that time we should work towards improving affordability and growing our economy so as to afford electric cars and make them in India.

In the rush towards electric vehicles, we should really not lose sight of the bigger picture.

Ayushmann and I are connected: Vicky

Actor Vicky Kaushal returns to the screens for the first time since his National Award-winning blockbuster *Uri: The Surgical Strike* with his new release, *Bhoot Part One: The Haunted Ship*. At the box-office the film clashes with *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, starring Ayushmann Khurrana, with whom he shared the National Award. Ayushmann received the honour for his role in *Anhadhun*.

"I think Ayushmann and I are connected

somewhere. We were together on *Koffee With Karan* and we have hosted an awards show together as well. After that, we shared the National Award (Best Actor) and now, our films are releasing on the same day!" said Vicky.

About the clash, he added, "It is impractical that you will get a solo release because we make a lot more film than the Fridays that we have, so clashes (of films) are bound to happen." Vicky's next after this is the Karan Johar-directorial *Takht*. He will start shooting for the historical drama in March.

Takht is a big-budget period drama that casts Ranveer Singh as Dara Shukoh and Vicky as Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. The film is scheduled for a Christmas weekend release in 2021 and it also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt, Anil Kapoor, Janhvi Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar.

Asked if he feels the pressure being a part of such a big-budget film, Vicky said, "I don't feel much pressure but I am excited because it was on my bucket list to do a period film. I will start preparing for it immediately after release of *Bhoot Part One: The Haunted Ship*."

The recent Filmfare Awards in Guwahati ignited widespread fan ire over Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy* bagging the maximum number of awards. Talking about the controversy, Vicky said, "It's not the first year where this kind of a controversy has taken place. They (award ceremonies) have their jury to decide winners. I don't know what goes behind it. We (actors) are also like the audience who go there to enjoy the award ceremonies. If we are announced winners then we receive it (the award) otherwise we just enjoy the night. So, I don't know anything about it, but I believe there is jury who takes that decision. So, we should leave it to them."



Photo: Pankaj Kumar —IANS

SHARING FOOD, CONVERSATION AND LAUGHTER

STEPHANIE ALEXANDER, an Australian food educator, feels that it very important to concentrate on the enjoyable aspect of cooking and not just skills. By TEAM VIVA

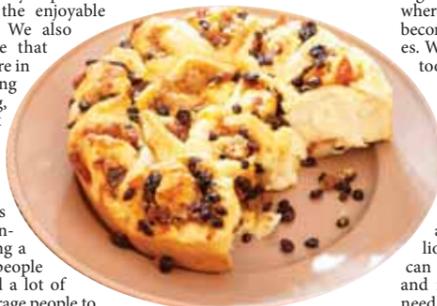


Sharing food and wine with family and friends is very important for her. Brushing past scented leaves in a garden, picking parsley outside the back door, pulling a cork from a bottle of wine, setting out a picnic on a bush table — all these things push her to live another day and eat another meal. Stephanie Alexander, an Australian food educator, believes that there is no greater joy than sharing food, conversation and laughter around a table.

You emphasise more on joyful and healthy cooking. Do you think people nowadays are more aware of fresh and organic ways of cooking?

Yes, I think it is very important to concentrate on the enjoyable aspect of cooking. We also need to make sure that young people, who are in the process of learning the skills of cooking, not only get efficient in that but also understand how important it is to enjoy the process. For me, cooking is one of the most wonderful things to bring a family or group of people together. So I spend a lot of time trying to encourage people to enjoy their food choices.

I choose organic food only. The



organic movement is growing everywhere, as more and more people are becoming aware of their food choices. We have great emphasis on fish too.

Melbourne is known as Australia's food capital. What reasons would you attribute that to?

I am very proud of Melbourne as it is a great food destination. Though we are a country of just three million, there are a lot of things we can do. We have a range of cafes and restaurants catering to every need. Some of the reasons for its popularity are: The Queen Victoria Market, fish food, Wagyu beef tar-

tars and chilli baked mussels.

What do you have to say about the current food culture of Melbourne? What does it have in store for Indians specifically?

There are no special food trends there. You can have good food everywhere in Melbourne, not only in the city but even in the vineyard or sea side. Wherever you go, you will find one commonality fish.

One in every third person in Melbourne is born elsewhere or their parents were. So we have all kinds of ethnic foods you can imagine. The population there has a huge choice. So any visitor, Indian or otherwise, can choose what they would like to eat. There is nothing specific.

What is your signature dish and how did you come up with it?

I don't think I have a signature dish. I only have certain things which I cook all the time. One of them is roast chicken, my children are very fond of it. My speciality is garlic chicken and potatoes and lemon garlic chicken. It tastes delicious. I always like to serve a dish with green salads. Even choosing a favourite dish is very hard for me. I really like lamb cutlet and fresh fish.

What are the new global food movements?

Now more and more restaurants are interested in using indigenous ingredients. If you go into a good restaurant in Melbourne, you will find ingredients that you have never heard of such as fingerlions. As the name suggests, it is the size of your finger and are grown on very small trees in the rain forest.

You are the author of 17 cookbooks. Are there any more on the way? If so, what will you focus on?

Yes, I am writing a book on home cooking. It will cater to the family cooking basically. However, it will take a year for it to come out.



GIFTS FOR YOUNG CHEFS

From kitchen tools to books, here are some amazing gifts to encourage the fledgling cooks

Do you have a kid in your life who loves a good baking session? Who really wants to use your chef's knife? Who is addicted to the TV show MasterChef Junior, and who uses words like "umami" in regular conversation?

There are many terrific gifts to encourage the fledgling cooks in our lives.

COOKING KITS

An all-inclusive cooking kit (besides the ingredients) is often a great catalyst for getting kids into the kitchen.

Handstand Kitchen makes a slew of them, including a Rainbows and Unicorns Ultimate Baking set, with cookies cutters, unicorn-shaped cupcake tray, spatula, frosting bag with three tips, and a recipe leaflet and sticker sheet. Other offerings here include the Out of This World space-themed baking kit; a 17-piece Intro to Baking kit; and several matching adult and child apron sets.

Curious chef's kits include a 17-piece prep set with bowls, measuring cups and spoons, and a timer. Made for Me has kits for particular foods, such as a beginner's pasta and pizza making set for kids, as well as a macaron, sushi and pancake party set.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Here's a gift that leaves something to look forward to after the holidays are over. Options include:

Young chef's club: From the folks at America's Test Kitchen, these monthly kits are also thematic. Kids ages 5 and up receive a box filled with family-friendly recipes, hands-on activities, and extras ranging from board games to tortilla warmers to special sprinkles.

Culinary adventure society: For kids who already know their way around a kitchen and are craving new ingredients and flavours to play with. Up to four times a year, Zingerman's specialty food store in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will send a big box of eight to 10 interesting and on-trend food surprises. A box might contain mafe, a peanut simmer sauce from West Africa; Lisbon lemon marmalade; or a tamarind date sauce inspired by Somali cuisine, for example. A collection of writing on the foods' history and culture is included.

EQUIPMENT

A new smart kitchen tool is exciting, even empowering. Examples:

Immersion blender: For a slightly older kid, it can be used to blend things like soups and sauces right in the pot. That save you from having to transfer hot liquids into

a regular blender or food processor, so it can be a safer way to puree things. Breville makes an All in One Immersion Blender that also transforms into a food processor, so kids can take on different levels of chopping as they get more skilled.

Cutting boards: Giving kids their own cutting board makes them feel as though they've arrived. You can support Unicef.com by ordering one of many hand-carved boards, such as the teakwood Daily Grain from Guatemala, or the Beautiful Meal board from Thailand. Or memorialise a family recipe for a child on a cutting board: Carver's Ridge lets you send in a recipe, choose a font and board size, and have your recipe engraved into a fully functional work board.

INGREDIENT 'FLIGHTS'

It's fun to play around with a single ingredient in many forms.

Olive Oil and Vinegar: The worlds of olive oil and vinegar are both vast. For starters, you can make new and different salad dressings all week long. O-Med, a small company from Grenada, makes lots of varieties, including smoked olive oil, yuzu olive oil and olive oil from Arbequina olives. Encourage the kids to mix and match those with cabinet vinegar, rose vinegar and cava vinegar. Your family's vinaigrettes will never be the same.

Honey: Bee Raw Honey has a beautiful nine-vial assortment of honeys ranging from floral and sweet to buttery to "barnyard." The honey comes from different flower sources across the country, and sales help support artisanal beekeepers.

BOOKS

Lots of kid-friendly cookbooks and food books out there, for all ages. A few to check out this holiday season:

From America's Test Kitchen, *The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs* and *The Complete Baking Book for Young Chefs*. All recipes are kid-tested. The little chef hat symbols let you know how much experience is needed for each recipe.

Notes from a Young Black Chef (Knopf, 2019): Award-winning, 29-year old executive chef Kwame Onwuachi was raised in New York City, Nigeria and Louisiana. He started cooking at a young age under his mother's direction, and tells an intense story of moving up through kitchens both gritty and elite. This memoir centers on the experience of being a minority in the culinary world, and finding a place in the sphere of fine dining. —AP

R E C I P E S

PAN-SEARED SEABASS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Seabass fillets: 180 gm each
- Black olives: 150 gm
- Green asparagus: 200 gm
- Cherry tomato: 300 gm
- Olive oil: 30 ml
- Salt: 10 gm
- Pepper (crushed): 5 gm
- Garlic (chopped): 5 gm
- Whole garlic: 2 cloves
- Fresh rosemary: 20 gm

METHOD

- Cut each seabass fillet into two, season it with salt and pepper on both sides and keep aside.
- Blanch the asparagus in boiling salted water for three minutes and immediately immerse it in iced water to preserve the colour.
- Cut diagonally, saving the tips intact. Then cut the cherry tomato into halves and keep aside. Add the mascarpone and mix well.
- Cut the garlic clove into thin slices and keep aside. Remove the kernel from olive and blend adding a bit of olive oil, till it becomes smooth.
- Heat the oil in a non-stick pan and start to cook the seabass skin side for about three to four minutes. Turn the seabass and cook for one extra



minute. Remove from the pan, arrange the seabass in baked proof dish, skin up.

- Arrange the slices of garlic and fresh rosemary on top, drizzle with few drops of olive oil and bake at 180 degrees for five minutes.

- In the meantime, heat the oil in a heavy bottom pan, add the chopped garlic, when sizzling, then add asparagus and cherry tomato, season it with salt and pepper and cook at moderate flame for about three minutes.

- In a deep plate, pour the olive tapenade, arrange asparagus and cherry tomato, place two seabass file on top and finish with few drops of olive oil.

Courtesy: Chef Ivan Chierigatti, Executive chef, Hyatt Regency.

GREEN TEA NOODLES WITH SESAME CHICKEN

WHAT YOU NEED

- Noodles: 100 gm
- Ginger: 5 gm
- Garlic: 10 gm
- Green tea: 30 gm
- Lemongrass: 4 gm
- Kaffir lime: 10 gm
- Lemon juice: 10 gm
- Soy sauce: 20 ml
- Salt: 5 gm
- Sesame oil: 10 gm
- Vinegar: 10 gm
- Sweet chilli sauce: 30 gm
- Red Chilli (dry): 10 gm
- Chicken thigh boneless: 120 gm
- Yaki Nori sheet: 10 pcs
- Cucumber: 25 gm
- Spring onion: 10 gm
- Sesame Seeds: 5 gm

METHOD

- Cut the chicken thigh in strips and marinate with salt, pepper and dry chillies.
- Dust very little corn flour and flour and keep it aside. Blanch noodles and spread on clean working table to get dry.



- Put some oil so that it does not get sticky. Make a green tea stock. Cut juliennes of cucumber, spring onion and nori sheet and keep it aside to use later.

- In a separate bowl, mix soy sauce, vinegar.

- Chop garlic, lemon juice, green tea, sesame oil, salt and black pepper. Mix everything and your dressing will be ready for use.

- Heat oil and deep fry the chicken strips, in a separate pan toss the

ginger, garlic chop and add sweet chilli sauce. Add fried chicken and toss it. Season it and finish with sesame seed and oil.

- Toss the noodles in dressing and add julienne vegetables. You can add blanched mushroom if you like.

- Plate the noodles on your serving dish and place the chicken strips on top. Garnish and serve.

Courtesy: Chef Manoj, Partner Chef, The Piano Man.

gorgeous



Daryaganj's mutton offerings are all about succulent meat cooked to perfection, authentic flavours and perfect combinations. Try out dishes like *mutton bheja fry*, *saag meat* with fresh *palak*, Daryaganj style *mutton curry* and *kebabs* like *Amirtsari chaap*, *sharaabi raan* and much more. **Time:** 11.30 am to 4 pm **Venue:** Daryaganj.

Elan, The Lodhi, brings you a brunch buffet on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, featuring signature cuisines ranging from European, Oriental, Coastal, Indian and Mediterranean, paired with champagne, spirits and cocktails. **Time:** Friday and Saturday - 12 pm to 4 pm and Sunday - 12 pm - 5 pm **Venue:** Elan, The Lodhi, New Delhi.



The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi is all set to host you in a royal affair at its Rajasthani Food Festival. It offers *Laal Maas*, *Gatta Curry*, *Dal Bati Churma*, *Papad ki Sabzi*, *Ker Sangri*, *Jodhpuri Chicken*, *Junglee Maas* served with delectable *Mirchi Parantha*, *Bajre ki Roti* and much more. **Time:** 7 pm to 11:30 pm **Date:** Till 29 February **Price:** Starting from ₹3186 per person **Venue:** Seasonal Tastes, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi.



Get to pick the tastiest, thinnest and most amazing pizzas at Plum by Bentchair. It offers Sichuan Chicken with smoky flavour, Chilli bean and Tempura, fresh Tuna cold Pizza with Black Truffle, straw Mushroom with Truffle and much more. **Date:** Till February **Time:** 12 noon to 1 am **Price:** ₹2,000 plus taxes (for two) **Venue:** Plum by bent chair, Aerocity and Lutyens, Janpath.



Enjoy a playful twist at Farzi Cafe, as it offers Pearl barley and *Dahi Bada*, *Rawa* fried Chicken Strips, Braised Lamb Shanks, *Hass Avocado Chaat* with Beetroot gel, *Apple Mithai*, *Kheer Brulee* with *Murmura Chikki* and much more. **Date:** Till February **Price:** ₹2200 for two **Venue:** Cyber Hub, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram.



Made in Punjab rediscovers the flavours of Punjabi cuisine with dishes like slow-cooked Rara Meat, Luxury Butter Chicken, *Paneer Makhni*, *Bhindi Masala*, MIP special *Dal* and much more relishing delicacies. **Date:** Till February **Time:** 12 noon to 11:30 pm **Price:** ₹1,500 for two **Venue:** Made in Punjab, DLF Mall of Noida and Cyber Hub.

India ready to 'taste' Kiwi flavoured pace

New Zealand vs India
Live from 4:00am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

India's best batsman by a mile.
TEAMS

India (First 12): Virat Kohli (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja.
New Zealand (12): Kane Williamson (c), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, your stance and where your bat is as it can really swing around," added Kohli, who is



PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India's battle-hardened cricketers are ready for their toughest challenge of the World Test Championship till date as they face formidable hosts New Zealand on a spicy Basin Reserve track in the series-opener beginning here today.

Virat Kohli's top-ranked team, with 360 points in its kitty, is certainly the favourite on paper but the Black Caps under Kane Williamson are experts at wearing down opposition with their patience on pitches which turn flat as the game progresses.

The last time New Zealand lost a series at home was back in March 2017 and since then have won five (10 Tests) in familiar conditions.

For New Zealand, it is time to pick up pieces after their 0-3 drubbing in Australia while the current Indian team would love to reassert that they are the best when it comes to winning in adverse conditions like they did in Australia last year.

The open Basin Reserve ground has always been challenging for both batsmen and bowlers due to cross winds.

And the new opening pair of Prithvi Shaw and Mayank Agarwal will have its task cut out against a top class seam attack comprising Trent Boult, Tim Southee, and Kyle Jamieson, who in all likelihood will make his debut.

However, the absence of left arm speedster Neil Wagner, who could have created awkward angles with his short balls, will provide some

respite for the Indian middle-order. Wagner is on a break to welcome his first child.

New Zealand named their 12 on the day and it will be a choice between seamer all-rounder Daryl Mitchell or slow left-arm orthodox Ajaz Patel.

In an open ground with overcast conditions expected, captain Kohli will not mind winning the toss and unleash Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami on the home team.

Even Kohli admitted that his men would need to have tons of patience once the track eases out as Williamson's team is known to the play waiting game.

"It doesn't matter how much patience opposition has, we have to show more patience. We can't really prepare in a manner where New Zealand show more patience and put pressure on us," skipper Kohli made his intentions clear during a media interaction.

While New Zealand are expected to go with four frontline pacers and may be a fifth seamer in all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme, the Indian team management might be tempted to try out Ravichandran Ashwin, who purely as a spinner, has more variety compared to left-arm orthodox of Ravindra Jadeja.

The wind factor in Wellington is an issue that captains need to deal with and Kohli is no different as he will have to judiciously choose ends for his bowlers.

"If breeze is blowing across the ground, who is more effective with inswinger or outswingers, these things you think as a captain," said Kohli.

The return of Trent Boult for New Zealand and Ishant for India, from their respective injuries will certainly bolster both the sides.

For India, Cheteshwar Pujara, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane will have to be the foil around Shaw, Agarwal and Vihari with their techniques

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Branch Office : Kanak Mandi, Hoshiarpur

[Rule 8- (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to borrower on the date mentioned hereunder calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days of the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against Account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Kanak Mandi Branch, Hoshiarpur, for an amount mentioned below and other Charges/Expenses thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
Borrower : Sh. Yashu Jain S/o Sh. Suresh Jain R/o H. No. B-5, MCH 121, Ward No. 09, Garhi Gate, Hoshiarpur (PB).	All that part & parcel of the residential property measuring 3 Marla 48 sq. ft. out of House No. B-5, MCH 121, Only) as on 22.11.2019 plus further interest and other expenses thereon.	25.11.2019	18.02.2020	Rs. 2,73,140/- (Rs. Two Lacs Seventy Three Thousand One Hundred Forty Only)

Kanak Mandi, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur. Bounded as : East : Street, West : Jawahar Lal, North : House of Mahesh Chand Jain & Bansilal Jain, South : Street.

Dated : 20.02.2020 Place: Hoshiarpur Sd/-Authorized Officer

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Karnal

SCO 244 - 245, FF & SF, Sector-12, Karnal - 132001

(RULE-8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY))

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 02.12.2019 calling upon the Borrowers (1) Shri Jit Puri S/o Sh. Raj Bahadur (Borrower) - H. No. 198/4, Najdik Peer Baba Mandir, Kutana Part (96) Dohb Rohtak, Haryana 124001 (2) Shri Lalit S/o Raj Bahadur H. No. 198/4, Najdik Peer Baba Mandir, Kutana Part (96) Dohb Rohtak, Haryana 124001 (3) Shri Lahiya W/o Sh. Raj Bahadur (Guarantor) - H. No. 198/4, Najdik Peer Baba Mandir, Kutana Part (96) Dohb Rohtak Haryana 124001 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 1333449/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Nine only) together with interest from 03.12.2019 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this day, 18th of February 2020.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs.1299024/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand and Twenty Four Only) which is outstanding as on 18.02.2020 and interest thereon w.e.f. 19.02.2020.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Equitable mortgage over the Property situated at Land measuring 132 Sq. Yards Comprised in Killa No. 38/2 Min Eastern Mouja Kutana within MC Limit Tehsil and District Rohtak, Bounded By : North : 22'-6"; Rasta, South : 22'-6"; Plot of Digran, East : 53' Plot of Digran, West : 53' Road 15' Wide.

Dated : 21.02.2020 Place : Shivaji Colony Authorized Officer

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Karnal

SCO 244 - 245, FF & SF, Sector-12, Karnal - 132001

(RULE-8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY))

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 06.11.2019 calling upon the Borrowers Shri Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Satyapriya (Borrower) R/o A-113-A Double Store Flats Major Ashwini Kanav Marg, Paschim Vihar New Delhi, Shri Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Satyapriya (Guarantor) R/o A-113-A Double Store Flats Major Ashwini Kanav Marg, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi to repay the amount mentioned in demand notice being Rs 1070728/- (rupees Ten Lakhs Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight Only) together with interest from 06.11.2019 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this day, 18th of February 2020.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 11,08,884/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Four Only) which is outstanding as on 18.02.2020 and interest thereon w.e.f. 19.02.2020.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Equitable Mortgage of the Property situated at One Kitta piece of Land measuring 715 Sq. Yards 1 Kanal 4 Marla forming part of Killa No. 79/213, 22 Min situated in Mouja Sundarpur Rohtak outside MC Limits belonging to 1st of you North : 208'-0"; Property of Sh. Sunil Kumar, South : 194'-0"; Rasta 16/1/2 Wide, East : 32'-0" Land of Rampal, West : 34'-0" Rohtak Jind Road.

Dated : 21.02.2020 Place : Rohtak Authorized Officer

ALLAHABAD BANK

BRANCH AT: SCO 12-A, SECTOR: 11, PANCHKULA, PHONE NO. 0172-5044401

NOTICE OF SALE

by Inviting SEALED TENDERS for Sale of Immovable Property mortgaged to Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) (BY SWISS CHALLENGE METHOD UNDER PRIVATE TREATY) # #

Whereas Mr. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Sain Dass, Mrs. Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Raj Kumar Pratibha Kumari W/o Anup Kumar and account guaranteed by Mr. Anup Kumar S/o Raj Kumar have borrowed monies from Allahabad Bank PANCHKULA branch. Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the bank has issued notice under SARFAESI Act and thereafter has taken possession of the charged/mortgaged property and has decided to sell the property, described here below, on 'AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS' under Section 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 under Swiss challenge method under private treaty at 12:00 Noon at Allahabad Bank, Panchkula Branch, Address: SCO No. 12A, Sector-11, Panchkula-134109; Phone 0172-5044401, 5044405.

Name of Account/ Proprietor/ Guarantors	Description of the Charged assets put under sale	Outstanding Dues of the bank and dates	Reserve Price & EMD	Details of the encumbrance known to the secured creditor	(Any other thing which the authorized officer consider it material for a purchaser to know in order to judge the nature & the value of the property charged assets put under e-auction P H Y S I C A L POSSESSION)
1. Mr. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Sain Dass (Co-Borrower), Address 1: 139, Sector-18A, Chandigarh-160018, Address 2: H No.215, MS Enclave, Dhakauli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, PB-146003, Address 3: Shop No.18, Grain Market, Sector-28, Chandigarh-160019, 2. Mrs. Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Raj Kumar (Co-Borrower), Address 1: 139, Sector-18A, Chandigarh, Address 2: H No.215, MS Enclave, Dhakauli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, PB. 3. Pratibha Kumari W/o Anup Kumar (Co-Borrower), Address 1: 139, Sector-18A, Chandigarh, Address 2: H No.215, MS Enclave, Dhakauli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, PB. 4. Anup Kumar S/o Raj Kumar (Guarantor), Address 1: 139, Sector-18A, Chandigarh, Address 2: H No.215, MS Enclave, Dhakauli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, PB.	(A). Name Of Title Deed Holder Mrs. Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Raj Kumar (B). Address Of Property Under Sale: H.No.215, MS Enclave, Dhakauli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, P.B. (C). Description, Measurable Area & Boundaries of Property Charged Under Sale: All that part and parcel of the land and building/ structures being H.No.215, M.S.Enclave, Dhakoli, comprised in Khata No.52/54, Khasra No.409 (4-0),410(3-0),417(4-0), 899/418(2-10), 420(4-0), Kitta 5, Total Land 19 Bigha 00 Biswa share to the extent of 0 Bigha 4 Biswa 1 e 80/7200 share (30°P=60°S=200° Squares Yards) H.No.48 situated at MC Zirakpur, Tehsil Dera Bassi, District S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Punjab in the name of Krishna Devi W/o Raj Kumar and bounded and butted as below: East: Road, West: F/o Others, North: House No.214, South: House No.216	(A) Outstanding Dues of the Bank ₹78,69,617/- (Outstanding as on 30.11.2019 less any amount deposited by borrower after 30.11.2019) (B) Above is inclusive of interest & other charges calculated up to (date) 29.11.2018 (Plus further interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses), (C) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) sarfaesi act 30.11.2018, (D) Date of taking possession u/s 13(4) under Sarfaesi Act 14-March-2019, published on 15.03.2019	Reserve Price: ₹60.00 Lakh (Rupees Sixty Lakh Only) EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (₹15,00,000/- Rupees Fifteen Lakh only)	(A) Outstanding Dues of Local Self Govt. (if any known to the Bank) (A1) Property Tax- not known to bank (B) Other bill- not known to bank (A3) Water Sewerage Tax/ Charges not known to bank (B) Other than dues of Local Self Govt any other encumbrance known to bank-not known to bank	

Last Date & Time of submission of Sealed Tenders: 9th March, 2020 by 5.00 PM

Date, Time of Opening of Sealed Tenders: 11th March, 2020 12.00 (Noon)

Place/ Venue of Submission of & Opening of Sealed Tenders: Allahabad Bank, Panchkula Branch Address: SCO 12 A, Sector-11, Panchkula-134109; Phone 0172-5044401

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: # # The auction for is under "Swiss Challenge Method" based on an existing offer in hand from a prospective buyer referred to hereinafter as "Anchor Bidder" and the said offer which is the basis of Reserve Price of ₹60.00 Lakhs (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Only) is referred to hereinafter as "Anchor Bid". The "Anchor Bidder" shall have the right to match the highest bid received under SEALED TENDER. 1. Interested parties may send/submit their SEALED TENDERS for purchase of the said properties in a SEALED COVER super scried as "Offer for Assets at Panchkula A/c Raj Kumar, Krishna Devi & Pratibha Kumari ALONGWITH EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT equivalent to 25% of the amount quoted in sealed tender by Bankers Cheque/ Demand Draft/ IOI favouring the Authorized Officer, Allahabad Bank payable at Panchkula. The earnest money deposit is refundable if the bid is not successful. Offer should reach us latest by 09th March, 2020 at the above mentioned address of Panchkula Branch. 2. Sealed tenders received will be opened on date, time and venue mentioned hereinafter. 3. In case no sealed bid is received or a sealed bid equal to Reserve Price "Anchor Bid" stated hereinabove is received, the Authorized Officer shall have to declare "Anchor Bidder" as H1 Bidder. In such eventuality where Anchor Bidder is declared as H1 Bidder he shall have to deposit the balance 75% of the reserve price to be paid within 3 days. The EMD submitted by other bidders shall be returned. 4. In case the "Anchor Bidder" withdraws at this stage or does not make payment despite being declared as H1 Bidder, the EMD paid by him will be forfeited. 5. In case Sealed Bid more than the reserve price is received, the "Anchor Bidder" will be informed of the enhanced bid and shall have right to match the bid within 3 days of the date of communication with upfront payment of balance amount. 6. Once the "Anchor Bidder" matches the quote and makes the payment, EMD of the highest bidder will be returned forthwith. 7. In the event "Anchor Bidder" does not wish to increase his offer by matching the enhanced bid, the prospective purchaser who has offered the highest quote shall be declared as H1 bidder and he shall deposit the balance 75% of such enhanced amount quoted in his sealed tender within 15 days of communication from the branch. Such payment shall be made only in the form of Bankers Cheque/DD drawn in favour of the Authorized Officer, Allahabad Bank & in case the successful bidder fails to deposit the balance 75% amount within time stipulated above, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice. 8. The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee, etc. & Taxes as applicable as per law. 10. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues/Taxes to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under Sale. 11. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to conduct inter-se bidding. 12. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason therefore. 13. The sale is subject to confirmation by the bank. 14. For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, Allahabad Bank Panchkula Branch (Address: SCO No.12A, Sector-11, Panchkula-134109; Phone 0172-5044401, 5044405) during office hours on w.e.f. 24.02.2020 to 09.03.2020.

THE BORROWER(S)/GUARANTOR(S) ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED ABOUT THE SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Note:- This is also a notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors of the above loans, under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Rule 8 (5) and (6) read with Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to you to pay the sum as mentioned above before the date fixed for sale failing which the property will be sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost from you. Please note that all expenses pertaining to demand notice, taking possession, valuation and sale etc. shall be first deducted from the sale proceeds, which may be realized by the undersigned and the balance of the sale proceeds will be appropriated towards your liability as aforesaid.

Date: 19.02.2020 Place: Panchkula Authorized Officer, Allahabad Bank

Ton-up Majumdar scripts dramatic turnaround for Bengal

PTI ■ TANGI (ODISHA)

Anustup Majumdar's gritty century rescued Bengal from a hopeless 46 for five in a dramatic turnaround for them on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Odisha here on Thursday.

At stumps, Bengal were 308 for six.

Put in by a pace-heavy Odisha, Bengal found themselves in all sorts of trouble in the first session.

Suryakant Pradhan (2/96), Preet Singh Chohan (2/52) and Basant Mohanty (1/48) used the early moisture to advantage and blew away the Bengal top order.

But old warhorse Majumdar, playing in his sixth

Ranji Trophy Live
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 3 NETWORK

match of the season, led a turnaround with an unbeaten 136 (20 fours), a composed innings that came under tremendous pressure.

Majumdar, who will turn 36 next month, had scored 99 in a similar situation in their rain-affected drawn encounter against Delhi earlier this season.

Rookie all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed also showed a lot of maturity at No. 7, the left-hander slamming an unbeaten 82 to help Bengal take control in a fruitful final session.

Play started after tea and only six overs were possible due to bad light on the opening day against Jammu and Kashmir.

Overcast skies meant the light alternated between poor to border-line for most part of the day.

Play started after tea and only six overs were possible during which Karnataka struggled against Jammu and Kashmir new ball pair of Aqub Nabi (1/6) and Mujtaba Youssuf (1/5).

Karnataka lost both their openers -- Ravikumar Samarth (5) and Devdutt Padikkal (2).

At the close of play, skipper Karun Nair was batting on four in the company of

Krishnamurthy Siddharth, who is yet to open his account.

PATEL SCORES HUNDRED
VALSAD: Skipper Parthiv Patel led from the front with his 27th first-class century and helped Gujarat reach 330 for four against Goa.

The left-handed batsman scored an unbeaten 118 off 156 balls at the Sardar Patel Stadium, hitting 15 boundaries off the Goa bowlers.

In the process, Patel also completed 11,000 first-class runs.

For Goa, Verma was the pick of the bowlers, while Darshan Misal and Vijesh Prabhudesai (1-60) took a wicket each.

This is Patel's second hundred in Ranji knock-outs, the first being against Mumbai in the 2016-17 final.

SAURASHTRA POST 226/6
ONGOLE: Fighting half-centuries by Vishvarajsinh Jadeja (73, 179 balls, 10 fours), Chirag Jani (53, 128 balls, 5 fours) and Sheldon Jackson (50) helped Saurashtra make 226 for 6 in 79 overs against Andhra.

For the home team, left-arm medium-pace Yarra Prithvi Raj was impressive, picking up three wickets in 20 overs conceding 51 runs. K V Sashikanth picked up two wickets.

A lot will now depend on Jani and the lower-order including captain Jaydev Unadkat if Saurashtra has to post a fighting total in the last-eight match.

Saina, Sameer in Barcelona quarters, Srikanth loses

PTI ■ BARCELONA

London Olympics bronze medalist Saina Nehwal secured a straight game win over Ukraine's Maria Ulitina to storm into the women's singles quarterfinals of the USD 170,000 Barcelona Spain Masters here on Thursday.

Saina, who is facing a race against time to qualify for her fourth Olympics, brushed aside Maria 21-10, 21-19 in the second round to set up a last-eight clash with Thailand's third seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan, who has beaten the Indian twice in the last two encounters.

Sameer Verma also made it to the last eight with a hard-fought 21-14, 16-21, 21-15 win over Germany's Kai Schaefer. He will face either Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn or Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in

the men's singles quarterfinals.

However, former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth's wretched run continued as he went down 6-21, 17-21 to fellow Indian Ajay Jayaram, dashing his hopes of qualifying for the Tokyo Games.

Srikanth, who had lost in the first round in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, desperately needs to win a tournament or make it to the quarters and semifinals consistently to qualify for the Olympics.

N Sikki Reddy also endured a difficult day as she lost both the mixed doubles and women's doubles to bow out of the competition.

Sikki and her women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponappa, who is coming back from an injury, lost 18-21, 14-21 to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva, seeded third.

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly

Tender No.- Installation-Tank-19-20-3 Due on 20/03/2020
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly, for and on behalf of president of India, invites ONLINE open tender based on single packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal www.irrps.gov.in for tender notice no. Installation-Tank-19-20-3, Due on 20/03/2020 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work:-

Description of Work	Approx. Value (₹ ?)	Earnest Money required off to nearest multiple of 100, (₹?)
Supply, installation & commissioning and prove out of Argon Tank (40KL), CO2 Tank (13KL) & conversion of 01 no existing Argon tank (13 KL) to O2 Tank along with mixers and gas analyzers	Rs. 3,72,18,608.00 (Rs. Three Crore Seventy Two Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Eight Only)	Rs. 3,36,100.00 (Rs. Three Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred Only)

Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 210 Days.
Date and time of closing of tender-20.03.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.
Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility Criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal : www.irrps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

ANDHRA BANK

Branch Office : Dhanas, Main Road, Village Dhanas, Chandigarh-160014

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF ACT 54 OF 2002 FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST

From: MR DEEPAK KUMAR GUPTA Date:05-02-2020

Authorized Officer ANDHRA BANK under Act 54 of 2002 Sector 44 Chandigarh Branch

To Borrower MOHAMMAD ARIF, House No. 12 Khawat no 353/385 khasra No. 260(4-0) measuring 4 bighas share 1/80 i.e. 1 bishwas Near Gurudwara in village Behlohpur SAS Nagar.

Co Obligant Mr. Surinder House No. 2 Khawat No 353/385 khasra No. 260(4-0) measuring 4 bighas share 1/80 i.e. 1 bishwas Near Gurudwara in village Behlohpur SAS Nagar. Sir/Madam,

Please take notice that you have availed the following credit facilities from the Bank.

Sr. No./ Facility / Loan Limit During Outstanding as on 05.02.2020

1.	HLPGN	13,00,000/-	2016-2020	Rs. 12,42,935.20
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against hypothecation of NA and/or against Mortgage of the properties detailed under:

a. Land and Building - Residential belonging to MOHAMMAD ARIF (Owner of the Property), situated at House No. 12 Khawat No. 353/385 Khasra Nos. 260(4-0) measuring 4 Bighas Share 1/80 i.e. 1 Bishwas in Village Behlohpur Tehsil & Distt. Mohali and Bounded by East : 20 Wide Rasta, West : Land Mrs. Sharda Rani, North : House Mrs. Sharda Rani, South : House of Mr. Junaid

As you have defaulted in repayment of the Principal loan/facility and/or instalments/interest or both, and/or the account has remained out of order for a period exceeding RBI norms, your account has been classified as NPA on 25-01-2020 and all of you are jointly and severally liable to pay Rs. 12,42,935.20 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Five and Twenty paise) as on 05-02-2020 with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

You are hereby called upon to pay the said outstanding amount together with up-to-date interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, the bank shall be constrained to take any one or more of the following measures against the properties hypothecated/Mortgaged to the Bank detailed above, to recover the amount, without the intervention of the court, as provided under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002); i.e.

Indian women dominate with 3 Gold

Divya, Pinki and Sarita bag yellow metal in freestyle event of Asian C'ship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a fruitful day for India in women's competition of Asian Wrestling Championship at Indira Gandhi stadium here on Thursday, three female wrestlers — Pinki Rani (55 kg), Sarita Mor (59 kg) and Divya Kakran (68 kg) won Gold medals in the freestyle event. While Nirmala Devi (50kg) settles for Silver in the 50kg category after losing final against Japan's Migo Igarashi.

2018 Commonwealth and Asian Games Bronze medalist Divya was the star performer for the hosts on the opening day of freestyle event as she produced a strong performance by winning all her bouts, including against reigning junior world champion Naruha Matsuyuki in the fourth round.

She started the day by routing Kazakhstan's Albina Kairgelinova and then knocked out Mongolia's Delgermaa Enkhsaikhan.

In the third round, against Uzbekistan's Azoda Esbergenova, she led 4-0 with consecutive rolls and then

pinned her opponent to finish it off in just 27 seconds.

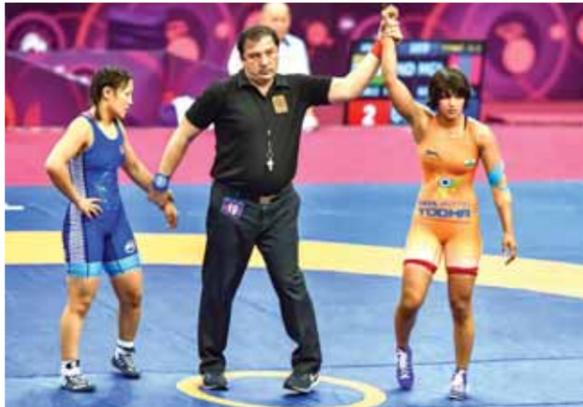
Against the Japanese junior world champion, with her strong left-leg attacks, Divya led 4-0 with a takedown and an expose move.

The Japanese made a solid start in the second period as she attacked the Indian's left leg initially but scored points with a right leg move to make it 4-4.

The Japanese almost pinned her but Divya wriggled out of the difficult position. She soon effected a move which led to her victory by fall.

"I had to win by fall to get five points from all my bouts because the Japanese was winning all her bouts by big margins, so I took a risk for big wins. My coach had said that I don't have to go for big throws all the time, but I went for it," said Divya.

"It did become tricky after I led 4-0 (in final). I was not in a great position (Naruha's lock) and it could have been very dangerous. But I took a risk



Referee raises the hand of wrestler Pinky after winning her bout against Mongolian Dulguun Bolormaa PTI

and it paid off by God's grace."

Asked if the absence of Chinese wrestler helped, she replied in the affirmative.

"Yes, it did benefit. But if you have a five-wrestler group it becomes even

tougher, you have to fight everyone and win big. I won 4 bouts within 2 hours. It was tough on the body but the good thing is I have improved on my range, I made all kinds of attacks, *Irani*, *Kheme*, single-lead, double leg attacks."

Sarita, competing in her first Asian event since winning a Silver in 2017 in 58kg, won her first two bouts by technical superiority against Madina Bakbergenova (Kazakhstan) and Nazira MarsbekKyzy (Kyrgyzstan) before winning 10-3 against Japan's Yuumi Kon.

She edged out Mongolia's Battseteg Atlantsetseg 3-2 in the final. Sarita managed a push-out point to win her first Gold at this event after the scores were tied.

Pinki, competing at senior Asian for the first time, began by beating Uzbekistan's Shokida Akhmedova by fall but lost the next bout to Japan's Kana Higashikawa.

She won her semifinal against Marina Zuyeva 6-0 and beat Mongolia's Dulguun Bolormaa 2-1 to grab the Gold. All the points scored in the final were on passivity.

"I was a bit careful because I had injured my elbow. I did not want to aggravate since important events are lined up," said Pinki.

Nirmala beat Mongolia's Munkhnar Byambasuren 6-4 and Uzbekistan's Daultebike Yakhshimuratova by technical superiority but lost the final 2-3 to Japan's Miho Igarashi.

SINGLES

LFC WORLD HEADS TO DELHI

NEW DELHI: Liverpool FC has confirmed Delhi as the next stop for its interactive roadshow, LFC World. The unique fan experience will arrive at the Select Citywalk Mall on March 7. Liverpool legends Emile Heskey and Jason McAteer will be in town. Reds in Delhi can also have their photograph with UEFA Champions League trophy and various iconic recreations of Anfield such as the Shankly Gates, *This Is Anfield* sign and the players' dressing room. Following a day of free LFC-themed activities, fans can be part of a BOSS nights gig featuring Jamie Webster — creator of the Reds famous "Allez allez allez" song — and share the match-day atmosphere at a viewing party as the team takes on Bournemouth in the Premier League back at Anfield.

FEDERER WILL MISS FRENCH OPEN

BASEL: Roger Federer has had surgery on his right knee and will miss the French Open and several other tournaments. Writing on his Facebook page on Thursday, the 20-time Grand Slam champion said his knee "has been bothering me for a little while" so he "decided to have arthroscopic surgery in Switzerland yesterday (Wednesday)." Doctors "are very confident of a full recovery," Federer said, before ending his post by telling his fans "see you on the grass!" as he targets a return for Wimbledon. Federer will skip tournaments in Dubai, Indian Wells, Bogota and Miami prior to the French Open, which starts on May 24.

SHARATH ENTER MEN'S & MIXED DOUBLES Q/F

BUDAPEST: Indian table tennis legend Achara Sharath Kamal on Thursday entered the quarterfinals of both men's doubles and mixed doubles at the ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open. The former Commonwealth Games Gold medalist showed tremendous grit and resolve as he partnered Manika Batra to a marathon 11-8, 9-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7 victory over home hope Adam Szudi and Szandra Pergel. Later, Sharath Kamal paired up with Gnanasekaran Sathiyam to register yet another hard-fought 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 9-11, 11-9 win against Japan's rising stars, Shunsuke Togami and Yukiya Uda in men's doubles.

MUGURUZA SHOCKED BY QUALIFIER IN DUBAI

CHENNAI: Qualifier Jennifer Brady claimed a second seeded victim on Thursday, defeating Garbine Muguruza 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4 to reach the Dubai C'ships semi-finals. The American who ranks just outside the Top 50 followed up on her first-round defeat of third seed and two-time champion Elena Svitolina at the Aviation Club. "I was able to find a way, I wasn't feeling my best," Brady said after seeing off the ninth-seeded Spaniard. "Maybe I didn't play my best tennis, but I stayed in there, competed and came out on top."

BARCA SIGNS DANISH FORWARD BRAITHWAITE

BARCELONA: Barcelona signed Denmark forward Martin Braithwaite to help fill its injury-depleted attack on Thursday. Barcelona agreed to pay the 18 million euros (\$19.4 million) buyout clause in Braithwaite's contract with Spanish league rival Leganes. Barcelona was granted permission to sign a Spanish league player after it was left without Luis Suarez and Ousmane Dembele for long periods due to injuries to both attacking players. Braithwaite will sign for the rest of this season plus four more, the club said. AGENCIES

Atalanta's night to 'remember forever' No bright side for Spurs

AFP ■ MILAN

Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini hailed a performance his club will "remember forever" after the Italian side crushed Valencia 4-1 on Wednesday to take a giant step closer to reaching the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time.

Dutch wing-back Hans Hateboer scored twice on 16 and 62 minutes, sandwiching goals from Josip Ilicic and Remo Freuler.

"This is an evening that we'll remember forever," said Gasperini. "It's an amazing result, full of emotion."

It was an extraordinary night for the side from Bergamo who travelled to the San Siro



Atalanta players celebrate after UEFA Champions League R16 first leg victory AP

with over 40,000 of their fans as their home stadium 55km away does not meet UEFA regulations. Denis Cheryshev pulled one back for Valencia in the first

leg of the last-16 tie at the San Siro, the same stadium where the Spanish side lost the 2001 final to Bayern Munich on penalties. Valencia, seventh in La Liga,

had finished top of their group after away wins over Ajax and Chelsea but were missing several key players through injury and suspension.

"It certainly complicates things a bit, it's a pretty overwhelming result, this 4-1," said Valencia coach Albert Celades.

"In the end it doesn't reflect much what we saw on the pitch." Atalanta's run comes despite losing their opening three Champions League group games, before finishing second behind Manchester City.

"Three goals ahead is a nice reward," added Gasperini. "But there were a lot of dangerous situations, these are things we'll need to improve in Valencia."

"We are satisfied with this victory and above all with this advantage."

AFP ■ LONDON

Jose Mourinho fears his side's season is running out of gas after an injury-hit Spurs slumped to a 1-0 defeat at home to RB Leipzig in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie.

Spurs could be without the talismanic duo of Harry Kane and Son Heung-min for the rest of the season through injury and looked toothless against the Bundesliga contenders.

"We are in a very difficult situation," said Mourinho. "What worries me is this is going to be the situation until the end of the season."

Tottenham captain Hugo Lloris kept his side in the tie with a string of important saves, but he could not prevent Timo Werner from the penalty spot as the German international's 26th goal of the season gave Leipzig a lead to defend on home soil on March 10. "Over the 90 minutes we deserved



Timo Werner celebrates after he scores RB Leipzig opening goal against Tottenham AP

the win and could have won by more," said Leipzig boss Julian Nagelsmann.

"It's only the first game today. You have to perform at the same level in both games."



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