

**OPINION 8**  
SOME HARD,  
HOME TRUTHS

**MONEY 10**  
AGR CRISIS: COAL  
RINGS ALARM BELLS

**WORLD 12**  
TRUMP FACES CREDIBILITY TEST  
AS HE PLAYS DOWN VIRUS THREAT

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# VIOLENCE ENDS, FEAR REIGNS

Few arson cases reported; 2 more bodies found in drain; Nehru Vihar councillor booked for killing IB official

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The riot-hit areas of North-east Delhi, which had witnessed the dance of death in the last four days, seemed to be returning to normalcy on Thursday with heavy deployment of the Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) on roads. Although no violence was reported on Wednesday and Thursday, there was palpable sense of fear in the areas.

The security forces conducted flag march in the areas that saw communal violence over the CAA.

Meanwhile, two more male bodies were found in a drain in Johri Enclave on Thursday. A few case arsons in Maujpur, Bhajanpura and other areas were reported in the wee hours of Thursday. Some vehicles shops were set on fire.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police booked Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain for alleged involvement in communal riots and the murder of an IB official, Ankit Sharma. Reaction quickly, the AAP on Thursday evening suspended its Nehru Vihar councillor from primary membership of party till

completion of probe. Hussain has been slapped with other charges under various sections of the IPC, a senior police official said. Police also took possession of all the incendiary materials found from his house and sealed the house. His other premises, including the office and shop, were also sealed, they said.

Police have received the autopsy to the slain Intelligence Bureau staffer whose body was fished out from Chand Bagh drain flowing near the house of Hussain. Ankit was repeatedly stabbed over hours and there was not even a single part of his body that was left without stab injuries, said sources, adding that his intestines were ripped apart and he had suffered unimaginable brutality.

Earlier, in Yamuna Vihar, three to four people were seen burning vehicles on Thursday around 4 am. A few kilometres away, a charred board of a private school in Brijpuri read

"Welcome to a very happy school." The 52-year-old Arun Modern Senior Secondary School looks no less than a cemetery, said an official, looking around at the damage which he estimated to be over ₹70 lakh.

Most shops were closed with their shutters bearing marks of the violence that it had witnessed over the last few days and people chose to stay indoors. Some of the residents in Chand Bagh and Jaffrabad were seen on Thursday cleaning the roads which were littered with stones and sticks.

On Thursday, the Delhi Police transferred the riots probe to the Crime Branch and formed two Special Investigation Teams (SITs). "The situation in the North-east is normal right now and no untoward incident has been reported today. Sufficient force has been deployed at every area and senior officers are monitoring the situation. The num-

bers of distress call have been reduced. We have received call on the two help lines which we released yesterday," said Mandeep Singh Randhawa, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime.

"A total of 48 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered for arson, looting and the deaths. Police have evidence and registering FIRs. Police conducted around 350 meetings with Aman Committee in Delhi specifically in North-east district," said Randhawa. "The investigation of the cases is going on and police have received evidence. Police teams are also conducting raids in different areas to nab the miscreants involved in arson and rioting," Randhawa further said.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had visited the Northeast Delhi's riots affected areas, a day earlier to calm sentiments and also reassured people that the security forces were standing by them. On Thursday, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) postponed Class 10 and 12 exams scheduled on February 28 and 29 in the violence-hit Northeast Delhi and parts of East Delhi.

"In view of a request received from the Delhi Government and to avoid inconvenience to students, staff and parents, the exams scheduled for February 28 and 29 in Northeast Delhi and other affected areas stand cancelled. The next date for the affected students will be notified shortly," said Anurag Tripathi, CBSE Secretary adding that all exams in all centres across Delhi will be conducted as per original schedule from March 2 onwards. Lt Governor Anil Bajjal on Thursday asked Sundari Nanda, the Special Commissioner of police (vigilance) to meet the families of Delhi violence victims and ensure all possible assistance to them.



A Delhi Police official stands guard on a street vandalised in Tuesday's communal violence in North-east Delhi on Thursday

AP

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## 38 deaths so far, 250 severely injured Scene in hospitals distressing, many wait for post-mortem

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The death toll in the North-east Delhi communal riots reached 38 on Thursday with over 250 severely injured receiving treatment, said senior officials.

"Over 215 riot victims have been brought to our hospital and treated since February 24. However, at present only 51 patients are admitted. The condition of almost all patients, except one, is stable," said Sunil Kumar, GTB Hospital Medical Superintendent.

People injured over anti-CAA violence are being treated in three hospitals — GTB, LNJP, and Jag Pravesh Chand hospital. According to hospital authorities, 34 deaths have

been reported from GTB, and three from LNJP, and one from Jag Pravesh Chand hospital.

GTB Hospital authorities said most of the people were brought with very serious



Malika, wife of Musharrarf (33), who was killed during communal violence in North-east Delhi, weeps over the loss of her husband outside the mortuary of GTB hospital in New Delhi on Thursday

injuries. "At least 25 patients were brought dead and nine succumbed to injuries. Many of them were critically injured with their skulls smashed and beaten "brutally" by kind of an iron rod," a senior doctor of GTB hospital said.

Family members were seen running from pillar to post, enquiring about their loved ones from hospital authorities. Some of them claimed that neither police nor the hospital authorities are telling them exactly when the post-mortem will be conducted.

Kehkasha Begum, a resident of Maujpur, said her husband got injured when he was coming back to home after work.

Continued on Page 4

## Govt shirks raj dharma: Opp; Cong stoked riots: Javadekar

Sonia-led delegation calls on Prez, seeks Shah's resignation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After fire and smoke, gun shots and shouts for help in the riot-hit North-east Delhi gave way to an eerie silence, an all-out political war erupted over the violence on Thursday. While the Congress charged Home Minister Amit Shah of with "abdication of duty", Union Minister Prakash Javadekar accused top Congress leaders of making inflammatory speeches to provoke communal violence.

The NCP alleging that



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addresses media after a delegation led by Congress president Sonia Gandhi met President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday

"Gujarat model" has been replicated in Delhi, and called for Shah's resignation. Left parties wrote to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal assuring him of their help in efforts to bring peace and communal harmony and blamed the Centre for

its ineffective Delhi Police.

Sonia-led a delegation of Congress leaders to President Ram Nath Kovind, called for the resignation of Amit Shah and reminded the Centre of its "raj dharma".

Continued on Page 4

## Police inaction reminiscent of 1984: SAD MP Naresh Gujral

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shiromani Akali Dal MP Naresh Gujral said on Thursday that the Delhi Police's "inaction" towards protecting the lives and properties of minorities in the national Capital is "reminiscent" of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The lawmaker, whose party is a BJP ally, said no one wants a repeat of what happened in 1984. Speaking to PTI after shooting off a letter to Delhi Police chief Amulya Patnaik, Gujral, the son of former Prime Minister IK Gujral, said that minorities in certain parts of Delhi are "frightened".

Continued on Page 4

### CAPSULE

**DELHI VIOLENCE: INDIA SLAMS OIC STATEMENT**  
New Delhi: India on Thursday hit out at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation for its statement on Delhi violence, saying the comments are factually inaccurate, misleading. The OIC has condemned the violence in Delhi and alleged discrimination against Muslims.

**IAF: AI EVACUATE INDIANS FROM WUHAN, JAPAN**

New Delhi: India on Thursday brought back 112 people from the coronavirus-hit Chinese city of Wuhan and another group of 124 from Tokyo who were on board a cruise ship infected by the deadly virus. AC-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft of Indian Air Force evacuated 76 Indians and 36 foreign nationals from Wuhan while an Air India flight brought back the group of 124 people from Tokyo.

## Kejriwal's Farishte to provide succour

CM announces ₹10L compensation for death, free treatment

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Ensuring faster treatment to riot-affected people amid violence in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced that medical treatment to injured will be free in private hospitals under Delhi Government's "Farishte scheme". The Delhi Government also shared toll free emergency number 077 for those in duress.

Kejriwal said a compensation of ₹10 lakh will be pro-



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the media in New Delhi on Thursday

vided for the families of those killed in the communal riots in Delhi. The families who lost any minor member would get ₹5 lakh as ex-gratia, while those seriously injured will get ₹2 lakh, he said.

Continued on Page 4

## Slugfest over judge's transfer

Opp cries foul; Govt says rule followed after SC Collegium recommended transfer on Feb 12

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's decision to shift Delhi High Court judge Justice S Muralidhar, hours after he slammed the police for not registering a case against three BJP leaders for their alleged hate speeches, has triggered a major row.

While the Congress said the "midnight" notification was "shameful", the Centre accused the Opposition party of politicising a "routine" shift on the February 12 recom-



mendation of the Supreme Court collegium.

The Opposition has flagged "timing" of the decision as its main concern and also reminded the Centre that it sat on Supreme Court's collegium recommendation for months when it did not suit its interests.

The Union Law Ministry on Wednesday issued three separate notifications for the transfer of Justice Muralidhar and two other judges — Justice

Ranjit Vasantrao More of the Bombay High Court and Justice Ravi Vijay Kumar Malimath of the Karnataka High Court. Justice Muralidhar was transferred to the Punjab & Haryana High Court.

The notifications said President Ram Nath Kovind approved the transfers after consulting the Chief Justice of India.

The Supreme Court Collegium, in a meeting on February 12, had recommended transfer of Justice Muralidhar to Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Justice Muralidhar was transferred on the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium and accused the Opposition party of politicising a routine transfer.

Continued on Page 4

## CBSE Class X, XII exams on Feb 28, 29 in NE Delhi cancelled

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has postponed Class X and XII examinations scheduled for February 28 and 29 in the violence-hit North-east Delhi and parts of East Delhi, officials said.

The exam postponement announcement by the CBSE came for the third time this week due to communal violence in North-east Delhi over the amended citizenship law which has claimed 38 lives.

"In view of a request received from the Delhi Government and to avoid

inconvenience to students, staff and parents, the exams scheduled for February 28 and 29 in North-east Delhi and other affected areas stand cancelled. The next date for the affected students will be notified shortly," CBSE Secretary Anurag Tripathi said.

"All exams in all centres across Delhi will be conducted as per original schedule from March 2 onwards," he said.

The board announced that it will conduct fresh exams for students who have not been able to appear for the papers in other parts of the national capital due to the violence.

Continued on Page 4

# MCD to prepare list of property tax defaulters



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) will take action against those who fail to pay the property taxes to the corporation on time. The list of those who have not paid the property tax will be made after March 31, the last date for the submission of the property tax.

If sources are to be believed, about 50 per cent people of Dehradun have still not paid the property tax. So far the corporation has col-

lected more than ₹40 crore from property tax on residential as well as non residential buildings but is yet to achieve its target of ₹75 crore. About the owners who fail to pay the property tax the MCD tax superintendent Dharmesh Painuly informed that the list of such owners who are already registered with the corporation but have not submitted the property tax will be prepared and then appropriate action will be taken against them by MCD. He further said that on

the spot verification procedure will be done for those building owners including slum dwellers who are not registered with the MCD. However, he mentioned that a considerable number of taxpayers from slum areas are regularly coming to pay their taxes in the corporation.

In the last two days, MCD has collected the property tax of about ₹19 lakh and the official are hopeful that the corporation will easily collect over ₹50 crore by the end of March.

## PLANS FOR OLD TRENCHING GROUND

# MCD claims contradict known facts

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Though the officials of Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) claim that the old trenching ground on Sahastradhara Road will be ready to build Sainya Dham and a city park in a couple of years, sources state that the usual procedure required to make the land suitable for the purpose takes at least seven to eight years.

A few days ago, Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' inspected the trenching ground and announced that the said land will be used for the construction of Sainya Dham and a city park. According to municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey, "The work of clearing the trash from the part of the trenching ground where there are bushes and lesser garbage has begun. For the remaining place, bio-mining engineers will be called to ascertain what can be done with the garbage dumped there." He further added that the ground will be ready in one or two years to build Sainya Dham and City Park.

However, observers point



out that when it comes to talk of clearing the garbage, one should understand that the MCD is talking to clearing a dump used for about a decade at a time when it is struggling to properly dispose of the garbage generated daily. The existing solid waste management plant of the MCD is already struggling to tackle the

300 metric tonnes of waste generated daily. In such a situation, tackling the waste from the old trenching ground is a highly impractical idea. Further, as per the procedure used in trenching grounds past their capacity, the capping technique is the most suitable way to make the land suitable for any kind of activity. In this

technique, layers of soil are laid in the area which is left to settle for about seven to eight years and no activity can be done on the ground during this period. The old trenching ground is filled with non-biodegradable garbage that makes any activity like building a park impossible at the site in its present condition. The

only way of giving new shape to the dumping ground is to use the capping technique. Considering these points, the claims of the officials of MCD appear highly impractical as the disposal of untreated garbage of more than a decade in the trenching ground seems impossible within the span of a couple of years.

# 14th State Science & Technology Congress starts in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The 14 State Science and Technology Congress was inaugurated at Vigyan Dham in front of 500 renowned scientists, academicians, researchers and intellectuals assembled here on Thursday. The event was jointly organised by Ashok Misra from Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Rural Development and Migration Commission vice chairman SS Negi, AIMS Vijaywada director Mukesh Tripathi, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing director Prakash Chauhan, state's science and technology secretary RK Sudhandhu and Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) director general Rajendra Dobhal.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Misra mentioned the importance of inculcating scientific temperament among the common folk of Uttarakhand. He spoke about the contribution of Indian scientists and innovation promotion in the society.

Earlier, delivering the inaugural address, the UCOST DG Rajendra Dobhal welcomed all the scientists, academicians, researchers and students from



various university and institutes of Uttarakhand. He exhorted all the participants to maximise their interaction with the scientists and derive the maximum benefit out of it.

The science and technology secretary RK Sudhandhu

said that there is some science in every sphere of life. He also informed that very soon Uttarakhand government will be upgrading the science centre Vigyan Dham to a big science city. The ministry of Culture has agreed to the bud-

get allocation with the Central government providing 60 per cent of it and the State government providing 40 per cent. During the inaugural session, the Science and Technology Excellence Awards 2019-20 were presented to Prof

Harsha Sinhal, Geophysicist in the field of Earth Sciences, Prof DK Maheshwari, former, VC, Gurukul Kangari University, Haridwar in the field of Life Sciences and Ranbeer Singh Rawal, director, GBPNHESD, Almora in the field of Environmental Science. Ram Asre Singh Chauhan, Assistant Teacher (Science), Government Inter College, Badkot, Uttarkashi was awarded as NASI Best Science Teacher award for his contribution in teaching science to the students.

Abstract book of 14th USSTC and brochure of Himalayan Knowledge Network were also released on the occasion. The NASI lecture was delivered by Prof Ashok Misra on the subject of fostering creativity and innovation in science and technology.

Delivering the vote of thanks, BP Purohit said that in this event the young researchers should interact with the scientists on their research work and come out with the outlines of the new research plans. The Sambhav Vichar Manch also staged a play on the occasion depicting various scientific activities beneficial for the society.

# Bhojan Mata & teacher responsible for critical condition of child: BEO

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bhojan Mata and teacher concerned are responsible for a child suffering from health consequences after being made to undertake physical labour in a government school. This was revealed in the investigation report submitted to the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) after the commission wrote to the Chief Education Officer of Almora last month seeking a report of the investigation.

According to the letter sent by SCPCR, a resident of Dauni village in the Almora district, Anand Ram had complained against a Bhojan Mata and the principal of a government school who made his son Sagar carry three sacks of rice each weighing 50 kilograms, to the school kitchen. Such heavy lifting caused swelling in the intestines and kidneys of the child. After the condition of the child got critical, his father admitted him to a hospital in

Ranikhet where the doctors had to operate upon him.

Reportedly, the father had also complained to police and district education officer against the school administration but according to him no action was taken against the school. After SCPCR asked the block education officer for an investigation into the matter, an investigation committee was formed. According to the report presented by investigation committee to SCPCR, Bhojan Mata Bhagwati Devi and the teacher Deepa Samant are responsible for the critical condition of the child. Though both have denied the allegations, some of the school children have verified that the Samant called some students to lift the rice sacks and the Bhojan Mata instructed them to carry the sacks to the school kitchen, according to the report. As per SCPCR officials, the commission will soon verify what actions have been taken by the education department on the basis of the report.

# 500 Youth trained by ICICI academy get jobs

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

ICICI Academy for Skills (ICICI Academy) has claimed that 100 per cent of the students trained by it have got placement. The academy provides free vocational training to the youth from economically weaker sections to help them earn a sustainable livelihood. Set up in Dehradun on February, 2019, the centre has so far provided training to 500 youths. The centre offers eight week long courses on office administration and selling skills.

The President of ICICI Foundation for inclusive growth, Saurabh Singh said that Dehradun centre has provided free of cost training to 500 candidates so far and all of them have found suitable employment. "Since its inception in October 2013, ICICI Academy has set up 25 centres across the country and has trained over 1.34 lakh people of which over 56800 are women. It aims to provide relevant and practical training to the underprivileged youth in sale skills, office administration, electrical appliance repair, refrigeration and air conditioning and others," he said.

# Knowledge is the dire need of Indian society: Kasturirangan

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Knowledge is the dire need of a society as vast, diverse, and complex as India onto the path of progress. Noted space scientist and former director of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan said this while delivering a lecture on the subject of "towards a 21st century knowledge society" at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee.

Kasturirangan addressed some important elements related to transforming India into a

knowledge society consistent with the 21st century aspirational goals, recognising that such a society would be a key enabler for economic growth and prosperity. "Knowledge is the dire need of a society as vast, diverse, and complex as India onto the path of progress. It is



time this generation realises that knowledge is the true wealth, and multiplies if shared and made available to all members of society," he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that Kasturirangan has been assigned by the present Central Government, to serve as the chairman of the committee entrusted with drafting the new National Education Policy. Currently, he holds

the positions of the chairman of the governing board, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune; Chancellor, Central University of Rajasthan; Chairperson, NIIT University, Neemrana; Member, Atomic Energy Commission; Emeritus Professor at NIAS, Bangalore, and Honorary Distinguished Advisor, ISRO.

# CM launches development works worth over ₹100 crore



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat unveiled the foundation of development works amounting in total to more than Rs 100 crore in Haldwani. The chief minister also announced Rs 20 crore for construction of internal roads in Haldwani on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the chief minister said that the government is executing developmental works with transparency and the people are also benefitting from these works. Policy decisions will be taken swiftly in public interest, he said. During the past three years, a series of development works have been initiated with the help of the Central Government due to which the per capita income in the state is rising every year. He further informed that virtual classes

had been started in 500 schools across the state while the same will be started in 700 more schools soon. By 2022, bridges will be built on each road where needed and the government has set a target of connecting every village by road by 2022. The dues of farmers for sugar cane and paddy have been cleared. The payment to wheat farmers will be made within 24 hours, he said. Rawat further said that helicopter services have been started in the state. Proposal has been sent to the Central Government for approving 27 aerodromes. Aerodromes will be established in each services and more helicopter services will be started. Rawat also mentioned that constructing the ISBT in Haldwani is among the priorities of the state government. Further, an electric crematorium costing Rs 3.25 crore is also being built in Haldwani, which will be the first such facility in the state. The chief

minister also informed that the report of the works done by the MLAs will be shared with the public through presentations on March 18. The MLAs themselves will also share the development work report in their respective areas. Rawat said that the people of the state have many qualities but need to develop aptitude and skills for business in order to become more oriented towards development.

Kaladhungi MLA and Bharatiya Janata Party state president Banshidhar Bhagat said that development works are being executed effectively in the state with the full support of the Central government. The government is working towards providing plots to the landless, linking youth and women to employment through groups, he said. The Nainital district magistrate Savin Bansal provided detailed information about works in different spheres.

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Regional Office, Ground Floor, NCR Plaza, 24-A, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun-248001

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

(See proviso to rule 8(6))

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Kamal Singh Panwar (Borrower), Vipin Singh Panwar (Co-Borrower), Loan No. LBDEH00003988235 LBDEH00003988236	Khata No. 1145, Khasra No. 544, Situated at Mauza Ajabpur Kalan, Pargana Central Doon District Dehradun- 248001 Area of Property- 1600 Sq Feet, Built up Area- 4000 Sq Feet Type of Property- Residential House	Rs. 45,53,321/- (as on February 10, 2020)	Rs. 35,55,000/- Rs. 3,55,500/-	March 12, 2020 from 11:30 AM to 02:00 PM	March 21, 2020 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-"https://eauctions.samil.in") of our auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. The Mortgages/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till March 21, 2020 before 10:30 AM else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Ltd, Regional Office, Ground Floor, NCR Plaza, 24-A, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun -248001 or to our marketing agent Shriram Automall India Ltd at STFC Office, 1st Floor, Shanti Plaza, West Canal Road, Sandhu Center, Transport Nagar, Dehradun-248001 on or before March 20, 2020 before 3:00 PM. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Dehradun.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8953652366 or Shriram Automall India Ltd on 09910453434. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4)

Date: February 28, 2020  
Place: Dehradun

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# Prasad inaugurates ITAT circuit bench in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Union minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the circuit bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) in the presence of chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, Union minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and ITAT chairman justice PP Bhatt here on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Prasad said that he has a special attachment with Uttarakhand. Stating that the establishment of the ITAT circuit bench in Dehradun is in interests of the state, he said that it will also benefit income tax applicants and advocates.

He also announced provision of Wi-Fi at the Dehradun

airport on the occasion. He said, "To make the nation economically strong and take it ahead on the developmental path, it is vital for all to pay their taxes honestly. Out of the 130 crore population of India, only about nine crore people pay tax.

There are only 2,000 professionals in the country who show their income to be Rs one crore while in the past four years, four crore people went abroad. Similarly, about 2.50 crore people bought new cars.

There are only about 50,000 people who show their income to be above Rs 10 lakh. We will have to really think about paying taxes honestly. The government of India has taken major decisions in favour of tax payers. Now, after October 31, any



tax payer will be sent notice only in the digital format. A committee of three income tax commissioners has been formed for fixing the penalty. On the lines of the Prime Minister's vision of reform, perform and transform, we are moving ahead for tax

reforms and an inclusive India." The union minister further said that today 121 crore people in India have mobile phones. Accounts operated on fake names have been closed, leading to savings of Rs 1.40 crore. In addition to providing electricity connection to all villages, opti-

cal fibre lines have been laid in 2.50 lakh Nyay Panchayats which will help bring the whole nation on the network. So far, six nations have accorded national honours to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under Modi's leadership the nation is moving ahead at a swift pace on the developmental path with the prestige of the nation also rising in the international fraternity. Referring to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), he reiterated that it grants citizenship to the religiously persecuted minorities and is not meant to take away Indian citizenship.

Regarding those protesting against the act, he said that one can try and even succeed in waking up someone who is asleep but it is futile to try and

take up someone pretending to be asleep.

Speaking to the occasion, CM Trivendra Singh Rawat said that with the establishment of the ITAT, applicants and lawyers will not need to travel to Delhi repeatedly. Now, their issues will get resolved on time and for lesser expenditure. Rawat said that aware citizens paying their taxes honestly play an important role in facilitating the development of the nation and the state.

ITAT chairman justice PP Bhatt said that the establishment of the circuit bench will benefit the tax payers in the state. Documents of 880 appeals related to the state have been brought from Delhi here. He assured that these appeals will be redressed soon.



## Candid Notes

Gajendra Singh Negi

### BITTER PILL

Grudgingly though, the ministers of the Himalayan state on the dikt of chief minister TSR have started spending time in their chambers of Vidhan Sabha. In an attempt to project people friendly image of his government, TSR had decided that he along with his ministers would hear public grievances at Vidhan Sabha on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Initially the order was taken lightly by the ministers but when they saw TSR meeting people at his Vidhan Sabha office on these days, they got the message. Interestingly the ministers are applauding the decision publicly but in private conversations their grudge is coming to the fore. Taking refuge in less number of people turning out to meet them in Vidhan Sabha, the ministers opine that the exercise is worthless. The grouse of the ministers is understandable since they have become used to staging private durbars in the comfort of their residences and the order of TSR has forced them to come out of their comfort zone. It is worth reminding here that ministers during the Congress regime used to spend time in their Vidhan Sabha offices but during the present government, the offices of ministers have remained more or less deserted.

### LIQUOR REIGNS

The excise policy of the state released recently is an excellent example of the blunt truth that Uttarakhand has failed miserably in developing alternative sources of revenue in last 19 years of its existence. Contrary to the public utterances of CM and other leaders that dependence on revenue from sale of liquor would be dissuaded and other sources would be exploited to fill the kitty of the state, the state government has kept a revenue target of Rs 3,600 crore for the excise department for the financial year 2020-21. The increase comes at a time when it is almost sure that the department would not be able to meet the more modest target of Rs 3180 Crore in the current financial year. Though in an endeavour to curtail thriving business of illicit liquor, the government has taken a wise decision to bring down the sky high price of liquor in the state; the announcement has given the opposition parties a stick to beat TSR government. Playing to the gallery, the opposition leaders are churning out slogans like 'Cheap liquor, expensive ride' in reference to almost simultaneous decision to increase the price of roadways tickets. However both Congress and BJP are equally responsible for overdependence of state on liquor revenue as no one undertook sincere efforts to create and develop alternative sources of income.

### BRAVE BROKER

After much deliberations and failure to extract money gobbled up by a smart broker, the powerful association of secretariat employees finally filed a police case in a failed land purchase case. The broker, who is son in law of a former cabinet minister, duped the secretariat association by promising to provide them a piece of land for developing a swanky colony on the lines of a similar high end settlement of IAS officers in Dehradun. It is learnt that the shrewd broker has not only cheated the secretariat workers but many senior police officers and some prominent politicians have also fell prey to him. However due to obvious reasons, they are hesitant to register complaints against him.

# Kaushik convenes meeting with employee organisations

Association of general and OBC employees have given a call for an indefinite strike

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In an attempt to break the deadlock created by the declaration of association of general and OBC employees to go on an indefinite strike from March 2, the senior cabinet minister Madan Kaushik convened a meeting at Vidhan Sabha on Thursday.

The leaders of many employee organisations and senior officials of the state government attended the meeting. Apart from the strike call, 12 issues of the employees came up for discussions in the meeting. It is learnt that understanding on four issues between the government and the employee organisations has been reached. However the issue of strike remained unresolved. When contacted, the President of the Uttarakhand Rajya Kramchari Sanyukt Parishad, Thakur Prahlad



Singh refused to divulge the details of the meeting. He said that the employees are waiting for the Government to release the minutes of the meeting.

It is pertinent to mention here that different employee organisations of the State are on a path of agitation on various demands. An understanding between the then finance minister Late Prakash Pant and the employees was reached last year but the employees claim that the government has failed to address the issues.

After the indefinite strike call given by the employees on reservation in promotions, the government has fielded senior Cabinet Minister Madan Kaushik to initiate dialogue with the employee organisa-

tions. Meanwhile, the Transport and social welfare minister Yashpal Arya said on Thursday that the strike is not the solution and the employees should come to the table for talks. On the issue of reservation in promotions, the minister said that he don't believe in politics of caste and religion and is of the view that rights given by constitution should be protected.

He added that the union government is deliberating on the issue of reservation in promotions and everyone including the employees should wait for the decision of the central Government.

## SCHOLARSHIP SCAM

# HC directs SIT chief to appear in court



PNS ■ NAINITAL

Hearing on the matter of the infamous SC-ST scholarship scam, the high court of Uttarakhand has directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) head Manjunath TC to appear in the court on March 4.

During the hearing on Thursday, a member of the private college association submitted an application expressing willingness to submit the

scholarship amount. Considering this, the court directed the applicant to deposit a sum of ₹50 lakh within two days.

The applicant is accused of orchestrating irregularities amounting to ₹1.91 crore as part of the scholarship scam. The matter was taken up for hearing by the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice RC Khulbe.

According to the case

details, Dehradun resident Ravinder Jugran had filed a public interest litigation stating that the social welfare department had not provided scholarship amount to students of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes from 2003 till now.

Citing this, the petitioner had stated that it is clear that the department concerned had orchestrated a scam amounting to many crores of rupees.

# Cong to hold Dharna on Mar 1

**Chandigarh:** The Uttarakhand Congress would stage a massive Dharna against the excise policy, price hike and forest guard recruitment scam at Gandhi Park of Dehradun on March 1.

Informing about the agitation plan of the Congress, the Vice President of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), Surya Kant Dhasmana said that the State Government has shattered the faith of the unemployed youth of the state.

He said that in last three years the State Government has failed to provide employment to the youth. The recruitment examination for forest guards organised by subordinate services selection commission was marred by malpractices as its question paper was leaked.



A view of the Mall Road in Nainital after fog enshrouded the lake city on Thursday evening.

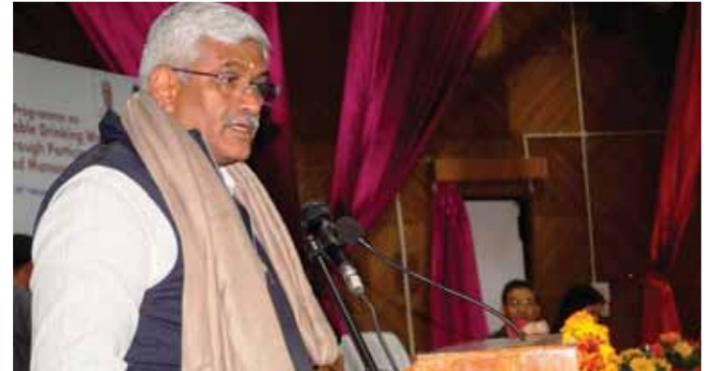
Pioneer photo

# Ganga among top 10 cleanest rivers in world: Shekhawat

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Ganga river is one of the 10 most clean rivers in the world, asserted the union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. He said that the water of this river from Devprayag to Rishikesh is directly used for drinking purposes. The union minister said this while speaking to media persons in Nainital. He was here to attend a two-day seminar organised by the Jal Shakti ministry on the subject of conservation of water sources in mountainous regions as part of the national Jal Jeevan Mission on Thursday.

Interacting with the media persons, Shekhawat said that the water in the Ganga river is now much cleaner to a considerable extent. This river is now among the top 10 cleanest rivers in the world, he averred. The minister further opined that a separate



Act for the Ganga river is not really needed now. Shekhawat further said that under the National Jal Jeevan Mission, the Government of India has set a target of facilitating taps and water supply in every home this

year. A sum of Rs 3,50,000 crore has been set aside for this purpose. He expressed confidence that this target will be achieved by the government this year. He averred that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had achieved all

the targets he had set. The minister further said that the union government provides 90 per cent grant for water promotion and other potable water schemes in mountainous states.

# Dehradun airport gets free Wi-Fi facility

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The government has facilitated free Wi-Fi facility at the Dehradun airport. The Union minister of Communications and Electronics, Ravi Shankar Prasad said this after his arrival in Dehradun in the presence of Union minister Thawar Chand Gehlot, Uttarakhand Minister of State Dhan Singh Rawat and officials of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

At Dehradun Airport, the largest airport of the state, people can now avail of BSNL's Wi-Fi service free of cost. After getting this facility, the Dehradun airport has also become one of the airports in the nation where where people can avail of free Wi-Fi facility.

Prasad launched the Wi-Fi and Fiber To The Home (FTTH) service operated by BSNL at Dehradun airport.



On this occasion, the Union Minister appreciated the beau-

ty of the state. He said that the Dehradun airport director had

informed him that 23 flights are operating from this airport

daily. The free Wi-Fi facility

**At Dehradun Airport, the largest airport of the State, people can now avail of BSNL's Wi-Fi service free of cost**

comes at a time when the State government is about to complete three years in office and will greatly benefit the passengers travelling to and from this airport, he said.

According to BSNL officials, the BSNL Bharat Fiber is a FTTH broadband service, in which users are being provided high speed broadband service and Wi-Fi service, in which users will get internet facility at speeds of up to 100 mbps.

# Laltain Yatra of Cong a gimmick: Kaushik

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Trashing the 'Laltain Yatra' of the Uttarakhand Congress, the government spokesperson and cabinet minister Madan Kaushik has said that the Congress party is resorting to gimmicks.

Talking to the media persons at Vidhan Sabha on Thursday, the minister said that the allegation of the Congress leaders that the state government is not taking care of the constituencies represented by the Congress MLAs is mischievous and false.

"The Congress leaders are taking their lanterns out but the development works initiated by this government are there for everyone to see," he said. Kaushik said that the state

government would organise special programmes in all 70 assembly constituencies in the state to commemorate three years in office of the BJP government.

He said that allegation that the state government is taking care of only the constituencies held by BJP is not true and claimed that the government is taking care of all the constituencies.

"The Congress leaders never met the chief minister for development related works in their areas.

They didn't attend the Mathan programme held at the residence of CM to discuss development.

We invite the Congress leaders to sit with us and discuss their problems," Kaushik said.

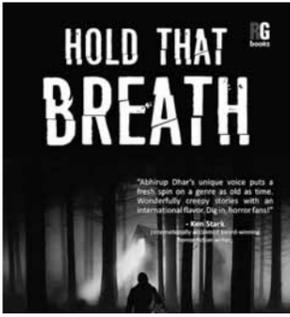
BOOK REVIEW

# Dhar brings horror to 'Hold That Breath'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Humans have sought relief from fear even though many have been fascinated by the eerie. People have for long delved into the afterlife mysteries and these mysteries have either been part of a folklore or hearsay.

Though Indian authors have been a little conservative when it comes to horror, banker-turned-author Abhirup Dhar has come up with a book containing chilling and scary stories— 'Hold That



Breath.

Whether it be creating silent terror for a bunch of friends or the impending tension in a dilapidated building, the author has created a horrific aura with finesse.

Even though Dhar has selected the old-fashioned scenarios, he has made it tense with his subtle writing which is enough to affect the reader's sleep.

# BJP prez gets rousing welcome in HP Kejriwal's...

PNS ■ SHIMLA

On his maiden visit to his home State Himachal Pradesh after being elected as BJP President, Jagat Prakash Nadda was accorded a rousing welcome in Solan on Thursday.

In his speech, Nadda said the state was known as 'Dev Bhumi' and it was a matter of honour that the son of Himachal Pradesh had been given such a bigger responsibility to discharge. He said that he had not even imagined that he would get opportunity to lead the BJP, adding that all this was possible due to the benevolence of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the blessings of the people of the State.

Nadda said there were over 2000 political parties in the country and most of them were led and governed by a political family, pointing out that BJP was the only political party in the Country where any worker can become the National President and even the Prime Minister. He said this makes the BJP a political party with a difference. "All BJP workers were fortunate that they were associated with such a great party which was governed by ideology," he said, adding that today the party has over 17 crore members and has a strong and vibrant leader in form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP chief said the opposition were making unnecessary hue and cry over Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which was unfortunate and uncalled for. He said that the Act was not against minorities of the country, but it was aimed at helping the minorities of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. He said the State Government led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was doing commendable work for welfare of the State and its people.

In his speech, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that despite being a small State, Himachal Pradesh was today blessed to have a son of the State who was holding a post which usually was held by leaders from bigger States. He said that this was possible due to the unparalleled leadership qualities of J.P. Nadda.

Thakur said the present State Government has today completed two years and two more months in office and this period has been remained full of achievements and accomplishments. State BJP President Rajiv Bindal said he was committed to strengthen the base of BJP in the State so that BJP could form its government in 2022 again in the State. Former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar said that it was a matter of great pride and honour for each and every Himachali today, that J.P. Nadda has become National President of BJP, Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said it was great honour for the State that the biggest political party of the world was being led by the son of the soil.

Those who have suffered minor injuries will get ₹20,000, and the orphaned children will get ₹3 lakh, he announced, adding special camps will be set up for people to get essential documents they lost in the arson. The CM said ₹5,000 compensatory amount will be provided for the animal loss. Apart from the compensation for the victims and families, Kejriwal also said that the State Government is working for the rehabilitation of the survivors. Explaining further, he said that for those people whose houses have been completely burnt, the Government will provide compensation of Rs 5 lakh and if the houses have been partially damaged, the residents will get Rs 2.5 lakh as compensation. For burnt, uninsured commercial units, the Government will provide compensation of Rs 5 lakh.

When questioned about the involvement of AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's involvement in riots, AAP national convener Kejriwal said that there should be no politics over riots. "Catch all rioters and jail them, if anyone is connected with the AAP, give him double punishment, book them under the most stringent sections of law, jail them."

# Azam Khan, wife, son shifted to Sitapur jail

Sitapur (UP): A day after surrendering at a Rampur court and being remanded in judicial custody there, SP MP Azam Khan, his wife and son were on Thursday shifted to Sitapur jail, where party chief Akhilesh Yadav met them. After meeting Khan, Yadav said the Smajwadi party party MP has been targeted by the BJP under a "political conspiracy". "I met Azam sahab. His wife is not well and son also has injury in his hand. I hope the jail administration will provide them due facilities. After the BJP came to power, Azam Khan was targeted. It was a political conspiracy due to which he was sent to jail. The court will help

him," he said. Akhilesh was talking to reporters after meeting Azam Khan, his legislator-wife Tazeen Fatma and MLA-son Abdullah Azam, who were shifted to the district jail here from Rampur on early Thursday morning. "The three reached Sitapur Jail on Thursday morning. They are expected to be here till March 2," a jail official said. On reaching Sitapur from Rampur, Khan earlier spoke to reporters waiting for him at the jail entrance. Asked about the number of cases lodged against him, Khan said, "The entire country knows what is happening to me and my family."

# Malegaon case: Pragya appears before Mumbai special court

Mumbai: BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur on Thursday appeared before a special NIA court here in connection with the 2008 Malegaon blast case, in which she is one of the accused. This came a day after special court judge V S Padalkar directed all the accused in the case to take note of his order (passed in May last year) directing them to appear before it at least once a week. The Bhopal MP appeared before the court around 1 pm. After taking note of her appearance, the judge allowed her to go. While interacting with reporters outside the court, Thakur said whenever the court summons her, she will appear before it. She had last appeared before the court in connection with the case in June 2019. Seven persons, including Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit, are facing trial in the case. Six people were killed and over 100 injured when an explosive device strapped on a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon, a town about 200 km from here in north Maharashtra, on September 29, 2008.

# Pakistan 'cradle of terrorism': India at UN

PTI ■ GENEVA Describing Pakistan as the "pernicious cradle of terrorism", India on Thursday slammed the neighbouring country for raising concerns over human rights in Jammu & Kashmir and said that before preaching others, it must remember that terrorism is the worst form of rights abuse. Exercising the right of reply after Pakistan raised concerns over human rights in Jammu & Kashmir at the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission Vimarsh Aryan said that over the past seven months India has undertaken a series of democratic and progressive legislative reforms in Jammu & Kashmir. He said the reforms are aimed to further protect the overall human rights of Indian citizens and to curb Pakistan's "nefarious designs" aimed at damaging the synthetic fabric of Indian society. "The international community has abundantly witnessed the subsequent hysterical reactions of Pakistan at various fora, that only attempted to create storm in the tea cup, but unwittingly implied that democratic traditions and religious tolerance are not Pakistan's cup of tea," Aryan said.

# Eastern Zonal Council meet today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI The 24th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council, a forum for the Centre and the States to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences on issues related to health, security and social welfare, will be held in Bhubaneswar on Friday. The meeting will be chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Ministers of Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand—Naveen Patnaik, Nitish Kumar, Mamata Banerjee and Hemant Soren, respectively— are expected to take part in it, a Home Ministry statement said. Odisha Chief Minister Patnaik, who is the host of the event, is the vice-chairman of the Eastern Zonal Council. The upcoming meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council will deliberate upon nearly four dozen issues, which include inter-state water issues, power transmission lines, royalty on coals, operationalisation of coals mines, land and forest clearance for rail projects, investigation of heinous offences, cattle smuggling across the country's borders, the statement said. Common interests pertaining to infrastructure, health, security, social welfare, linguistic minorities, border disputes may be discussed and action taken. Inter-State issues will also be deliberated. With such senior level participation of political leadership and officers, a large number of issues are likely to get resolved by consensus in the meeting.

# Slugfest...

From Page 1 He added that a "well-settled process" was followed in the transfer. At the BJP party briefing, senior leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the transfer was in line with the recommendation of the Collegium. The recommendation was made on February 12. The Congress alleged that the transfer of Justice Muralidhar was aimed at saving some BJP leaders in the Delhi violence case and exposed the Government's "intimidation and vendetta politics" against the judiciary. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the Government of making attempts to "muzzle" justice and "break people's faith in an upright judiciary". "The midnight transfer of Justice Muralidhar isn't shocking given the current dispensation, but it is certainly sad and shameful," she tweeted. Taking a dig at the Government over what he called Muralidhar's sudden transfer, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Remembering the brave Judge

Loya, who wasn't transferred." Special CBI judge BH Loya, who was hearing the high-profile Sohrauddin Sheikh fake encounter case, died in alleged mysterious circumstances on December 1, 2014. At a Press conference on the issue of Justice Muralidhar's transfer, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that the BJP Government was "waging a battle of revenge" against the judiciary. He called the transfer a classic case of "hit-and-run injustice" by the Government. The judge who reminded the Government of its 'raj dharma' and initiated and directed action against the BJP leaders making inflammatory statements was transferred overnight from the Delhi High Court, he said. Hitting back at the Congress over the allegations, Law Minister Prasad said, "By politicising a routine transfer, the Congress has yet again displayed its scant regard for the judiciary." "Transfer of Hon'ble Justice Muralidhar was done pursuant to the recommendation dated February 12 of the Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India," Prasad said in a series of tweets. Referring to a tweet by

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the death of Judge Loya, the Union Minister said the Loya judgment had been well-settled by the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms (CJAR) said the transfer has nothing to do with "public interest" and everything to do with "punishing" an honest and courageous judicial officer for simply carrying out his constitutional duties. CJAR said it knows that Justice Muralidhar's transfer was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium on February 12 but the rushed manner in which the notification has been issued by the Union Government cannot be ignored. The fact that the notification for Justice Muralidhar's transfer was issued in the evening after he held the Delhi Police and the Central Government accountable for the Delhi riots tells the true nature of his transfer, the CJAR claimed. CJAR claimed that judges have been given reasonable time in transfer orders, but Justice Muralidhar's was with immediate effect. This highlights the "punitive nature" of this move, it said.

# 38 deaths so far, 250...

From Page 1 "Many people suddenly surfaced in our area and started destroying properties. We were frightened after witnessing such a horror in our surroundings. My husband was beaten mercilessly and had a serious head injury. I request to all to stop it now. People from all the community are suffering," she said. Amit Gupta, 24, a resident of Mustafabad started crying while explaining the horror he faced. "No one slept peacefully that night after two groups went on rampage. We kept calling all our relatives and friends and asked them to stay inside. My one of the friends is admitted after sustaining head injury. He went outside that day and never returned back. I accompanied his parents here. Doctors are saying his condition is stable," he said. Relatives, including the mother of 22-year-old Shahbaz (25), who has been missing since February 25, are waiting anxiously outside the mortuary at GTB Hospital since morning to know if their son is even alive. "Around 2 pm, he had gone to Karawal Nagar for treatment. He had suffered injury in his

eyes while he was doing some welding work. When I called him around 3 pm, his phone was found to be switched off," his inconsolable mother said. Shahbaz and his family live in Loni and worked in a welding shop in the area. A relative said they have been going from one hospital to another since February 25 to know his whereabouts. "We have been here since morning and still we haven't received any information about Shahbaz," she said. Thirty-five-year-old Musharraf's family has been at the mortuary in GTB for the last two days. "I have been narrating the stories of what happened with my husband to everyone out here but no one is telling us when the post-mortem will be finally conducted," his wife said. Musharraf lived with his wife and three children at Bhagirathi Vihar area of Gokalpur. Recalling the horror, Musharraf's wife said, "A group of people barged inside our house and thrashed my husband brutally. They dragged him out of our house and kept beating him."

# Police inaction reminiscent...

From Page 1 "Because their lives and properties have not been protected by the Delhi Police, which is very similar to what we saw in 1984. It's shocking." In his letter, which has also been marked to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, the MP has slammed the Police for allegedly not acting on his call on Wednesday, informing them that a group of 16 people from the minority community was trapped in a house surrounded by rioters and needed help. "When a member of parliament's complaint is not paid heed to, one can imagine the plight of the common man. No sane Indian wants a repeat of 1984," Gujral said. In the letter, he has said that at around 11:30 pm on Wednesday, he received a call from an

acquaintance from the minority community that he and 15 others were trapped in a house near Gonda Chowk in Maujipur and a mob was trying to break in. Gujral said he called the police for assistance and introduced himself as a member of parliament, and hoped that the distressed people would have got help. "However, much to my disappointment, no action was taken on my complaint and the 16 individuals received no assistance from the Delhi Police. They fortunately managed to escape only because some Hindu neighbours came to their rescue. "If this is the situation when an MP makes a complaint personally, it is not surprising that certain parts of Delhi continue to burn while the police stand by apathetically," he wrote in his letter to the Delhi police chief. PTI

# BJP likely to wrest lone Rajya Sabha seat from Cong in Himachal

PNS ■ SHIMLA With adequate numbers in the Assembly, ruling BJP in Himachal Pradesh is likely to wrest the Rajya Sabha seat from the opposition Congress, the voting for which will be held on March 26. One of the three Rajya Sabha seats from Himachal Pradesh will fall vacant as Vipolve Thakur of the Congress will retire from the Upper House of Parliament on April 9. The other two

Rajya Sabha seats from the hill State are being currently represented by BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda and senior Congress leader Anand Sharma. While Nadda will retire from the Rajya Sabha in 2024, Sharma's term will end in 2022. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has decided to conduct the election for this seat along with 54 Rajya Sabha seats of 17 states on March 26.

# Dalit woman gang-raped at gunpoint in Gujarat

Rajkot: Three men allegedly kidnapped a 19-year-old Dalit woman and raped her at gunpoint in a car in Gujarat's Rajkot district, police said on Thursday. No arrest has been made yet. In her complaint to the district police, the woman, a native of Kotdasangani taluka, claimed she was raped at gunpoint by one Amit Padaliya and his friends Vipul Shekhda and Shanti Padaliya on Wednesday, they said. It is alleged Amit Padaliya is a local BJP leader who had earlier served as general secretary of the party's Kotdasangani

taluka unit. Reportedly, Shanti Padaliya is an elected Congress member of Kotdasangani taluka panchayat. Police investigation has revealed that Amit Padaliya's mother is the sarpanch of the village where the victim lives. According to the police, in her complaint, the victim claimed the trio kidnapped her from her house in the afternoon and forced her to sit in their car. The three raped the woman at gunpoint in the vehicle and dropped her near her house in the evening, the police said. PTI

# CBSE Class X, XII exams on Feb...

From Page 1 It has also sought details of the students who failed to appear for exams due to the prevailing situation in the city. "We have asked school principals to send the details to regional offices concerned of the CBSE of all such students of class 10, 12 who have missed out on the exams so far in Delhi, due to these difficult conditions. To reduce the stress on students, the board will conduct fresh exams for them. The next date of exam for the affected students will be notified shortly," he said. "The board has maintained regular contact with the principals of all schools, especially in the affected areas, and it has been brought to the notice that some students residing in the affected areas have not been able to appear in exams outside the affected areas due to the situation prevailing in the city," Tripathi added.

# Govt shirks raj dharma: Opp...

From Page 1 Questioning Shah's role, Sonia asked where he was as the violence spread across north-east Delhi. "What was he preoccupied with since last Sunday that he was unable, apparently, to give his attention to these grave events? For that matter, the Delhi Chief Minister, and the newly elected Delhi Government were also completely missing from the scene. "There was clearly a shocking and, in this day and age, unpardonable failure of intelligence agencies leading up to these heart-breaking events. Was there any information provided which could have helped prevent escalation of violence or was it not acted upon by the Home Ministry?" she asked. The delegation included former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ahmed Patel, P Chidambaram, KC Venugopal, Mallikarjuna Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Anand Sharma, AK Antony, Kumari Selja and Randeep Surjewala. The BJP hit back, accused the Congress and the AAP of "politicising" the riots in the

national Capital and claimed that attempts to instigate violence had been made for two months after the Congress president gave the call for 'aar yaa par' (fight to the finish) in December last year. Addressing a Press conference at the party office, Javadekar asked why other political parties were silent on the attack on the policemen and on the death of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma. "In such a situation, the duty of all political parties should be to consolidate peace," he said. Taking on the AAP which governs Delhi, Javadekar said that its MLAs should have worked for peace, but Kejriwal identified riot victims by religion in the Assembly. He alleged that attempts to instigate violence had been made for the last two months since Sonia Gandhi gave the call for 'fight to the finish' at a rally. Javadekar said the BJP was working to restore peace and condemned the Congress and the AAP for doing politics over the violence that claimed 34 lives in north-east Delhi and left over 200 injured. He asserted that peace was restored in two days due to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's effective

handling. He said the Congress's demand for Shah's resignation was "petty politics." Manmohan Singh, in his remarks to the media, said the Congress leaders conveyed to the president that what had happened in the last four days in the national Capital was a matter of deep concern and national shame. Rahul also said it was a "shameful indictment" of the Central Government, the Home Ministry and the Home Minister himself, that the Delhi High Court had to step in (on Wednesday). Brinda Karat, Member, Politburo of the CPI(M) said her party has started a house to house campaign with an appeal to shun violence. "We request you (Arvind Kejriwal) to urgently convene an all-party meeting in Delhi to decide how we can unitedly ensure communal harmony and peace in the Capital," said Karat. Maharashtra Minister and NCP national spokesperson Nawab Malik also demanded a probe into whether the Home Minister could not handle the situation in the national Capital or he had allegedly given instructions to the police to not respond quickly to the situation.

# J'khand: Prez to unveil new CUJ building today

PNS ■ RANCHI The State Capital is all set to welcome President of India, Ram Nath Kovind who will arrive here on Friday on his two day visit of the State. President Kovind will be the Chief Guest for the convocation ceremony at the Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ) and will also inaugurate its new campus at Cheri Manatu area. The Ranchi district administration has completed security arrangements for the President's visit to Ranchi. On his two-day visit to Ranchi, the President and the first lady will land at the Birsu Munda Airport on February 28 at 1:35 pm and is expected to reach CUJ at 4:40 pm. After the convocation ceremony, the President will inaugurate the newly constructed university building at Cheri-Manatu area in the State Capital. On February 29, Kovind will attend a Vikas Bharti programme at Bishnupur, Gumla at 10:20 am and proceed to Baidyanath temple, Deoghar at 1 pm. The entourage will return to the Raj Bhawan on

the same day while the dignitaries are scheduled to leave for Raipur on the morning of March 1. The President had earlier visited Ranchi in September 2019. It is first convocation programme of CUJ in 10 years of its establishment in the State. Students from five year integrated session, post graduate, M.Tech and PHD students will be awarded degree and certificates at the first convocation. In 2009, the then President Pratibha Devisingh Patil gave assent to the Central Universities Act, 2009 that envisages establishing and incorporating universities for teaching and research in the various states. Based on this act, the Central University of Jharkhand came into being under this Act on March 1, 2009. Meanwhile, the CUJ administration has made elaborate arrangement for convocation. A senior faculty member requesting anonymity said, Passing out students from the batch 2014, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 will receive the degree at the convocation.

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS, UTTARAKHAND**  
12 Subhash road, Dehradun

**Short Term - e-Tender Notice**

On behalf of the Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand, the Police department intends to Purchase Desktop Computer with accessories. E-Tenders are invited from manufacturing firm or their authorized dealers as per following Schedule.

- Last date & time of receiving e-tender - 03/03/2020 up to 17:00 Hrs
- Date & time for opening of technical bid - 04/03/2020 at 11:00 Hrs

Rest all details of e-tenders with schedule & bidding documents available at - <http://uktenders.gov.in>

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Dt. February, 25, 2020  
RO. 11228

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Police HQ Dehradun

DELHIVIOLENCE

# Sonia-led team meets Prez, seeks Shah's resignation



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addresses media after a delegation led by Congress party president Sonia Gandhi met President Ram Nath Kovind to seek normalcy and peace in violence-hit Delhi at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Thursday urged President Ram Nath Kovind to call for Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation over his failure on Delhi communal violence and remind the Centre of its "raj dharma". Sonia led a delegation of party leaders including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and submitted a memorandum to Kovind.

"We call upon you and the constitutional office you hold, that the life, liberty and property of the citizens is preserved, secured and protected. You should immediately call for the removal of the home minister given the gross ineptitude, abdication of duty and his inability to contain the situation. We owe this to the citizens who have lost their loved ones, their homes and their livelihood and most of all their long cherished amity and brotherhood. We hope you will take decisive action on this matter,"

Sonia told the reporters outside Rashtrapati Bhawan after meeting the president.

Reading out parts of the memorandum to the president, Sonia said both the Delhi Government and the Centre remained "mute spectators" instead of trying to take remedial measures to control the situation.

The delegation included Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ahmed Patel, P Chidambaram, KC Venugopal, Mallikarjuna Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Anand Sharma, AK Antony, Kumari Selja and Randeep Surjewala.

Questioning Shah's role, Sonia Gandhi asked where he was as the violence spread across northeast Delhi. "What was he preoccupied with since last Sunday that he was unable, apparently, to give his attention to these grave events? For that matter, the Delhi chief minister, and the newly elected Delhi government were also completely missing from the scene," she asked.

Manmohan Singh, in his remarks to the media, said the Congress leaders conveyed to the president that what had happened in the last four days in the national capital was a matter of deep concern and national shame.

Sonia also said it was a "shameful indictment" of the Central government, the Home ministry and the Home minister himself, that the Delhi High Court had to step in (on Wednesday). It had to remind the Home ministry and the police of their principal duty to act against instigators, the rioters and those engaging in the acts of targeted violence, she said.

## CPM requests for all-party meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Thursday urged Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to take action against AAP councillor Tahir Hussain for his involvement in the riots in the national Capital.

In a letter to the CM, CPI(M) leaders Brinda Karat and KM Tewari also asked Kejriwal to call an all-party meeting in Delhi to bring communal harmony in the capital.

"We write to assure you of our Party's cooperation in efforts to bring peace and communal harmony to Delhi. We request you to urgently convene an all-party meeting in Delhi to decide how we can unitedly ensure communal

harmony and peace in the Capital," said the CPI(M) leaders.

"In this context, video images in the public domain of an AAP councillor standing on the roof of his house while petrol bombs and stones are being thrown by people on the roof in his presence, are extremely disturbing. Immediate action must be taken against him by the police. Sanjay Singh, MP has made a welcome statement that no one involved in violence should be spared regardless of political colour or religion. It would also send a strong message to the people of Delhi if you as the head of AAP also took action against him at the organisational level.

## BJP accuses Cong, AAP of 'politicising' riots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday accused the Congress and the AAP of "politicising" the riots in the national Capital and linked Congress president Sonia Gandhi's "aar yaa paar" (fight to finish) comment in December last as the starting point of deliberate provocation for violence in the city.

Addressing a Press conference at the party office, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Congress's demand for Union Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation was "petty politics" as several steps have already been taken to restore law and order in the Capital on the express instruc-

tions of Home Minister. He asserted that peace was restored in two days due to Shah's effective handling.

He accused Congress of instigating passions for violence and quoted Sonia and Priyanka Gandhi's comments on anti-CAA protests and also referred to senior Congress leaders' visits to Shaheen Bagh, the venue of 'dharna' against CAA for over 70 days.

The senior BJP leader also saw a pattern in Congress leaders' "unwillingness" to condemn controversial speeches of the likes of AIMIM leader Waris Pathan.

He said other political parties were silent on the attack on the policemen and on the death of Intelligence

Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma. "In such a situation, the duty of all political parties should be to consolidate peace," he said.

Taking on the AAP, which governs Delhi, Javadekar said that its MLAs should have worked for peace, but Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal identified riot victims by religion in the Assembly.

He alleged that attempts to instigate violence had been made for the last two months since Sonia Gandhi gave the call for 'fight to the finish' at a rally.

Javadekar said the BJP was working to restore peace and condemned the Congress, the AAP for doing politics over the violence that claimed 34 lives in northeast Delhi and left over 200 injured.

## Govt should ensure peace in Delhi: Suresh Bhaiyyaji

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of violence in Delhi which has, so far claimed 38 lives, RSS general secretary Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi on Thursday sought the Government to ensure peace in Delhi. Talking to reporters in Nagpur, Joshi also said that nobody has the right to take law into their hands and that necessary action should be taken to restore law and order in the national capital. "The government should instill peace in areas where there is ashanti (unrest)," the RSS functionary said.

## Ministry rejects US Commission, Islamic body's remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to comments by a US Commission expressing grave concern over violence in Delhi and asking India to protect Muslims, New Delhi on Thursday termed such statements as "irresponsible" and said the remarks by the commission are "factually inaccurate, misleading and an attempt to politicise the issue."

The external affairs ministry also hit out at the Organisation of Islamic Organisation which also expressed concern over

Delhi violence.

The Indian reaction to the comments by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) came a day after it expressed "grave concern" over the violence in Delhi and asked the Indian government to provide protection to people irrespective of their faith.

US presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and a number of other leading American lawmakers have also expressed concern over the clashes in several parts of Delhi in which

at least 32 people have been killed.

"We have seen comments made by USCIRF, sections of the media and a few individuals regarding recent incidents of violence in Delhi. These are factually inaccurate and misleading, and appear to be aimed at politicising the issue," external affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said here.

Though the ministry did not clarify the individuals being referred to, it is being seen as a reference to US lawmakers critical of India on the

issue of the Delhi violence.

Kumar said law enforcement agencies are working on the ground to prevent violence and ensure restoration of confidence and normalcy. "Senior representatives of the government have been involved in that process. The prime minister has publicly appealed for peace and brotherhood. We would urge that irresponsible comments are not made at this sensitive time," said Kumar.

The US Commission on Wednesday said in Washington "the ongoing vio-

lence we are witnessing in Delhi and the reported attacks against Muslims, their homes and shops, and their houses of worship are greatly disturbing."

"One of the essential duties of any responsible government is to provide protection and physical security for its citizens, regardless of faith," the USCIRF chair Tony Perkins said in a statement.

The Commission Commissioner Anurima Bhargava said the "brutal and unchecked violence" across Delhi cannot continue.

# HC judge transfer aimed at saving some BJP netas: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday alleged that the transfer of Delhi High Court Judge S Muralidhar was aimed at saving some BJP leaders in the Delhi violence case and exposed the Modi Government's "intimidation and vendetta politics" against the judiciary.

Congress said it seems those doing justice in country will now not be spared and the party alleged the government was "waging a battle of revenge" against the judiciary. Calling the transfer a classic case of "hit-and-run injustice" by the BJP Government, Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said the saffron party's "politics of revenge" has been exposed. He accused the BJP of attacking the impartiality of the judiciary.

Taking a dig at the government over Muralidhar's "sudden" transfer, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also tweeted, "Remembering the brave Judge Loya, who wasn't transferred." Special CBI judge BH Loya, who was hearing the high-profile



Justice S Muralidhar

Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case, died in allegedly mysterious circumstances on December 1, 2014.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at the government over the transfer, saying the Centre's attempts to "muzzle" justice and "break people's faith in an upright judiciary are deplorable".

"The midnight transfer of Justice Muralidhar isn't shocking given the current dispensation, but it is certainly sad and shameful," Priyanka Gandhi tweeted.

"Millions of Indians have faith in a resilient and upright

## CPM terms Muralidhar's transfer selective response to his court orders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Thursday said Justice S Muralidhar's transfer from the Delhi High Court was a "selective response" to his court orders in which he rapped the city police for "trying to shield" BJP leaders who made "hate speeches".

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau in statement demanded the government to keep the transfer order, notified late Wednesday night, in abeyance to reinforce the confidence of the people in the judicial system.

judiciary, the government's attempts to muzzle justice & break their faith are deplorable," the Congress general secretary said.

The notification of Justice

Justice Muralidhar was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, on a day a bench headed by him expressed "anguish" over the Delhi Police's "failure" to register FIRs against the alleged hate speeches made by BJP leaders Parvash Verma, Kapil Mishra and Anurag Thakur. The CPI (M) said in a statement that the transfer was recommended by the Supreme Court collegium, but it has been protested against by the Dei High Court Bar Association for well-argued judicial-administrative considerations.

Muralidhar's transfer to the Punjab and Haryana High Court came late Wednesday evening, on a day when a bench headed by him expressed "anguish" over Delhi

## Cong playing politics on routine transfer: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the Congress of politicising a "routine transfer", the BJP on Thursday rubbished speculations on the transfer of High Court judge S Muralidhar saying it was done on the recommendations of the Supreme Court.

Stating this at a press conference here, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the transfer orders were firm up in February with the consent of the Judge.

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also rejected the allegation saying Justice Muralidhar was transferred

on the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium and accused the Congress of politicising a routine transfer.

He added that a "well-settled process" was followed in the transfer of Justice Muralidhar to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

"By politicising a routine transfer, Congress has yet again displayed its scant regard for the judiciary," Prasad said in a series of tweets. His reaction came after the Congress alleged that Justice Muralidhar was transferred by the Government to save BJP leaders in the Delhi violence case.

"Transfer of Justice Muralidhar was done pursuant to the recommendation dated February 12 of the Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India," the minister said.

He said a judge's consent is taken before transferring him or her. Continuing his attack on the opposition party, Prasad said the people of India have rejected the Congress and "hence it is hell bent on destroying the very institutions India cherishes by constantly attacking them".

Referring to a tweet by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the death of Judge Loya, the Union minister said the Loya judgement has been well-settled by the Supreme Court.

country has ever seen.

"Mr Prasad at the instance of Prime Minister Modi is hell-bent on destroying the independent institution of judiciary.

Justice Satyaranjan Resigns

New Delhi: The Govt has notified the resignation of Justice Satyaranjan Dharmadhikari who was the second senior-most judge of the Bombay High Court. The Law Ministry has notified his resignation, saying it is effective from February 15. He had tendered his resignation, saying he does not want to be transferred out of Maha due to his "personal & family" reasons.

SIX-FOLD INCREASE IN URBAN EXPENDITURE: MIN

New Delhi: Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said, "Between 2004 and 2014, the expenditure incurred in urban infrastructure was 1,75,000 crore. However, from June 2015 onwards, there has been a six-fold increase in urban expenditure which is around ₹ 9,70,000 crore today," Puri said at a national conference on "Future of Urban Sanitation in India". Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Parameswaran Iyer, Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), and Manahar Valjibhai Zala, Chairperson, National Commission for Safai Karamcharis were also present.

PLEA ON OFFENSE OF HATE SPEECH

New Delhi: A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking direction to the Centre to implement a Law Commission's report which suggested changes in penal and procedural laws to effectively deal with the offense of hate speech.

SC UPHOLDS COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF 2 JUDGES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday upheld the decision of Jharkhand HC granting compulsory retirement to two judicial officers including one who had used "highly sexist" remarks during his lectures to civil services probationers. The top court said the standard of integrity and probity expected from judicial officers, Arun Kumar Gupta and Raj Nandan Rai, is much higher than that expected from other officers.

CAREER COUNSELOR PROGRAM UNVEILED

New Delhi: iDreamCareer, India's largest, unbiased, full-stack career solution and guidance platform, has unveiled an updated version of its career counselor certification program which has since produced 850+ certified counselors spread across 105 districts in India and in 6 countries globally.

# ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY BATTERY

## Govt's draft on battery waste management ready

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As demand for environment-friendly battery-operated vehicles is all set to rise in the near future in India as a measure to cut down carbon footprints, the NDA Government has prepared draft rules for battery waste management that will make it mandatory for manufacturers and dealers to collect used batteries against the new ones they sell.

The proposed draft rules the 'Battery Waste Management Rules 2020' brings under its ambit all kind of batteries such as. The notification was issued by the Union Environment Ministry recently which has uploaded it on its website, seeking objection and suggestions from the stakeholders.

The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001, had mentioned only lead-acid batteries.

The draft rules put the responsibility of collection of batteries and their safe transport to the recyclers on the manufacturers and dealers.

They will need to ensure that used batteries are sent only to the registered recyclers and that environment is not harmed during their transportation, as per the notification.

Under the new rules, battery dealers will have to issue purchase invoices (when they collect used batteries). Earlier, dealers were obliged to register with the state pollution control boards, but there was no mention of issuing purchase invoice for old batteries.

According to various reports, an estimated 2.7 billion



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pieces of dry cell batteries are consumed annually in India, but there is no collection mechanism to ensure that these batteries are safely transported to recyclers. Unsafe disposal of batteries can cause harmful metals like mercury and cadmium to leak out and enter the soil and water.

Discarded batteries, meanwhile, can be a valuable resource to recover highly useful metals in an environmentally-friendly manner.

However, these regulations will not be applicable on batteries used in equipment con-

nected with the protection of the essential security interests such as arms, ammunitions and war material, and intended specifically for military purposes; equipment designed to be sent into space (space exploration), emergency and alarm systems, emergency lighting and medical equipment.

As per Kenneth Research, the Indian electric vehicle infrastructure market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CARG) of over 40 per cent during a forecast period 2019-2025.

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As per Kenneth Research, the Indian electric vehicle infrastructure market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CARG) of over 40 per cent during a forecast period 2019-2025.

# CBI brings back toddler, kidnaped by her own father, from Dubai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday brought back a three-year-old girl from Dubai who was taken there by her father in violation of orders of Delhi High Court that is hearing a custody battle between the baby's parents.

The girl's father, Aman Lohia, had taken Baby Raina to Dubai amid a custody battle with his wife Kiran Kaur Lohia in the High Court that had asked him to deposit his passport with authorities to prevent him from leaving the country.

In a case against a High Court order, the Supreme Court had directed the CBI to visit Dubai to bring back the girl to India.

A team of CBI officials had recently gone to Dubai where it coordinated with local authorities to ensure the safe return of the girl and her father, officials said.

After the agency team arrived on Thursday morning, the CBI informed the apex court about the compliance of

its orders, officials said adding the girl will be produced before the SC on Friday. The child is presently at her mother's home under the agency's care.

The dramatic developments of Thursday were a culmination of a six-month long trail of a defiant father who in a desperate move escaped to Dubai with his daughter claiming he was a "victim of gender bias" of courts and that it was the "love for his daughter" which directed his actions.

Aman Lohia, son of a noted businessman, was fighting a custody battle for his daughter Raina in the HC after separating from his wife, a Delhi-based dermatologist.

The high court had granted Raina's custody to the mother with a parenting plan, according to which, Aman Lohia could meet his daughter for some hours on three days of a week. The court also asked him to deposit his passport, which he complied, the officials said.

On August 24 last year, when the girl had come to

meet Aman Lohia as per the parenting plan, he took her along with family confidant Pawan Kumar and maid Shiuratia Debi to Dubai using a circuitous route via Nepal and other gulf countries.

Considering "international ramifications", the Delhi High Court had handed over the probe to the CBI which had registered a case.

The Interpol had issued a 'Yellow Notice' for the girl on a CBI request. Yellow Notices are issued by the Interpol on the request of member countries to locate missing persons. The CBI had also filed a charge sheet on December 19 last year before a special court against Aman Lohia, his mother Meena Lohia, alleged accomplice Pawan Kumar and maid Shiuratia Debi Mahto, officials further said.

The agency has invoked Indian Penal Code provisions pertaining to criminal conspiracy, kidnapping from India and kidnapping from lawful guardianship among others against the businessman.

# Resolution for caste census in Bihar again

Patna: The Bihar Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution for the second time in just over a year favouring a caste-based census in 2021.

Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary made the announcement in the assembly during the pre-lunch session.

"... This is an appropriate time when the House should convey its sentiments to the authorities concerned for a caste-based census... The proposed census 2021 be conducted on caste basis," Choudhary said.

He said Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had made a proposal for a similar resolution during the debate on adjournment motion on Tuesday on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register in the Assembly, which found support from all other political parties in the House.

The Bihar Assembly had on February 18 last



year passed a unanimous resolution for carrying out caste census.

Caste-based census was conducted way back in 1931, the chief minister had said. **PTI**

# CAA-NRC-NPR PMK hails Bihar House resolution against NRC

Chennai: NDA constituent PMK on Thursday welcomed the Bihar Assembly adopting an anti-NRC resolution and lauded the Tamil Nadu Government for saying such a move was under its consideration too.

Party founder S Ramadoss called for implementing the National Population Register as per the 2010 format, even as he wanted the Government to "allay fears" over NPR.

In a series of tweets, he urged the Tamil Nadu Government to take a leaf out of Bihar and pass an assembly resolution saying no to National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"Tamil Nadu should follow Bihar and adopt a resolution against NRC in the Assembly.

Similarly, the NPR should also be as per the 2010 format," he said.

The Bihar assembly on Tuesday unanimously resolved that there was no need of NRC in the state and that the NPR exercise be done strictly according to the 2010 format.

On Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami had said aspects like an anti-NRC Assembly resolution were under the consideration of the state government. Terming Palaniswami's statement as the "right approach", Ramadoss also said "the government should allay" fears over NPR.

He also pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said NRC was being implemented only in Assam and welcomed it. **PTI**

# Owaisi's protest rally put off after request by cops in Maharashtra

Thane: A public rally against CAA, NRC and NPR, scheduled to be addressed by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi at Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district on Thursday evening, has been put off following a request by the police, an official said.

The police had requested the organisers to postpone the rally in view of the prevailing situation in the country, he said.

Owaisi was scheduled to address the rally at Parshuram Taware Stadium in Dhobi Talao area of

Bhiwandi 6 pm onwards.

The local unit of All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) had organised the rally.

However, the Bhiwanda Police Station on Wednesday sent a letter to the party's local unit, urging it to postpone the event.

"The police sent a letter to the organisers and requested them to postpone the public meeting considering the prevailing situation in the country and the organisers agreed to the request," DCP (Zone II) Rajkumar Shinde said. **PTI**

# Bangla student asked to leave India for 'anti-Govt' activities

Kolkata: A Bangladeshi student of Visva Bharati University has been asked by the Home Ministry to leave the country for reportedly engaging in "anti-Government activities".

Afsara Anika Meem, an undergraduate student at the central university, has been served a 'Leave India Notice' by the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office, Kolkata — under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The notice — which has asked Meem to leave India within 15 days from the date of its receipt — did not specify the nature of the "anti-India activities".

The woman, who hails from Kustia district of Bangladesh, got enrolled in the Bachelor of Design course at the varsity in 2018. She received the notice dated February 14 on Wednesday, one of her friends said.

Meem had allegedly shared some posts on Facebook related to anti-CAA protests inside the campus in December, and has been trolled on social media since then, a member of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) told PTI.

The Bangladeshi student, who did not receive calls, told PTI in a WhatsApp message that "I am not in a State to talk about this now".

A Bangladesh Deputy High Commission source in Kolkata said it is yet to receive any official intimation in this regard. Visva Bharati University authorities, too, could not be contacted for comments. The notice said Meem also committed visa violation. **PTI**

# J&K bank: Fresh, transparent recruitment for 1,200 banking associates, 250 POs ordered

PNS ■ JAMMU

Ending the speculation over the fate of selection list of Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Probationary Officers and banking associates the UT Government of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday went ahead and scrapped the entire recruitment process initiated in 2018.

The Administrative Council which met under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor G.C. Murmu in Jammu also directed the Finance Department to advise J&K Bank to initiate a fresh, fair, norm based and transparent recruitment for 250 Probationary Officers and 1200 banking Associates in the J&K Bank through the IBPS. This was stated by

Principal Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring, Rohit Kansal at an evening press conference.

Addressing media, Rohit Kansal also informed that various legal infirmities had been pointed out in the ongoing recruitment process. As a result the ongoing process of recruitment for these posts by this bank shall stand scrapped," he said and added that the bank is being advised to ensure that all applicants eligible in the last recruitment which has been cancelled shall be eligible for the fresh recruitment also.

He added, "The entire recruitment process will be completed by on a fast track basis within three months. The detailed modalities and announcements in this regard

will be finalized by the bank in its next board meeting.

Among other important decisions, the Government also announced new amnesty scheme for power consumers across UT of J&K. The amnesty scheme for the power consumers will come into effect from March 1, 2020.

"It decided that as a welfare measure and in order to give an opportunity to power consumers to prevent disconnection of their connections and to facilitate easy payment, the amnesty scheme envisages payment of arrears in three easy instalments," he announced. It is estimated that waiver of penalties and interests will cost around ₹600 crore to the government as against total pending dues of ₹3,000 crore," he said.

# MAHA ASSEMBLY Naseem Khan demands resolution against NPR

Mumbai: Former Maharashtra Minister and Congress leader Naseem Khan on Thursday demanded that the Maharashtra Assembly pass a resolution against the implementation of National Population Register (NPR).

Speaking to reporters after meeting Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Khan said the BJP, which shares power with the JD(U) in Bihar had supported the resolution against NPR in that State's Assembly.

"I demanded that census be conducted as per the 2010 rules and not an NPR exercise, as it is the first step to the National Register of Citizens, in which people, especially the poor, will be affected," he said.

Khan said the Chief Minister had assured him that he would seek information on the issue, discuss with the concerned authorities before taking a decision. **PTI**

# Uproar over Act in UP Assembly

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Thursday witnessed noisy scenes after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna accused the Opposition of creating anarchy in the State by supporting anti-CAA protesters.

Khanna made the allegation during a heated exchange with Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary, who earlier said the Minister had ignored a question raised by him on the Budget tabled in the House on February 18. Khanna, who is also the finance minister, had earlier finished his reply to the debate on the 2020-2021 budget.

With Chaudhary accusing Khanna of ignoring his question, the Minister took a dig at him over the Opposition leader's earlier statement outside the House that those sitting on anti-CAA dharna would be given pension.

This triggered a heated exchange between Khanna and Chaudhary with the latter reiterating that the pension is given to patriots.

"Those struggling for restoration of democracy are given pension. We are also

**Khanna asked what was there to oppose in the CAA. 'The SP, BSP and Congress are trying to create anarchy in the State,' he asserted**

getting it as 'loktastra senanis' (those arrested during emergency)," Chaudhary said.

Khanna at this asked what was there to oppose in the CAA.

"The SP, BSP and Congress are trying to create anarchy in the State," he asserted. The Minister's remark triggered an uproar in the House with the Opposition members going on their feet and the ruling party members seen trying to shout them down. Chaudhary earlier accused the ruling party of pursuing the politics of dividing the society on Hindu-Muslim lines. **PTI**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ADDITIONAL ROOM IN 30 NOS. 'A' TYPE HOUSES RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS AT GUSSEY, HISAR. (3RD RE-CALL) SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENTS/TOOLS/CHEMICALS FOR SETTING UP OF PROJECT/PCB DESIGN LAB IN DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING BPSMV, KHANPUR, KALAN SONEPAT	02.03.2020 25.03.2020	2.46 LACS	http://www.gjust.ac.in/	01662-263105 uwgjuher@gmail.com
2	BPSMV, KHANPUR, KALAN	EQUIPMENTS/TOOLS/CHEMICALS FOR SETTING UP OF PROJECT/PCB DESIGN LAB IN DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING BPSMV, KHANPUR, KALAN SONEPAT	25.02.2020 11.03.2020	8.60 LACS	http://www.bpswomeniversity.ac.in	9416776660 Sany_dahiya2001@yahoo.com
3	MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK	SUPPLY OF FURNITURE ITEMS FOR OFFICE OF FOREIGN STUDENTS CELL	20.02.2020 12.03.2020	8.60 LACS	https://mdurohtak.etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-363175 xen_civil@mdurohtak.ac.in
4	HSVP, KARNAL	CATERING	27.02.2020 17.03.2020	50000/-	www.hsvp.org.in	01842267909
5	HSVP, KARNAL	PROVIDING MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, WATCH AND WARD SERVICE OF SWIMMING POOL	27.02.2020 18.03.2020	20000/-	www.hsvp.org.in	01842267909
6	GMDA, GURUGRAM	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF MASTER ROAD OF SECTOR 58 TO 67 (ROAD TRANSFERRED FROM HSVP), GURUGRAM	27.02.2020 06.03.2020	152.43 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in/	0124-2746614 sek-gmda@gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 80089

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPLN, PANCHKULA	AUGMENTATION OF 0.4" SQ. ACSR CONDUCTOR OF 220KV D/C KHATKAR- MUND LINE WITH HIGHER CAPACITY CONDUCTOR HAVING CURRENT CARRYING CAPACITY ABOUT 1200A	CLOSING DATE 02.03.2020	EMD 64.27 LACS	https://www.hvpln.org.in.	0172-2583789 pro@hvpln.org.in
2	HVPLN, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF 66 KV LINE BAYS FOR LIL0 OF 66 KV ROJ KA MEO-SOHNA LINE AT 66 KV SUB STATION NIMOTH (R-6).	CLOSING DATE 18.03.2020	7.82 LACS	https://www.hvpln.org.in.	0172-2583789 pro@hvpln.org.in
3	HVPLN, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF 66 KV LINE BAYS FROM 220 KV SUB STATION RANGALA RAJPUR AT 66 KV SUB STATION PURHANA	CLOSING DATE 18.03.2020	1.92 LACS	https://www.hvpln.org.in.	0172-2583789 pro@hvpln.org.in
4	HVPLN, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. 66 KV LINE BAYS FOR 66 KV SUB STATION PURHANA AT 220 KV SUB STATION RANGALA RAJPUR (R-7)	CLOSING DATE 18.03.2020	3.69 LACS	https://www.hvpln.org.in.	0172-2583789 pro@hvpln.org.in
5	HVPLN, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NOS 33KV LINE BAYS ODGG FOUNDATION & ODCT AT 220KV S.STN. RANGALA RAJPUR (R-8)	CLOSING DATE 18.03.2020	3.49 LACS	https://www.hvpln.org.in.	0172-2583789 pro@hvpln.org.in
6	DHBNV HISAR	FOR PROVIDING 4 NOS. MAHINDRA BOLERO JEEP UNDER XEN CONST. HISAR/BHIWANI AGAINST NIT NO. 02/XEN/CONST./HSR/2019-20	02.03.2020 24.03.2020	18.78 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	98124-52516 xenconsthisar@dhbnv.org.in
7	MC SONIPAT	BILL PRINTED, BILL DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAX WITH GEO TAGGING AND RECEIPT INFORMATION ALONG WITH MOBILE NO. BILL UPDATION ON THE WEBSITE ON M.C. SONIPAT, PROGRESS MONITOR, DASHBOARD OF BILL DISTRIBUTION PAYMENT DEFAULTS ETC., AFTER BILL DISTRIBUTION, BILL CORRECTION, PAYMENT G-8 POSTING AND FINAL DEMAND AND COLLECTION REGISTER	CLOSING DATE 11.03.2020	Nil/1,00,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	semsonipat@gmail.com
8	HOUSING BOARD HARYANA, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF BALANCE WORK OF 273 NOS. (ACTUAL 138) T/S FLATS FOR B.P.L. FAMILIES INCLUDING INTERNAL PH & EI SERVICES IN HBC, SECTOR-1 AT TARAWALI, DISTRICT KARNAL. (TO BE EXECUTED ON THE RISK & COST OF M/S TYCOON CONST. CO.) CORRIGENDUM IF ANY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT https://etenders.hry.nic.in	04.03.2020 20.03.2020	1.21 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2221744 xenbhknl@gmail.com
9	H.S.A.M. BOARD, PANCHKULA	PDG FIRE FIGHTING & FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IN MERCANTILE BUILDING (SHOPS, STORES DEPARTMENTAL STORES, MARKETS IN COVER SHED) IN INDIA INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURE MARKET, GANAUR, DISTT.SONIPAT. + 1 OTHER WORK	26.02.2020 11.03.2020	1.54 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812100311 xenelectkl2019@yahoo.com
10	DHBNV, HISAR	SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 1 NO. 33 KV S/STNS. (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS) CONSISTING OF 8 PANEL SET OF 11 KV BREAKER ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED 33 KV LINES (4.39KM) AND 11 KV LINES (2.50KM) I.E. 33 KV S/STN. SADALPUR UNDER 'OP' CIRCLE HISAR WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF DHBNV AGAINST NIT NO. TED- 343/PD&C/2020	28.02.2020 20.03.2020	5.44 CRORE	www.dhbnv.org.in	01662-223187 ceptc@dhbnv.org.in
11	DHBNV, HISAR	SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 1 NO. 33 KV S/STNS. (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS) CONSISTING OF 8 PANEL SET OF 11 KV BREAKER ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED 33 KV LINES (4.39KM) AND 11 KV LINES (2.50KM) I.E. 33 KV S/STN. SHEKHUPUR SOTTER UNDER 'OP' CIRCLE FATEHABAD WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF DHBNV AGAINST NIT NO. TED- 344/PD&C/2020	02.03.2020 23.03.2020	2.98 CRORE	www.dhbnv.org.in	01662-223187 ceptc@dhbnv.org.in
12	DHBNV, HISAR	SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 1 NO. 33 KV S/STNS. (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS) CONSISTING OF 8 PANEL SET OF 11 KV BREAKER ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED 33 KV LINES (8.50KM) AND 11 KV LINES (6.00 KM) I.E. 33 KV S/STN. SULHERA UNDER 'OP' CIRCLE JIND WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF DHBNV AGAINST NIT NO. TED-345/PD&C/2020	02.03.2020 23.03.2020	4.58 CRORE	www.dhbnv.org.in	01662-223187 ceptc@dhbnv.org.in
13	HPGCL, PANIPAT	( NIT NO.17/PTPS/CMD-C/1131)	20.02.2020 20.03.2020	43.06 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
14	HPGCL, PANIPAT	( NIT NO.18/PTPS/CMD-C/1136)	20.02.2020 20.03.2020	2.47 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
15	HPGCL, PANIPAT	( NIT NO.124/BMD-8/01 VOL-XII)	22.02.2020 23.03.2020	EMD 1.69 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
16	HPGCL, PANIPAT	( NIT NO.PTP/POM-200030)	20.02.2020 25.03.2020	1.40 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
17	HPGCL, PANIPAT	( NIT NO.PTP/POM-200026)	20.02.2020 25.03.2020	1.52 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
18	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	RENOVATION/UPGRADATION OF 6 NOS. ROOMS (101 TO 104 ROOMS WITH TOILET AT FIRST FLOOR, NEELKANTHI SUIT AND VIP SUITE AT G.F.) AT KINGFISHER, T/C, AMBALA.	26.02.2020 17.03.2020	21.50 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in	921640040 haryanatourism@gmail.com
19	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	WORK FOR SUPPLYING, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING WITH O&M OF PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM AT BRAHMA SAROVAR AND SAN-HIT SAROVAR, KURUKSHETRA(RE-INVTED)	26.02.2020 17.03.2020	163.25 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in	921640040 haryanatourism@gmail.com
20	HSAMB PANCHKULA	188 ROTAVATORS.	28.02.2020 19.03.2020	5 LACS	www.hsamb.org.in,	9815920025 mcellhsamb@yahoo.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 80087

# PM Modi holds talks with Myanmar Prez, 10 pacts signed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the focus on the socio-economic development of the southeast Asian nation, India and Myanmar on Thursday signed 10 agreements as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Myanmarese President U Win Myint.

The Myanmarese president, who arrived in India on Wednesday, received a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He and First Lady Daw Cho Cho were welcomed by President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Modi.

The Prime Minister and President Myint later held talks at Hyderabad House and 10 agreements were signed between the two countries. The focus of many agreements was on development projects under India's assistance, particularly in the conflict-torn Rakhine state.

The agreements included an MoU on 'Cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking'. An agreement regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was also signed between the two sides.

Three agreements for development projects in the conflict-torn Rakhine state were also signed during the president's visit. The Rakhine state has witnessed a lot of violence in the past and scores of Rohingyas had fled the state facing persecution. The Myanmarese President and his wife also paid respects to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

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# Create separate homeland for KPs in Valley: Panun Kashmir

PTI ■ JAMMU

Panun Kashmir, an organisation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, on Thursday reiterated its demand for carving out a separate homeland with a Union Territory status for the rehabilitation of the community in the Valley.

It said a bill should be passed in Parliament to "recognise the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley".

"Neutralisation of Article 370 has made future reorganisation now legally very easy and creation of a union territory east and north of river Jhelum in Kashmir for the permanent rehabilitation of displaced Hindus of Kashmir a distinct possibility," a statement issued by Panun Kashmir leaders Ajay Chrungeo and Agnishekhar said. **PTI**

# PM to lay foundation stone for 296-KM Bundelkhand E-way

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday lay the foundation stone for the 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot.

The expressway will be supplementing the nodes of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor announced by the government in February 2018, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) maintained on Thursday.

The Uttar Pradesh Government is constructing the Bundelkhand Expressway, which will pass through Chitrakoot, Banda, Hamirpur and Jalaun districts.

The expressway will link the Bundelkhand area to the national capital through the Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the Yamuna Expressway.

The prime minister will also be launching 10,000 farmers' producer organisations all over the country at Chitrakoot on that day. Nearly 86 per cent of farmers are small and marginal with average land holdings in



the country being less than 1.1 hectare.

These small, marginal and landless farmers face tremendous challenges during agriculture production phase such as for access to technology, quality seed, fertilisers and pesticides, including requisite finances.

They also face tremendous challenges in marketing their produce due to lack of economic strength, the statement pointed out. FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) help in collectivisation of such farmers in order to give them the collective strength to deal with such issues.

Members of the FPO will manage their activities together in the organisation to get better access to technology, input, finance and market for

faster enhancement of their income.

"Though the report of 'Doubling of Farmer's Income' recommended formation of 7,000 FPOs by 2022 towards convergence of efforts for doubling farmers' income, the central government announced the creation of 10,000 new FPOs to ensure economies of scale for farmers over

the next five years," it said. In Allahabad, Modi will be distributing assistive aids and devices to senior citizens, under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, and people with disabilities, under the ADIP scheme, at a mega distribution camp.

This is the biggest ever distribution camp being held in the country in terms of the number of beneficiaries covered, number of appliances distributed and value of aids and appliances distributed, the statement said. At the camp, over 56,000 assistive aids and devices of different types will be distributed free of cost to more than 26,000 of beneficiaries. The cost of the aids and devices is over ₹19 crore, it said.

2018 BHIMA-KOREGAON VIOLENCE

# 348 cases withdrawn so far: Anil

Maha also withdraws 460 cases booked for demanding Maratha reservations

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Government has withdrawn 348 cases registered in connection with the 2018 Bhima-Koregaon violence and 460 cases booked during the various agitations demanding Maratha reservations, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh informed the State Legislative Council here on Thursday.

Replying to a question in the upper house of the Maharashtra Legislature, Deshmukh said: "Out of the total 649 cases registered in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon violence, the State Government has withdrawn 348 cases. Similarly, 460 cases out of the total 548 cases registered during agitations demanding Maratha reservations."

Deshmukh said that the

process of withdrawing cases in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon violence was continuing. "The cases that we intend to withdraw are all of minor nature. However, we will not withdraw cases registered for destruction of property and assault on police officials in connection with Bhima-Koregaon violence," the minister said.

Slamming the previous Devendra Fadnavis government for carrying out an improper investigation into the Bhima-Koregaon case, Deshmukh said: "The state government may have handed over the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), but the state government will order a probe into the Bhima-Koregaon case under the Bombay Police Act, 1951 or section 10 of the NIA Act, 2008."

Deshmukh also came down heavily on the previous BJP-led government for dubbing the activists who were vociferous critics of the ruling BJP and Modi government at the Centre, as "urban naxals".

The minister said that despite a directive issued by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on December 2 to withdraw all cases filed against protesters who had opposed the proposed oil refinery and petrochemicals complex at Nanar in Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district, "only three cases" had so far been withdrawn. Deshmukh's statement about his plans to order a fresh investigation into the Bhima-Koregaon violence case should be seen in the context of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's decision to let the NIA take over the investigations into the 2018 Bhima-Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case.

Deshmukh had said early this month that the State Home Ministry was seeking legal

opinion before going ahead with its plan to order a fresh probe into the Bhima-Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case under section 10 of the NIA Act. "The Maharashtra government may have let the NIA carry out the investigations in the Bhima-Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case to the NIA, but we will seek a legal opinion if we can institute an SIT to investigate the case," the minister had said.

If the NCP—which holds the Home portfolio in the state—decides to go ahead with the SIT probe into the Bhima-Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case, it will send a clear message to its ruling ally—Shiv Sena that the chief minister—can ill-afford to "overrule" his party's allies in the MVA on crucial matters like the one in the case. Simultaneously, the NCP is bound to trigger a confrontation between the State and Centre over a parallel probe on the Bhima-Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case.

## Patil: Cases against Aarey protesters to be dropped

Mumbai: The cases filed against Aarey Metro car shed protesters will be withdrawn within a month, Maharashtra Minister Satej Patil said on Thursday.

Patil, the Minister of State for Home, made the remarks after meeting some of the protesters here.

There is a due process to withdraw the cases. I spoke to them (the protesters who met him on Thursday) on the issue. I assured them that the word we gave to them on behalf of the Maha Vikas Aghadi will be kept.

The cases will be withdrawn in the coming one month, Patil told reporters outside the state legislature building in south Mumbai.

The Mumbai Police had filed cases against several protesters, including green activists, in October last year after they hit the streets to oppose felling of trees in the Aarey Colony, a green belt in suburban Goregaon, to make way for a car shed which is part of the metro-3 project. The Supreme Court ordered a stay on the deforestation activity in the days that followed, but over 2,000 trees had already been cut down by authorities by then.

The Shiv Sena-led MVA government, which assumed office on November 28 last year, had in December announced withdrawal of the cases filed against metro car shed protesters. **PTI**

## FADNAVIS' BANGLES REMARKS ROW

# Sena complains to RSS about Amruta's 'objectionable' remarks against Aditya

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The controversy over a spat between the ruling Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance and the Opposition BJP over former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' 'bangles' remark assumed a new dimension on Thursday, as a Sena leader complained to the RSS about 'objectionable' remarks by Fadnavis' wife Amruta against his party's leader and Minister Aditya Thackeray.

A day after Fadnavis' banker-wife Amruta came to the defence of her and hit out at Aditya through a tweet, president of the state-run Vasantrao Naik Sheti Swavlamban Mission (VNSM) Kishore Tiwari—in a letter written to RSS' general secretary Bhayyaji Joshi—objected to the term "cocooned worm" used by her to describe the Sena minister in her tweet put out on Wednesday.

Addressing a BJP workers rally held at Azad Maidan on Tuesday, Fadnavis had slammed the Sena for its failure to act against Pathan for his much-discussed "15 crore..." statement. "Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena may be wearing bangles but we are not. If someone says something then he will be given an answer in the same way. BJP has this much power."

Responding to Fadnavis' "bangles" comment, Aditya tweeted on Wednesday: "Shri @Dev\_Fadnavis ji, normally I choose not to comment back. Kindly apologise abt bangles

comment: bangles are worn by the strongest of all—the women. Politics can go on, but we need to change this discourse. Rather disgraceful coming from a fmr CM."

A couple of hours later, Fadnavis' banker-wife Amruta Fadnavis—who has of late been taking political stands on various issues and coming out in support of her former chief minister-husband—slammed Aditya through a tweet. "A cocooned worm will never understand the 'Pun' of life! It's meant to thrive on the glory of the silken life woven for its comfort by its ancestors @AUThackeray! Proud of our struggles @Dev\_Fadnavis & each and every hardworking member of @BJP4Maharashtra!," Amruta tweeted.

Tasking strong exception to Amruta's tweet, Tiwari stated in his letter to the RSS general secretary: "... celeb-banker Amruta Fadnavis sought to defend her husband (Devendra) by suggesting that Aditya was a 'cocooned worm' and she said 'A cocooned worm will never understand the 'Pun' of life! It's meant to thrive on the glory of the silken life woven for its comfort by its ancestors @AUThackeray!'"

"This unwanted activism of both Devendra and Amruta is the main cause for souring of good relationship between BJP-Shiv Sena and due to over-confidence and arrogance, which is core cause of historic SS-NCP-INC mega alliance (sic)," Tiwari stated.

In his letter -- a copy of

which he posted on his Facebook page, Tiwari said: "Amruta's unwanted political activism is beyond the understanding and culture of Indian culture as no opposition politician's spouses—husband/wife, anywhere all over India criticises Govt like this (No even the deserted Jadhobabeni! There are examples like wives of L K Advani, Yeshwant Sinha, Jeswant Singh, Shatrungan Sinha, Arun Shourie etc do not do such things!"

"Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray's wife Meenati Thackeray quietly functioned in shadow and her contribution came out after her sad demise... Same is the case of CM Uddhav's wife Rashmi, his cousin Raj T's wife Sharmila (who are) in background without making useless remarks and controversial gestures," Tiwari wrote.

Tiwari also took the examples of the wives of BJP leaders Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and Rajnath Singh who, he said, "don't go around abusing Sonia/Rahul or husbands of political rivals" "What's Amruta Fadnavis' hidden agenda? Is she trying to take over the state BJP which has no prominent women leader left now? Will she be acceptable to the BJP-RSS mindset? These are the questions being asked by the people," Tiwari stated.

Tiwari urged the RSS general secretary "to look into the matter and ensure that such unhappy womenfolk does not spell doom for BJP in 2024, in centre & State."

## DELHI VIOLENCE

# Political parties to pick issue for Bengal civic polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Delhi mayhem may polarise Bengal municipal elections in a big way. There are reports that the political parties of the State are planning to 'utilise' Delhi riots as an issue to influence the voters in the upcoming municipal elections.

According to sources in the BJP local leaders and workers have been asked to stage local level meeting and place the party's views not only on its development plans but also the tumultuous situation in the National Capital and the groups responsible for it.

"We will tell the truth to the people as to what happened in Delhi. How things were planned to defame India during President Trump's visit. The politically educated people of Bengal must know about the reality as the opposition parties are running a hate campaign in the media accusing the Hindus of perpetrating the riots which is not the real side of the story," said a senior leader of the State committee accusing the rival community for holding the

Capital to ransom.

"Is the central Government a fool to embarrass itself by inciting riots when President Trump is present. Is the BJP so immature as not to understand how Pakistan will take mileage out of the situation. In fact it is the traitors of the nation who have organized the riots to defame India... The Delhi Police in fact has exercised great restraint in not opening fire in many places just because our Government has great regard for the minorities unlike Pakistan," another BJP leader said. This leader, and a party candidate in the Lok Sabha elections was himself accused of giving inflammatory speeches during campaigning.

On whether the BJP will go to people with an intent of polarizing the atmosphere the leader said "the atmosphere has already been polarized as the Hindus have awakened and learnt to assert their rights. If some people think that speaking the plain truth is polarization, then so be it."

The Trinamool Congress on the other hand was less vocal

while its leaders said the people will be told as to how the BJP was trying to divide India along communal lines.

"It is not only Pakistan which is trying to divide India but it is also the BJP which is dividing the country by playing into the hands of Pakistan," a senior TMC leader and a Minister said adding his party would go to the people with the report card containing what Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has done for the State in the past nine years.

"And if the BJP tries to communalise the atmosphere then we will not let them do that. Rather we will use the situation to expose their communal plans," the Minister said adding definitely Delhi riots would be raised during the election campaign but to tell how BJP and

Hindutva goons applied the Gujarat model in Delhi to break the society along communal lines. CPI(M)'s Sujjan Chakrabarty, a party central committee member however accused both the parties for being "complementary to each other."

## Akhilesh: BJP responsible for violence

Sitapur (UP): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday blamed the BJP for the communal violence in the national capital, saying this is their "Gujarat model", and alleged that the saffron party does politics "by spreading hatred".

The death toll in the violence over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in areas in northeast Delhi increased to 34 on Thursday, and over 200 people are injured.

"BJP is responsible for the riots. It's their Gujarat model, which is nothing but spreading hatred," Yadav said when asked about the violence in Delhi.

"When the US President was here and lakhs of policemen were deployed, how can a riot happen? Had the government and police wanted, the riots could not have happened," he said. **PTI**

## Rallies in Kolkata

Kolkata: Appealing to people to save the Country from divisive forces, two separate rallies were taken out in Kolkata on Thursday by the Trinamool Congress's women's wing and the Congress-backed Chhattrapada Parishad over the communal violence in Delhi.

Thousands of women took part in the rally organised by the Trinamool Mahila Congress. It began at Hazra Crossing and culminated at the Gandhi statue in the Maidan area. The rallyists, led by state minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, shouted slogans targeting the "politics of polarisation and hatred professed by the Sangh Parivar". **PTI**

# India evacuates 112 people from China, 124 from Japan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday brought back 112 people from the coronavirus-hit Chinese city Wuhan and another group of 124 from Tokyo who were on board a cruise ship infected by the deadly virus. All the evacuees will undergo a 14-day quarantine in two batches at the ITBP and Army facilities in Chhawal and Manesar respectively here.

The Union Ministry of External Affairs said that AC-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft of Indian Air Force evacuated 76 Indians and 36 foreign nationals from Wuhan while an Air India flight brought back the group of 124 people from Tokyo.

The foreign national evacuated from Wuhan included 23 from Bangladesh, six from China, two each from Myanmar and Maldives and one each from South Africa, USA and Madagascar.

Besides 119 Indians, the people evacuated from Japan included two from Sri Lanka and one each from Nepal, South Africa and Peru. The group was among 3,711 people who were on board the coronavirus-infected Diamond Princess ship when it docked at the Yokohama port near Tokyo on February 3.

"In line with India's neighbourhood first policy and Indo-Pacific vision, the special flight also evacuated five foreign nationals — two Sri Lankans,

one Nepalese, one South African and one Peruvian," MEA spokesman Raveesh Kumar said.

Three Indian crew members didn't board the Air India flight as they conveyed their wish to continue their stay on-board the cruise ship to complete the period of extended quarantine put in place by the Japanese government.

Out of the total 138 Indian nationals originally on-board Diamond Princess, 16 Indian crew members have tested positive for coronavirus and are receiving medical care at an onshore medical facility in Japan. They will undergo a 14-day quarantine at the facility set up by the Indian Army in Manesar. Earlier, India had evacuated around 650 Indians from Wuhan in two Air India flights. All these people later tested negative for the virus and were allowed to go home after over a fortnight of quarantine.

"In all 723 Indian nationals and 43 foreign nationals have been evacuated from Wuhan, China in these three flights," an MEA statement said.

The AC-17 Globemaster flown to Wuhan on Wednesday had carried 15 tonnes of medical supplies for coronavirus-affected people in China.

On the medical supplies delivered by India to China, the MEA said they will help aug-

ment the country's efforts to control the coronavirus outbreak which has been declared as a public health emergency by the World Health Organisation.

The assistance is also a mark of friendship and solidarity from the people of India towards the people of China as the two countries also celebrate 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations this year," it said.

A team of doctors, paramedics and others will be present at the quarantine facility round-the-clock and the inmates will be provided facilities like food, bed and indoor entertainment to spend time, as per the statement.

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, RUDRAPRAYAG

#### CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to the Tender Notice No-1793 Dated 18/02/2020 for "Disposal (Collection, Segregation and Composting) of Mule Excreta" ON SHRI KEDARNATH CHARDHAM YATRA ROUTE of tender documents is hereby amended to the following extent:-

Financial Bid Opening Date and Time: - 11 March 2020, 04:00 PM  
Pre Bid Meeting of the Said Tender: - 02 March 2020, 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Further details can be downloaded from our website <https://rudraprayag.gov.in/>. The duly sealed offer tender addressed to the, District Magistrate, Rudraprayag must reach this office at Rudraprayag on or before 11 March 2020 up to 12 noon.

No. 1869 District Magistrate  
Date:- 26.02.2020 Rudraprayag.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Priyanka, D/o Shri Pappu, R/o N-208/30, Sawan Park Extn., Ashok Vihar Phase-3, Delhi, Age 21 years, Height 5, Complexion Fair, Round Face, Medium Built, Wearing Green colour suit & pink colour salwar and badami colour jutti in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 15.02.20 at about 09.30 am. In this regard a vide DD No. 12-A dated 16.02.20 has been lodged at PS Bharat Nagar, Delhi.

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

E-mail ID: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) SHO  
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS : Bharat Nagar, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 27301200, 27301800  
DP/20/NW/20

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, RUDRAPRAYAG

#### CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to the Tender Notice No-1757 Dated 13/02/2020 for "Design, Installation, Commissioning and Operationalizing on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) Model" ON SHRI KEDARNATH CHARDHAM YATRA ROUTE of tender documents is hereby amended to the following extent.

Para 7:- Services to be provided by Vendor/ Consortia (Consortia will be allowed)  
Para 12 (XII) - Connectivity/ communication Timeline for the setup of alternate network will be finalized after the finalization of tender  
Para 14:- Vendor/Firm etc. registered under MSME will be given exception as per the Government of Uttarakhnad Order No- 1542/V11-3-13/143-Udhoyg /2003 dated 20 August 2019.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Further details can be downloaded from our website <https://rudraprayag.gov.in/>. The duly sealed offer tender addressed to the, District Magistrate, Rudraprayag must reach this office at Rudraprayag on or before 5 March 2020 up to 12 noon.

No. 1871 District Magistrate  
Date:- 26.02.2020 Rudraprayag.

**बिहार सरकार**  
जल संसाधन विभाग  
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
बागमती प्रमंडल, रूनीसैदपुर  
अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -04/2019-20  
(S.B.D. 02/2019-20)  
राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक निविदा  
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) पर)

क्र.सं.	कार्य का विवरण	प्रारंभिक राशि (लाख रु. में)	अंदाजित राशि (लाख रु. में)	अंदाजित राशि (लाख रु. में)	अंदाजित राशि (लाख रु. में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	बेनीपुर ग्राम के नदी किनारे स्थित 62 मीटर लंबाई का पंचवट्टा नदी किनारे सड़क के साथ बैंगल के दो राईड की सुरक्षात्मक कार्य (रैवेन्ज) सं-154/94	384.81	7.70	10,000.00	17700.00	15.05.2020
2	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्यात करने की तिथि					दिनांक: 24.02.2020
3	निविदा कागजात जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय					दिनांक: 03.03.2020 से दिनांक 04.03.2020 के 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक अथवा (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> पर)
4	प्रो बिड सिटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि					दिनांक: 03.03.2020 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में (कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय, बागमती प्रमंडल, रूनीसैदपुर)
5	निविदा अगलोज करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय					दिनांक: 05.03.2020 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> पर)
6	रकम की बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय					दिनांक: 07.03.2020 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> पर)
7	वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय					समय पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> पर)
8	निविदा खोलने का स्थान					<a href="http://eproc.bihar.gov.in">eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> पर
9	निविदा की वैधता अथवा निविदा प्रणाली की अंतिम तिथि से)					120 दिन
10	विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता					कार्यालय अभियंता, बागमती प्रमंडल, रूनीसैदपुर
11	विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट					<a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> एवं वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.prdbihar.gov.in">www.prdbihar.gov.in</a> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
बागमती प्रमंडल, रूनीसैदपुर  
PR. No. 16503 (WRD) 2019-20  
अवेध शासक एवं मादक द्रव्य के सम्बंध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

# Maha: Bill making Marathi mandatory in schools OK'd

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a bill which makes Marathi a compulsory subject across all schools in the state.

The development came on 'Marathi Bhasha Din' (Marathi language day) which is celebrated on February 27, the birth anniversary of poet and Jnanpith award winner late V V Shirwadkar.

The state Legislative Council

had passed the legislation, titled 'Maharashtra Compulsory Teaching and Learning of Marathi Language in Schools Bill, 2020', on Wednesday.

Minister for Marathi Language Subhash Desai introduced the bill in the Lower House on Thursday.

Desai said the legislation was on the lines of laws in Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, and it makes teaching and studying Marathi compulsory in all schools (irrespec-

tive of the board to which they are affiliated).

Marathi will become a compulsory subject in all schools from standard 1st to 10th in a phased manner from the academic year 2020-2021, he said.

It will be introduced in the first and sixth standards from the coming academic year and extended to further classes in subsequent years. **PTI**

**BSES** BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi  
TENDER NOTICE Date: 28.02.2020  
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	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/19-20/SV/AR/AN/843	"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 73 NOS. ROUTERS IN BRPL"	1.25 Cr	2.5 Lac	12.03.2020 15:45 HRS	12.03.2020 16:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-  
For details in respect of Equipment/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submition of tender documents etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)  
Head (Contracts & Materials)  
Regd. Off. - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: [UJ]105DL2001FLC111527  
Telephone No. - +91 11 3999 7235 | E-mail: [brpl.education@relainfosoda.com](mailto:brpl.education@relainfosoda.com) | Website: [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**Notice**  
As per decision of the Government of Tripura, vide U.O.No.735/ACS/Agri./Horti., dated 10.02.2020, the process for engagement to the post of "Director of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Tripura" on purely contractual basis, published vide this Department's Advertisement No.F.2(269)-Agri/Estt/2019-20/12045-48, dated 07.01.2020, is hereby cancelled.  
Sd/-  
(R. Debbarma)  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Tripura  
ICAD/1765/2019-20

**DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST) I  
M. 16 MAYUR VIHAR PKT E PHASE II NEW DELHI 110091  
PRESS NOTICE TENDER  
NIT NO.64 /East-V (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money/ (EMD)	Tender Fees	Date of Release of tender in E- Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E- Procurement Solution
1	Replacement of old deep and damaged PSC distribution main from 23 Block BPS to 23 Block Chowk Trilokpuri in AC-55 East-I	Rs. 25,93,798.00/-	Rs. 51,900.00/-	500.00	25.02.2020 2020_DJ.B_18 8699_7	16.03.2020 At 03:15 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 862/2019-2020  
Sd/-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-I

## Costlier casualty

The Delhi violence is serious because it shows that binaries have been deep-set and a panic economy has taken over



The story of the Delhi violence lies much beyond the headlines or the number of the dead. The terrifying visual of a man, whose photo of being beaten up by a violent mob simply because he wore a certain kind of clothes and sported a beard went viral, validated the pogrom-like sequence of events as the new normal and its casual acceptance in normal life. It's something as statistical as an accident on the crime charts. It is serious simply because it happened in Delhi, the nation's capital no less, and not in a far-flung town in

India clouded by obscurantism. It is a test case that could get copied elsewhere and worse, be passed off as another law and order situation that can be tamped down by Section 144. When a judge like Justice Muralidhar, whom junior lawyers call an inspiration, gets transferred overnight for daring to question the Delhi police, then we should worry, with deep furrowed brows. Simply because an independent judiciary is the only hope for citizens seeking justice and rights that the Constitution guarantees to them. If this institution is broken, then our statute books mean nothing at all and public morality simply spins out of the orbit of our nation as we knew it. Till now. If north-east Delhi, where various communities have literally lived cheek by jowl for decades and more, is torn asunder by blood-curdling rage at the mere remark of an extremist, it shows that Indians, as a people, are harbouring a tinder box in their minds. This is a separatism that has nothing to do with the unresolved wounds of Partition. But an otherisation propaganda that has been bred systematically on a fertile ground of insecurities and economic denial. The polarisation of the mind is a far deadlier poison for it blunts the edge of humanity. It also means a subterranean conflict, which may bubble up any moment and because of its smouldering nature, engulf every other human possibility of reason, wisdom and compassion. If BJP motormouth and "go and kill" instigator Kapil Mishra has not been reined in despite protests from within his own party, it legitimises the politics of hate as a yielder of fast dividends and delegitimises public service. Politically, socially and culturally, there is a sudden vacuum which nobody wants to plunge into or commit to. That explains why the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), despite winning a solid verdict, seems uncertain about the public stance it should take. It cannot stick its neck out simply because nobody, including the BJP, knows what shape panic can acquire in a vacuum. Prejudice has taken over national pride to such an extent that everybody listens to it, not without it.

The only certainty about these uncertain times is that it is not the best time to seek our place in the world. US lawmaker Bernie Sanders has expressed reservations and concern as has the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). Even UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "very saddened" by the casualties in Delhi. He called for maximum restraint and violence to be avoided. Although the Modi Government sought to describe such comments as "factually inaccurate and misleading," truth is the world doesn't expect India to indulge in genocidal politics. Especially, when we use the optics of the Sabarmati ashram for visiting dignitaries but forget the non-violence mantra preached by its original resident. When it comes to the Opposition, the BJP anyway wins the battle on competitive whataboutery. So when senior Congress leaders, led by party chief Sonia Gandhi, met President Ram Nath Kovind to demand the resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah over his "abdication of duty", the party reminded it of the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, another motormouth who hasn't been reined in, asked the Congress to review its role during that period. Only RSS general secretary Suresh "Bhaiyyaji" Joshi advised the BJP that nobody had the right to take the law into their hands and that the Centre should ensure that peace is restored in Delhi. Placatory, high-sounding terms that are abstract enough to spare the BJP's extreme elements, all of whom have been birthed by its ideology. In the end, it is time for the civil movement to free itself from the piecemeal appropriation of causes and issues by political parties. Or be exploited by them. For Delhiites, who have found a new identity in a city that is a melting pot of all migrants, the time for denial is over. We cannot be sporting identity cards like a curfew pass. We must stand up and be counted.

## Imperfect justice

Harvey Weinstein is convicted of third-degree rape and a criminal sexual act. He's staring at just 5 years



The battle of justice for women, who take on rich and powerful men for molestation, or worse rape, is long, lonely and hard. No matter in which part of the globe they are, whether it is India, Pakistan, the UK or even the biggest and one of the most technologically-advanced Western countries in the world, the US. What else justifies the fact that movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, who was accused by no less than 90 women of sex crimes, was convicted only in two cases whereas he was found guilty of raping one

woman and committing a non-consensual sex act on another? It was imperfect justice because he was acquitted of the most serious charges — two counts of predatory sexual assault and one count of first-degree rape, which might have put him in a cell for the rest of his life. The jury only convicted him of third-degree rape and a first-degree criminal sexual act. So now he is looking at just five years in prison. And this was the man, who throughout his long career as a film producer, had silenced multiple accusations of rape and sexual assault with threats, denials, character assassinations, monetary settlements and Non-Disclosure Agreements. He had even scared off journalists who tried to expose his dastardly acts and bring him to justice, till tenacious journalists from the *New York Times* and the *New Yorker* brought him down with their exposés in 2017.

However, the verdict is a small victory for women around the world battling hard against their sexual predators. The Unnao rape victim, who accused former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar of rape or the law student, who tried to bring former BJP MP Swami Chinmayanand to book for raping her repeatedly, would tell you at what personal peril they managed to be heard. Weinstein's conviction is also a defeat of the most belligerent victim-shaming and blaming tactics that are used by ruthless defence lawyers in such cases. More importantly, it broke the stereotype of what a "perfect victim" is as justice was given to the two women who did not end their relationship with their tormentor simply because he was who he was. It is a small measure of vindication for the six women who testified that Weinstein attacked and sought to intimidate them as they were put through the grinder by his lawyers. They can now feel proud of the part they played in getting the predator put behind bars, where he belongs. It is also a victory for the #MeToo movement, which was fast classified as a fad than a cause.

## Some hard, home truths

It is an irony of our times that the very Government, which promised to protect the country from any divisive internal or external force, has failed to fulfill its duties



AJOY KUMAR

When the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was voted to power in 2014 and then even more resoundingly in 2019, one of the pillars that the party sought to stand on was its claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will represent a strong Government and that it will protect the country from any divisive internal or external force. It is this assurance that forms the backdrop of the now-infamous belief that the Prime Minister's "56-inch chest" will provide India with a protective shield. Events that unfolded in Delhi over the past week, where clashes broke out between communities that led to the killing of 35 people (at the time of writing), have thrown cold water over the Prime Minister's hollow claims of leading a strong Government.

In fact, there will be few instances in the history of independent India where a citizen has felt more unsafe than he/she does right now. Delhi is in the midst of its worst riots since 1984. And as relevant authorities examine who exactly is to be blamed for the violence that has been unleashed, there are some issues that are indisputable and require some tough answers.

The first is, how did such a riot take place, that, too, in the capital city? Delhi is not just the capital of this country but is also home to India's most well-funded and trained police force. Let this sink in. Theoretically speaking, this means that the Delhi police, which functions under the Central Government that is controlled by the BJP and more specifically comes under the direct supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is India's best equipped police force. This means that in terms of numbers and assistance, compared to other forces across the country, the law and order situation in Delhi could not have been better protected. Well, hypothetically speaking, at least.

In addition to this, Delhi is also the centre for all intelligence agencies in the country. It is home to several intelligence bodies, whose job includes to be alert about all possible acts of violence or riots that may erupt in the country. But the intelligence bodies and the police force have failed to prevent violence in not more than a 10-km radius from Parliament. How does this make those residing in other parts of the country feel? If the Government could not stop acts of mass violence in places where its base is the strongest, how exactly does it plan to protect the rest of the country?

Let's once assume that this is not true. But the element of bias cannot be denied because as per reports, the Delhi police was sent at least six alerts on Sunday (February 23), asking for deployment to be stepped up after BJP leader Kapil Mishra called for a gathering in support of the Citizenship Act at Delhi's Majpur. Why then was the police so helpless in preventing violence? This is a greater cause for concern because if the Delhi police is better equipped to tackle violence than any other police force



in the country, why did it fail to deliver?

These are not the only questions over the conduct of the Delhi police. Why are videos of police personnel destroying CCTV cameras doing the rounds? The only way to get answers and to ensure that such riots do not happen again is to dig deep and find out as to what exactly happened. But how will the destruction of CCTV cameras help answer that question?

What I am concerned about and what should concern all of us is the establishment of truth and the delivery of justice to all those people who have been affected by this senseless violence. This can be done only by taking appropriate action against those involved in the violence. Perpetrators include leaders of political parties of every hue and any official, who allowed such violence to go unabated for three days.

The more serious concern is that slowly but steadily, we have reached this shameful place. There are a few reasons for this. One is the lack of resistance by the bureaucracy. I have some sympathy for the bureaucrats here though. Governments of the past have often shown — and the BJP Government has mastered — how adept they are in the art of abuse, twist and wrangle. This is in contrast to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of the civil services being the "steel frame" of good governance.

Bureaucrats are now routinely

“ IF THE STATE MACHINERY IS FAILING US AND INSTITUTIONS ARE DISPLAYING A LACK OF BACKBONE, THE ANSWER AND BURDEN (UNFORTUNATELY OR FORTUNATELY) FALL ON EVERYDAY PEOPLE. IN THIS FIGHT, THE ONLY THING WE MUST MAKE SURE IS THAT WE FIGHT, NOT WITH VIOLENCE, BUT WITH VIGOUR, VOICE AND VOTE TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF THE LAW ”

ly being threatened with transfer orders, raids by income tax authorities or the Enforcement Directorate or any other agency which is at the Centre's disposal with a degree of reckless abandon. I don't think we would have to go more than a few weeks behind to find an instance of such abuse. It has permeated all institutions, including the Election Commission of India.

More recently came the brazen example of Justice S Muralidhar of the Delhi High Court, who received a presidential order transferring him to the Punjab and Haryana High Court. This order came a day later after he pulled up the Solicitor General and the Delhi police for inaction during the riots in north-east Delhi. Coming down heavily on the Delhi police, he pulled it up for its failure to register FIRs against alleged hate-speeches by three BJP leaders, Anurag Thakur, Kapil Mishra and other usual suspects from the BJP.

While pressure by a Government on the bureaucracy and the judiciary is not an invention of the BJP — there are obvious examples of the Emergency, 1984 and 2002 — rarely has there been as concerted an effort by a Government to undermine all institutions, all at once. Circumstances are not helped by members of these institutions either. So often, we see bureaucrats being asked to jump and respond back with, "How high?" In the judiciary, too, we have recently seen a sitting

Supreme Court judge lavish heavy praise on the Prime Minister even as serious allegations of abuse of State power were being examined by the very same court.

Such acts and comments by individuals in positions of authority — whether in the bureaucracy or in the judiciary or any other institution — have chilling effects on the citizens. It erodes their faith in the institutions and the Constitution. This poses a greater risk to India's democratic health in the long term than individual acts of abuse of power by the BJP that I have highlighted in this article.

So what do we do? If the State machinery is failing us and institutions are displaying a lack of backbone, the answer and burden (unfortunately or fortunately) fall on everyday people. Unfortunately because this is a great burden that the civil society must now discharge when its institutions appear to be found wanting. Fortunate because there is rarely a time in history when any Government or institution can suppress the will of the people. The only thing we must make sure is that we fight, not with violence, but with vigour, voice and vote to uphold the rule of the law and the Constitution. Victory then will be undeniable for everyone who wants to live in a unified, peaceful and prosperous democracy.

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

## SOUNDBITE

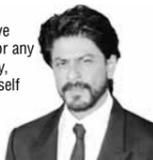
When the US President was here lakhs of policemen were deployed. How could a riot happen? Had the Government and police wanted, it would not have happened.

SP chief —Akhilesh Yadav



I am a big believer in education. I truly believe that the way forward for any country, any family, city, state is by educating itself more and more.

Actor —Shah Rukh Khan



Ongoing incidents in Delhi are more concerning in the context of efforts to target and potentially disenfranchise Muslims, in clear violation of international human rights standards.

USCIRF Chair —Tony Perkins



Instead of taking active steps to remedy or defuse the situation, the Central Government as also the Delhi Government have remained mute spectators.

Congress president —Sonia Gandhi



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The science of prayer

Sir — Every year, the country celebrates February 28 as the National Science Day in remembrance of Dr CV Raman, who discovered the scattering of light, also known as the "Raman effect." It is fascinating that great scientists strongly believed in the power of prayer, which helped them discover the secrets of nature.

This reminds me of a story about a young businessman sharing a compartment on a train with an elderly gentleman. When he noticed that the old fellow was quietly and intently praying with his Rosary, the young man chided him for his "superstition" and told him that science had rendered the beliefs of religion irrelevant. "How did you come to discover that?" the old gentleman asked.

His companion didn't really know how to answer the question then and there, so he offered to send him a few texts and public lecture notes on the subject for his enlightenment. "What's your address?" he asked. "I'll send you the material via the post."

The old man rummaged in

### Amid chaos, heroes still exist

This refers to the editorial, "Delhi aflame" (February 26). Blood, violence and hate sum up the last few days in Delhi. This cauldron has been going on for four days and counting, and citizens, along with the rest of the country, can only helplessly look on in horror. The visuals have been so graphic that they would make one shut out the disturbing imagery and news headlines making their way onto the screen. But despite the flood of negativity, glimmers of hope remain.

Even as rioters and hateful, communal bigots give us a glimpse of India's ugliest underlying tendencies, there are still people in the city who can restore faith in humanity. Still, there are heroes as the city burns. These heroes are the people who have chosen to put humanity first at a time that demands that religion be prioritised. They are the people who stood up for their neighbours and fellow citizens, even while the State machinery failed to contain the bloodshed. They are those, who after the destruction had passed, were there to pick up the pieces, hand-in-hand with their neigh-



bours and friends. They have also fought to ensure that daily life continues, despite the upheaval. Their actions are a soothing balm in these tumultuous times, a reminder that India and its children still remember and honour the spirit of the Constitution — one that promises to secure justice, liberty, equality and fraternity for its citizens.

Javvadi Lakshmana Rao  
Andhra Pradesh

### Shun prejudice

Sir — This refers to the report, "CCPD issues notice to central medical institutions for denying job to Divyang doc" (February 26). The office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCCPD) has made

the right intervention by stepping in to issue notices to the Delhi-based central medical institutions, Safdarjung Hospital and VMM College. They allegedly denied a teaching job to Dr Nonita Gangwani, an MD in physiology and a wheelchair user with 70 per cent disability due to multiple sclerosis, despite her

clearing an exam and interview for the post. At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given special status to the physically challenged and called them Divyang to emphasise their special place in the society, such discrimination is condemnable. Action should be taken against the officials responsible.

Lalit Adesara  
Pune

### Dirty political game

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "The court rap" (February 27). The violence in the capital, a result of political manoeuvres, was avoidable. It reflects badly not only on the police force but also on the functioning of the high echelons of bureaucracy. Keeping the Delhi police under the control of the Union Government has provided much space for shameless and dirty politics. To make governance accountable, the command of the police must be given to the State Government.

Vineet Keshri  
Via email

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

**FIRST COLUMN**

## India's baptism by fire

The nation is passing through a transitional period in its history, from a feudal agricultural society to a modern industrial one



MARKANDEY KATJU

Few people in India or for that matter, outside the country, are able to understand what is happening in the nation, particularly after the recent mindless violence in the national Capital in which as many as 38 people lost their lives and a whopping 150 were injured, apart from the massive destruction of private and public property. So let me try and explain this as best as I can. India is passing through a transitional period in its history, from a feudal agricultural society, to a modern industrial one. At present it is not entirely feudal nor entirely modern but stuck somewhere in between. Though there was a limited degree of industrialisation in India after 1947, it was not complete, like in Western countries (or even anywhere near that of China). Feudal remnants in the form of casteism, communalism, religious bigotry, superstitions, gender discrimination and so on are still powerful and well-entrenched.

A transitional period is always a very painful time in history as it is full of turbulence and strife. If we read the history of Europe from the 16th to the 19th centuries, when Europe was passing through its transition from a feudal to modern society, we find it was full of turbulence, turmoil, wars, revolutions, chaotic conditions, intellectual ferment and so on. It was only after going through this fire that modern society emerged in Europe. At present, India is going through this fire and we are going through a very painful epoch, which might last another 15-20 years or so.

For what is a transitional period? It is a time when the old society is being totally uprooted and torn apart, when ancient values are being challenged and destroyed but new values are yet to be created. Can such a historical transition be achieved peacefully? One wishes it could be so. However, historical experience shows otherwise. The vested interests in the old order always put up a fierce resistance to any fundamental change in the political and social order, as that would endanger their interests. So this change can only be achieved by some kind of revolution.

People ask when and how such a revolution will come about in India. Who will be its leaders? No one can say for sure. One can never be rigid about historical forms. But this much can be said with certainty: Some kind of revolution is inevitable in India because everything has collapsed here. All our State institutions have become hollow and empty shells, while on the other hand the Indian economy is sinking and the people's distress is growing. Nature does not like a vacuum and chaos cannot continue forever. So some alternative to the present political and social system is bound to emerge.

At present we have a parliamentary democracy in our country but this runs largely on the basis of caste and communal vote banks. Casteism and communalism are feudal forces which must be destroyed if India is to progress. However, parliamentary democracy further entrenches them. So we have to have an alternative. What that alternative system will be has to be thought out by intellectuals and for this they have to use their creativity. Intellectuals are the eyes of society and without them a society is blind. However, the test of every political system or act is one and only one: Does it raise the standard of living of the people? Does it give them better lives?

Before an actual revolution there has to be an intellectual revolution. For instance, before the French Revolution of 1789 there were several decades of intellectual struggles by great thinkers like Voltaire, Rousseau and the other thinkers of the Enlightenment, who attacked the feudal system, religious bigotry and so on. This intellectual revolution is needed to change the mindsets of the masses who are at present steeped in feudal ideas and feudal practices.

So the present stage in Indian history is the pre-revolutionary stage, i.e. the stage of the intellectual revolution. All patriotic, broad-minded intellectuals must contribute to it. In particular, they must attack the poison of communalism which has gripped India, and which is being promoted and fostered by our medieval-minded political masters.

All forces which divide our people and spread religious or caste hatred must be strongly combated, for only a mighty united people's struggle can lead to the revolution which will transform India into a prosperous, highly developed and highly industrialised country. It will also get rid of the scourge of poverty, record and rising unemployment, appalling level of child malnourishment, almost total lack of proper healthcare and quality education for our masses, atrocities and discrimination against minorities and Dalits, widespread corruption, gender discrimination, female infanticide, child marriage farmers distress and so on, which have bedeviled Indian society for long.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**THE ARMY SHOULD BE DEPLOYED IN DELHI AS THE POLICE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION AND INSTILL CONFIDENCE.**

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER  
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



**CM WAS READY TO COOPERATE IN MAINTAINING PEACE IN DELHI BUT TODAY HE TALKS ABOUT CALLING THE ARMY. THE POLICE IS WORKING 24X7**

—DELHI BJP PRESIDENT  
MANOJ TIWARI

# Shouldering responsibility

South Asian nations face a water crisis which poses a threat to agriculture and industries. Given its increasing influence, is India willing to become a provider of water security in the region?



SANDEEP KUMAR DUBEY

On May 23, 2013, while speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the Indian National Defence University, Gurugram, the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh exuded confidence that India was well-positioned and willing "to become a net provider of security" in its immediate region and beyond. In 2015, the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi, came out with an assessment report titled, *India as a Security Provider*. The report highlights India's growing military capabilities and its proactive responses to the human and non-human threats to the littoral nations of the Indian Ocean, which corroborates the country's image and positioning as a benign power and net security provider in the region. But the question here is: Is India also willing to play the role of net security provider when it comes to ensuring water security in the region? The above-mentioned IDSA report points out, "While traditional security threats limit India's role; cooperation on non-traditional threats opens up a new opportunity for India to play a regional role." Thus, it is a geostrategic imperative for India to focus on non-traditional security threats in the region emerging from sectors such as water and energy.

Today all the nations of South Asia face a water crisis in one form or another due to a range of factors — population growth, urbanisation, inefficient use, bad management and lack of governance, among others. The unfolding water crises pose a serious threat to sustainable development, agriculture and industries, poverty reduction and the ecosystem. Climate change has exacerbated the brewing water crises like never before. The United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has termed climate change as "the most systematic threat to humankind."

Water is a common resource and managing and governing it has always been a challenge at any scale, be it local or regional. A participatory robust institutional architecture for water governance is needed to manage and govern resources in a systematic and efficient way. Many of the important water bodies in South Asia are transboundary and thus their basins spread in more than one country. Integrated basin management would not be a reality without regional cooperation at the South Asian level.

Most of the water treaties in South Asia are bilateral in nature, which form the core of the South Asian political ecology of governance. Be it upper or lower riparian, nations in the region are apparently not content with the existing treaties. For example, India, an upper riparian nation, does not seem to be happy with the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, a lower riparian nation in this case. Between Bangladesh, a low riparian nation and India, the Teesta river issue still remains unresolved, with Dhaka asking for an increase in water share. People in Nepal, an upper riparian nation, think water treaties with India produces environmental injustices to the riverine people of Koshi river. Along with this kind of political ecology of the region, the issue of sovereignty in South Asia is a very sensitive topic. South Asia represents a typical case of the Westphalian concept of sovereignty, where each nation has exclusive sovereignty over its territory and the natural resources, including water. No nation would like to be seen as compromising its sovereignty. However, in reality, in the face of globalisation and trade integration, each nation is bargaining its sovereignty with the other nations and regional and international actors. These two factors — the existing South Asian political ecology and the power politics played out in the name of sovereignty — both

“WATER WOES COUPLED WITH THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE RESULTED IN A DISTINCT SET OF CHALLENGES THAT CALL FOR INDIA'S PROACTIVE ROLE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION. WHAT IS REQUIRED TODAY IS A CONTINUOUS REGIONAL COOPERATION IN PROVIDING WATER SECURITY, WHICH IS AT PRESENT MARRED BY THE ABSENCE OF AN INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR WATER GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH ASIA. INDIA SHOULD PLAY A LEAD ROLE IN INSTITUTIONALISING REGIONAL COOPERATION BY ESTABLISHING A ROBUST ARCHITECTURE



hinder and open up opportunities for regional cooperation at the same time. Some may think that regional cooperation compromises on the sovereignty of a State. However, the notion of sovereignty can be broadened to accommodate and facilitate the idea of cooperation, which is not about imposing suzerainty of one nation on another.

India has been quite active in the region in terms of coming to the rescue of its neighbours when they are in trouble. A case in point is when Maldives faced a water crisis in December 2014, India launched Operation NEER to immediately provide Maldives with it. The people and the Government of Maldives were appreciative of India's quick response and help. Having said that, one must be mindful that those were more of a response to a crisis that emerged and similar exercises could be useful to tackle future contingencies of that sort. However, water woes coupled with the effects of climate change have resulted in a distinct set of challenges that call for India's proactive role in the South Asian region. What is required today is a continuous regional cooperation in providing water security, which is at present marred by the absence of an institutional architecture for water governance in South Asia.

India should play a lead role in institutionalising regional cooperation by establishing a robust architecture. It has already set an example with the launch of South Asian Satellite in 2017, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his tweet termed as a "symbol of South Asian cooperation" and "a journey to build the most advanced frontier" of regional cooperation and partnership. With India looking for a larger regional role, it cannot afford to be a security consumer. It has to metamorphose itself into a credible secu-

rity provider. Benjamin Kienzie, a faculty member of Defence Studies at King's College London, elucidates, "A security provider has a stronger interest in the immediate security of a third party, rather than in direct security gains for itself...the action of a security provider easily lead to a win-win situation...A security consumer, on the other hand, is primarily interested in its own security and is largely indistinct towards the security needs of third parties...In general, security consumers create easily win-lose situations..." Notwithstanding, he makes it clear that a security provider in no way compromises its own security interests.

Domestically India has made some progress to improve water governance. The then Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) constituted a committee led by Mihir Shah to suggest institutional reforms for water governance to deal with the water challenges that India faces in the 21st century. In July 2016, the Committee came out with a report titled, *A 21st Century Institutional Architecture for India's Water Reforms*. The report makes a number of critical suggestions to strengthen the governance of India's water resources. One of them is about its shape and structure. The report underlines that "polycentric governance regimes characterised by a distribution of power but effective coordination structures perform better."

Considering water as one of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change, the report stressed that the ability to respond to it is strengthened by polycentric governance regimes. The existing political ecology of South Asia makes the space of water resources a geopolitically contested zone. Governance is needed to protect the envi-

ronment, to save the ecology and to manage water resources in an integrated and holistic manner. Polycentricism is inherent in South Asia and by default distribution of power is effected by the very nature of South Asian sovereignty. What is missing essentially is the effective coordination to realise and unlock water governance potential in the region. Effective coordination can be established only through a well-structured institutional architecture involving all the actors and stakeholders. With the emergence of non-State environmental actors and groups in the region, the role of governments has receded in water governance and self-organised governance networks have found prominence.

In their article "Reflections on Actor-Network Theory, Governance Networks, and Strategic Outcomes", Ludmilla Meyer Montenegro and Sergio Bulgacov caution that, "self-organised governance networks can impede (policy) implementation...or they can enhance the efficiency of policy implementation...Thus, it is important to determine how these networks are formed, who forms them and how they function, since they have such direct impacts on governance. The more we know about networks, the better we understand governance dynamics and its relationships with the Government, informal mechanisms, and private actors"

India should painstakingly study the governance networks that exist today in South Asia for conceptualising a regional institutional architecture for water governance in the region, to not repeat another SAARC which is falling under its burden.

(The writer works as a Senior Programme Manager for climate and water projects at a German foundation and is a policy commentator)

# Make nature's value visible

If bureaucrats could accept poverty-alleviation as a mainstream agenda to make a powerful diminution of rural poverty, accounting for the GDP of the poor can be the way forward



MEGHA JAIN

It has taken the world a while to reach the understanding that nature can never be taken for granted. Unfortunately, in India, this is not the case and utilisation of common natural resources like forests, green cover, oceans, rivers, fish stocks and so on, doesn't reflect anywhere in our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) accounting, as these are difficult to chronicle. This economic inconspicuousness of nature's services becomes an underlying concern, which has generated debate and discussions like

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiated by the United Nations in 2007. TEEB is a global initiative focussed on "making nature's value visible". Its main objective is to mainstream the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels. It aims to achieve this goal by following a structured approach to valuation that helps decision-makers recognise the wide range of benefits provided by ecosystems and biodiversity, demonstrate their values in economic terms and where appropriate, capture them in decision-making.

Although conservationists like Pavan Sukhdev and Gretchen C Daily — pioneers in illuminating and quantifying the economic value of our natural environment — who are awarded with the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 2020, have clearly put forward the same opinion, acceptance remains elusive. The economic invisibility of nature to

drive humanity and dependence upon market-based economic systems, remain at the heart of deserved recognition to account for nature in the GDP, especially in relation to the survival of marginalised sections of society. This invisibility somehow hampers the cognition to acknowledge the GDP of the poor via negative externalities. Often, in the process, the secondary sector (industrial) omits to make the required dent due to an invisible characteristic attached to the transformation, from sourcing of raw material to processing of finished produce.

Think-tanks and economists realised the requirement for true demonstration of environmental economics or "greenomics" for its invisible values much earlier and American biologist and philosopher Garrett Hardin's *The tragedy of the commons* is an exemplar to this. For the uninitiated, the tragedy of the commons is a situation in a shared-resource sys-

tem where individual users, acting independently according to their own self-interest, behave contrary to the common good of all users by depleting or spoiling the shared resource through their collective action. It is quite worrisome that big business houses and people at large are not able to value the gratuitous support provided by nature due to imprudence and the incompetence to distinguish private goods from public goods.

Greenomics is all about economic factoring of public and non-marketed (those not made by man and not transacted in the market) goods in computation of the national domestic product of an economy. It is definitely essential (and poses a challenge in a way) to evaluate the intrinsic economic value, as most of the business minds have tried to comprehend today. One such endeavour comes through the Global Initiative for a Sustainable Tomorrow (GIST) platform to quantify the impact of nega-

tive externalities by allocating economic values to invisibles to make it a plausible option for inclusion by the bureaucrats and corporates.

The concept of GDP accounting of the poor appears to be crucial in that it has to blend sustainability along with big data that is accessible to all. The TEEB framework facilitates all of the above by merging it with data analytics, technology and sustainability.

Certainly, it is not about placing a price on nature, rather it is about recognising, demonstrating and valuing nature's services to people. Nobody is buying or selling a cloud. The reality is that forests can generate rainfall that is vital for agricultural productivity. However, recognising and demonstrating that true scientific value is the reality now.

The idea propagated by TEEB's Indian members, "GDP of the poor", holds relevance especially in a fragile atmosphere of everlasting ecological uncertainties that undoubtedly will

decide the future placement of the nation on the global map. Their report signals that the rural production system would suffer the most, given the destruction of our ecosystems. The question that we must ask ourselves is, that if nations like Vietnam, Indonesia and so on, can separately compute the GDP of the poor, why not India, despite three of the members on the board of the TEEB being Indian. Initiatives like zero-budget natural farming in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are welcome and the need of the hour. If bureaucrats could accept poverty-alleviation as a mainstream agenda to make a powerful diminution of rural poverty, accounting for the GDP of the poor can be the way forward.

(The writer is Assistant Professor and Senior Research Scholar, DRC/FMS, University of Delhi. Inputs by Kushankur Dey, Assistant Professor, IIM Lucknow. The views expressed are personal.)



**FOREIGN EYE**



## A NATION ON FIRE FOR ITS FREEDOM

Over 30 people have died and hundreds have been injured in New Delhi. The Prime Minister talks of peace and brotherhood, but he has led his country here. The political opposition is enfeebled. He continues efforts to muzzle civil society. Yet it is fighting back. Indian citizens have expressed their revulsion at the country's direction.

(The Guardian editorial)

AGR CRISIS

COAI rings alarm bells

Asks Govt to ease terms for AGR dues' payment, cut in licence fee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body COAI has sent out a distress signal to the government seeking easier terms for payment of statutory dues by telcos, including extension of loans at lower rates to cover AGR liabilities, as also fast implementation of floor prices, to rescue the troubled sector.

With the telecom industry plunging into a deep, unprecedented crisis, the association has raised an alarm over banks' unwillingness to take any risk with regard to the sector, and asserted the "need to give a clear message to banks that government is there to support the sector."

"Banks are currently unwilling to take any risk with respect to the telecom sector and are constantly asking telecom service providers to reduce their exposures by refusing to issue new bank guarantees or even to renew bank guarantees," COAI Director General,

Rajan Mathews said in a letter to Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash.

Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) has also said that the requirement of financial bank guarantees for securing licence payments should be done away with. In case Telecom Department is of the view that financial bank guarantees are needed, the same should be reduced to one quarter of licence fee, as per the industry body. COAI also sought an immediate cut in licence fee levy to three per cent from 8 per cent and reduction in spectrum usage charges.

Citing India's low average revenue per user compared to markets like China, Brazil and Russia, it further said data prices in India are a fraction of those in markets like the US, China, Germany, France and others.

"Therefore, floor pricing is imperative to ensure the sector is sustainable and in a position to bear the deferred spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, while continuing to invest in world class networks," COAI said. COAI's letter, dated

February 26, came even as Vodafone Idea has reportedly made it clear to the government that it won't be able to pay court-mandated AGR dues in entirety, unless a bailout is extended immediately.

In all, 15 telecom entities owe the Government ₹1.47 lakh crore in unpaid statutory dues — ₹92,642 crore in unpaid licence fee and another ₹55,054 crore in outstanding spectrum usage charges.

Of the estimated dues that include interest and penalty for late payments, Airtel and Vodafone Idea account for about 60 per cent.

These dues arose after the Supreme Court, in October last year, upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-core businesses in calculating the annual AGR of telecom companies, a share of which is paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer. The Supreme Court, earlier this month, rejected a plea by mobile carriers such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea for extension in the payment schedule and asked companies to deposit their past dues for spectrum and licences.

AGR-hit Voda Idea wants 7-8 times hike in mobile data tariffs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea has demanded fixing minimum tariffs for mobile data at ₹35 per GB, around 7-8 times of current prices, and for calls at 6 paise per minute along with monthly charges from April 1 to enable it pay statutory dues and make its business sustainable.

The loss-making telco is under pressure to clear adjusted gross revenue dues of more than ₹50,000 crore to comply with a Supreme Court order. The company has sought 18 years time to clear the dues, including a three-year moratorium on payment of interest and penalty, according to official sources.

"There are number of demands that Vodafone Idea has put across the government for its survival. The company wants minimum price of data should be fixed at ₹35 per gigabyte and minimum monthly connection charge at ₹50 from April 1, 2020. These are tough demands which is a problem for government to fulfil," an official told PTI on the condition of anonymity. Current

mobile internet prices are in the range of ₹4-5 per GB. According to the source, Vodafone Idea wants minimum price of outgoing calls should be fixed at 6 paise per minute.

The demand to raise call and internet rates from Vodafone Idea comes within three months of company raising prices by up to 50 per cent.

"According to the company, increase in mobile call and data rates will help it generate revenue to the same level as Vodafone and Idea individually generated in 2015-16. The company has said that it will take three years to get to that level after tariff hike hence it has sought three-year moratorium for payment of AGR dues," the source said.

A Vodafone Idea spokesperson declined to comment on the matter.

The Government levies licence fee and spectrum usage charge based on revenue earned by telecom companies.

Telecom companies and government had entered into a dispute over ascertaining revenue calculation.

Not in sound state; can meet liabilities only with Govt support: Voda Idea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Troubled Vodafone Idea has written to the telecom department expressing its inability to pay full AGR dues unless the government takes urgent measures, including allowing staggered payment, reduction in levies and implementation of floor prices in the crisis-ridden sector.

The letter to the communications ministry comes at a time when the company is confronted with AGR dues of over ₹53,000 crore and has paid a mere 7 per cent of its liabilities so far.

Warning that it is "not in a sound financial state", Vodafone Idea said the company would be in a position to meet its liabilities only if the government initiates steps including allowing set offs for GST credit accumulated so far, and permitting staggered mechanism for payment of balance amount of interest, penalty, and interest on penalty. It said adjustment of GST credit due from the Government could help in meeting its AGR payment.

BUSINESS CORNER

BHARTI AXA USES WHATSAPP TO DELIVER POLICY

Mumbai/New Delhi: Bharti AXA General Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, on Thursday said it has started delivering policies and renewal premium to its customers through the instant messaging platform — "WhatsApp". The company is the first amongst non-life insurers in India to introduce the entire bouquet of service initiatives such as policy documents, renewal notices and claim intimation for its customers by using WhatsApp chatbot, an intuitive and user-friendly chat structure where the customers can raise requests simply through numeric inputs.



GAIL LAUNCHES ITS ON LINE INITIATIVE

New Delhi: GAIL has been striving to play a significant role in providing "Clean energy & Beyond" for better environment & sustainable living considering "Environmental Responsibility" is one of the core elements of its vision statement. Towards this, GAIL (India) limited has taken up the online initiative called #GreenDriveWithNaturalGas to create awareness among the Indian masses about greener mobility through the use of Natural Gas as cleaner fuel option along with other cleaner mobility solutions. This initiative encourages citizens to take greener initiatives for a better environment. An on-ground activation for pledge taking under this initiative was also executed at AutoExpo 2020 where GAIL had participated for promoting Natural Gas as a greener mobility fuel option. Thousands of people have participated in the online pledge initiative since AutoExpo2020



OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL VAJRA LAUNCHED

Chennai: In an impressive ceremony held at L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli, Chennai, the sixth coast guard offshore patrol vessel 'Yard-45006 VAJRA' was launched by Geeta Mandaviya, wife of Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping, Chemical & Fertilizer on Thursday.



MSME AWARDS GIVEN BY GADKARI

New Delhi: On Thursday National MSME awards were given by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in a function at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The awards in various categories were given to MSME Entrepreneurs and States for their outstanding efforts for the promotion of and development of the MSME in their jurisdiction.

NHPC ORGANISES FREE MEDICAL CAMP

New Delhi: NHPC, India's premier hydropower company organised a free medical camp at Pali village, Faridabad on Thursday under its CSR-SD scheme. The camp was inaugurated by Krishna Kumar, Civil Surgeon, BK civil hospital, Dr. Kamla Fartyal, Chief General Manager (Medical Services), NHPC, Dr. Rakesh Ranjan, Senior DCMO, NHPC, Dr. Ram Bhagat, DCMO and Malaria In-charge, BK civil hospital, Faridabad and Dr. Bina Rastogi from Pali PHC alongwith NHPC paramedical staff and doctors from Sarvodaya Hospital, Faridabad and Centre for Sight, Faridabad were also present during the camp. The camp was organized by NHPC in association with Civil Hospital, Health Department Faridabad, Sarvodaya Hospital, Faridabad and Centre for Sight, Faridabad. The camp was highly successful and 650 patients from the nearby areas availed the free medical consultation. During the camp free medical consultation was given on heart disease, gynecology, pediatrics, eye, orthopedics etc. and blood sugar, blood pressure, ECG etc. tests were conducted and necessary free medicines were also provided as per the requirement. During the camp, patients also underwent eye examination, out of whom 176 patients were provided spectacles free of cost.



VIL, COAI push for urgent relief measures ahead of crucial DCC meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) has told the government that it is unable to pay Supreme Court mandated ₹53,000 crore dues and sought state support to survive the crisis, a contention that was supported by industry association COAI.

With the crucial meeting of DCC likely to be held on Friday to discuss relief measures for the AGR-hit industry, VIL has made a strong push for settling off ₹8,000 crore of GST credits and a three-year moratorium on payment of the remaining amount which should be staggered over 15 years at a simple interest rate of 6 per cent.

It has also sought drastic cut in licence fee and fixing of a minimum price of calls and data.

VIL, which had last week paid ₹3,500 crore out of the outstanding dues, in a letter to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said it is "not in a sound financial state" to settle the dues and sought "urgent support from the government".

Coronavirus may hit global GDP by over \$250 bn: Industry body

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coronavirus outbreak may negatively impact global growth by 30 basis points or \$250 billion, industry body PHDCCI said on Thursday.

PHDCCI President DK Aggarwal said disruptions in the global supply chains will not only hit China's exports but also the exports of the importing countries as they import a large chunk of raw materials and intermediate goods from China while exporting to other respective destinations.

"At this juncture, we need to boost our domestic consumption demand and domestic capacities to mitigate the likely impact of coronavirus on global trade," said Aggarwal, adding that sectors such as pharmaceuticals, solar and iron and steel have been facing disruptions in imports of raw materials from China due to the outbreak of the virus.

According to Aggarwal, as China is a major player in global trade, contributing around 13 per cent in world merchandise exports.

Govt steadily moving towards less regressive tax system: Sitharaman

IANS ■ GUWAHATI

The government was "steadily but clearly" moving towards a less regressive taxation system and removing the criminal angles which are unwanted in every Act dealing with tax issues, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

"Eventually, we hope to have in India a simplified taxation structure, completely reduced rates of taxation, and therefore an easy-to-comply system. So as regards taxation we went in that route.

"Now, if you notice, as we are talking of removing or reducing the personal income tax, we removed the dividend Distribution Tax totally. So every time we are taking a step towards simplifying, or a regressive taxation," Sitharaman said during an interaction with traders and industry representatives here on the Union Budget 2020-21.

The Finance Minister, who was accompanied by Finance Secretary Rajeev Kumar, DEA Secretary Atanu Chakraborty, Revenue Secretary A.B. Pandey and SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, said it was a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reform-mindedness when dealing with businesses. "We are steadily but clearly moving towards less regressive system."

Responding to queries from the businesspeople, she said it was also the government's clear cut policy to remove elements which introduce the criminality angle to even a civil omission or commission as regards business laws. "So I think even within the first six months of the present tenure, we have, in one or two Acts, very clearly diluted the criminality angle and in some cases clearly removed them also.

"Even as we speak, there is work going on to look at the Companies Act to see what are the provisions in which criminalisation is coming up and we are trying to remove them," she said.

India Post Payments Bank now caters to 2 crore customers

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday announced that India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) now has 2 crore customers under its ambit.

"In August last year, IPPB had reached the landmark of 1 crore customers in just its first year of operations. The next 1 crore customers have been acquired and onboarded in just 5 months. On an average, IPPB has been opening/maintaining a run rate of 33 lakh accounts per quarter," an official statement said.

With the launch of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) Services in September 2019, IPPB has now become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank, it said, adding that with AePS services any common person with a bank account linked to Aadhaar can perform basic banking services such as cash withdrawals and balance enquiry irrespective of the bank they hold their account with.

India's gas demand at inflection point, to rise by 66% in 5 yrs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's domestic gas demand is at an inflection point and is expected to see a 66 per cent volume growth over the next five years, primarily driven by sustained weak LNG prices, as per a report. Gas demand is expected to rise from 148 million standard cubic meters per day in 2018-19 to 250 mmscmd by FY25, Elara Securities said in a report.

The bulk of the incremental demand will come from city gas distribution (CGD) operations being rolled out in 400 districts. As much as 52 mmscmd of additional demand will come from retailing of CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to industries and households, it said. Another 35 mmscmd is to come from the power sector and 15 mmscmd from fertilizer plants.

"Domestic gas demand is at an inflection point and we expect 66 per cent volume growth or 102 mmscmd over the next five years, given an environment of sustained weak LNG prices, owing to a global supply glut and muted demand from China, which has been aggravated by the coronavirus outbreak," it said.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person 1. Mohan 2. Jagdish 3. Arun & 4. Rajmal Gupta, R/o Premises right hand side of Kharsa no. 1285 old Delhi Gurgaon road near opp Yes Bank Kapashera, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 424303/2016 u/s 135 Electricity Act has been registered at P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said 1. Mohan 2. Jagdish 3. Arun & 4. Rajmal Gupta cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said 1. Mohan 2. Jagdish 3. Arun & 4. Rajmal Gupta has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said 1. Mohan 2. Jagdish 3. Arun & 4. Rajmal Gupta accused of CC No. 424303/2016 u/s 135 Electricity Act, P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before 28.03.2020.

By Order  
Mr. Mukesh Kumar ASJ, (Electricity),  
Court No. 613, Dwarka District Courts,  
New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), Namely: Mohd. Salim S/o Sh. Isak R/o A-857, Hari Enclave Kirari Pkt-Ist, Delhi has been missing since 06.02.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 32A dated 06.02.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

MOHD. SALIM  
Age: 18 Years 8 Month, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: White colour Sweater, Black colour Pant & Brown colour shoes.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Aman Vihar, Delhi at E-mail id - [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

SHO P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi Rohini Distt., Delhi  
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-27581223, 27581559

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) Namely Parvash Kumar S/o Dharamveer Singh R/o H.No. WP 291, Wazirpur Village, Ashok Vihar, Delhi Aged-50 Years has been reported missing since 19.01.2020 about 1:30 pm from her home vide DD No. 24-A Dated 21.01.2020 registered at Police Station Ashok Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'9" Face: Long, Built: Medium, Clothing: Black coloured pant, blue & black jacket and black coloured shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped male, may inform SHO, Ashok Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) or website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Ashok Vihar, Delhi  
FAX No.: 011-24368639 Te. 011-27243066  
DP/27/NW/2020 M.: 8750870221

Huawei to manufacture 5G equipment in France, says Chairman

Paris: Chinese telecom giant Huawei said on Thursday that it would begin manufacturing radio equipment for next-generation 5G networks in France. The 200-million-euro (USD 218-million) facility will employ 500 people and produce equipment for the European market, Huawei chairman Liang Hua told a press conference in Paris. The announcement comes two weeks after France said it would not bow to American pressure to exclude Huawei from supplying equipment for its 5G networks — a stance also taken by Britain.

PNB fraud: Sebi imposes ₹5-cr fine on Mehul Choksi, others

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Thursday slapped a \$total fine of ₹5 crore on fugitive Mehul Choksi, Gitanjali Gems and another individual for violating various regulations, including listing norms, in connection with a massive fraud on state-run lender PNB.

Choksi, promoter and managing director of Gitanjali Gems, is the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi, who is also facing charges for defrauding state-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) of over ₹14,000 crore.

Both Choksi and Modi fled India after the PNB scam came to light in early 2018. While Choksi is said to be in Antigua, Modi is lodged in a British jail and has challenged India's extradition request.

In its order, Sebi said it is imposing a fine totalling ₹5 crore on Choksi, Gitanjali Gems and Dhanesh Sheth, the executive director of Gitanjali.

"... The default is grave and the gravity of this matter cannot be ignored," Sebi said. It quoted a communication from PNB that it had reported to the RBI total fraud of over ₹11,394 crore in case of unauthorized issuance of LOUs, foreign letters of credit and inland letter of guarantees in the group accounts of Nirav Modi Group and Gitanjali Group and in the account of one Chandri Paper & Allied Products Pvt Ltd.

The overall fraud size is said to be even larger at over ₹14,000 crore.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one female Namely: Archana, W/o: Ravinder, R/o: House of Pandit Om Prakash, Prajapat Wali Gali, Rithala Village, Delhi with her son Mayank @ Golu has been missing/kidnapped since 13.02.2020 from the area of P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 24-A dated 15.02.2020 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

The description of the missing female are as under: Age: 28 years, Height: 5'6", Face: Round, Built: Muscular, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Orange colour suit salwar & grey colour sandal. The description of the missing boy: Age: 5 years, Height: 3', Face: Round, Built: Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Pink colour T-Shirt and blue colour pajami. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female & her son but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female and her son kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>  
E-mail id - [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-24368639  
DP/33/RD/2020 SHO P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi

हरियाणा सरकार  
TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/TEND (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1	PWD B&R, ROHTAK	REPAIR OF ROAD STRETCH FROM MEDICAL MOR TO NEW OPD BUILDING IN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK.	25.02.2020 16.03.2020	72.06 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01262-262871 pwd-eeep4-rohtak@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF OBSERVATION HOME AT MADHUBAN IN KARNAL DISTT	18.02.2020 11.03.2020	615.39 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0184-2270946 pwd-eeep2-karnal@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW STADIUM VILLAGE WAISER IN PANIPAT DISTT + 1 OTHER WORKS	24.02.2020 10.03.2020	324.98 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0180-2636652
4	PWD B&R, HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR TO PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER AT HASANGARH/ DOULATPUR IN DISTT. HISAR (PDG. E.I INTERNAL ONLY) + 17 OTHER WORKS	27.02.2020 04.03.2020	49.74 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01692-225651 pwd-eeec-hissar@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF PLANTATION IN CENTRAL VERGE OF GURUGRAM-BADLI ROAD (MDR196) RD 18.200 TO 24.100KM AND (24.100KM TO 28.200KM) IN DISTT. JH-AJJAR FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021. (PERIOD 01-04-2020 TO 31-03-2021) 12 MONTHS (LABOUR WORK ONLY) + 2 OTHER WORKS	25.02.2020 05.03.2020	32.50 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> (Tender IDNo 2020_HRY_120064) + 2 OTHER	012429775100 / zitesingh01@gmail.com
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING NARNAUL	NARNAUL TOWN (B/S DHOBI JOHAR), CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. B/S AND LAYING OF CONNECTING PIPELINE. DISTRICT NICHINBERGARH UNDER HEAD URBAN WATER SUPPLY. (E/COST RS. 34.35 LACS). "CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO.	28.02.2020 11.03.2020	28 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01262-251259/ ee1naraula@medharyana.gov.in
7	IRRIGATION & W.R DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	REAL TIME CANAL DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM WITH DATA AS A SERVICE MODEL FOR 90 CANAL LOCATIONS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS AND DEVELOPMENT OF RATING CURVE FOR 90 CANAL LOCATIONS.	27.02.2020 27.03.2020	NO MONETARY REQUIREMENT	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xen.nhp@gmail.com 0172-2560080
8	IRRIGATION & W.R DEPARTMENT HARYANA HANSI	DEWATERING AND DESILTING OF POND IN VILLAGE RAMAYAN (NEAR GAUSHALA) + 22 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 03.03.2020	74.95 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01663-259310, xen-wshansi.ir@hry.gov.in
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT KURUKSHETRA	CONSTRUCTION OF BATHING GHAT AT RD 123006 OF SARASWATI RIVER IN VILLAGE BARGAT JATTAN, BLOCK BABAIN, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA + 15 OTHER WORKS	25.02.2020 17.03.2020	68.81 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744-238590 xensaraswatin@kkr@gmail.com
10	FOREST DEPARTMENT KURUKSHETRA	T-HANESAR/PEHOWA RANGE	24.02.2020 02.03.2020	7 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744 230743 dfo.kkr-hry@nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 80066

Indian aviation sector outlook remains 'negative': Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The outlook for India's aviation industry remains "negative" in the wake of coronavirus outbreak, which has resulted in many international passengers cancelling their travel to South East Asian countries...

Icra noted that the outbreak has impacted travel to and from China as well as other South East Asian countries. "The suspension of flights on the India-China sector will not result in any significant impact on the financial performance of the airlines, unless the lockdown is prolonged, as the traffic on these routes account for only 0.9-1.3 per cent of the total international passenger numbers..."

However, the agency said the impact is expected to be severe if passengers from other South East Asian countries, hit by coronavirus, cancel their travel. Traffic from these countries account for around 19.5-23.8 per cent of the total international passengers flying to and from India, it noted.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

would, however, vary depending on the airlines' presence in these routes. In a note, the agency said it has "maintained its negative outlook on the Indian aviation industry in view of the ongoing lockdowns in parts of China following the outbreak of the coronavirus."

Some airlines have already discontinued flights to China and Hong Kong until June 2020. Air India has temporarily stopped flying to China and Hong Kong till June 30. The airline has also reduced the number of flights to Singapore. Vistara has decided to cancel 54 flights to Singapore and Bangkok in March. GoAir has suspended its operations to Singapore and has also scaled down the number of flights operated to Phuket and Bangkok.

Among other carriers, Singapore Airlines has extended suspension of flights across its network, including India, till end of May. However, Icra said decline in jet fuel prices would partly compensate airlines' loss of revenues due to flight cancellations. Crude oil prices have fallen in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, which has impacted many countries.

Icra said the medium-term impact on the domestic aviation industry would also depend on

the economic shock to the global economy due to the coronavirus outbreak. Historically, foreign airlines have enjoyed high market share while domestic airlines account for less than 40 per cent of the total passengers carried on international routes to and from India, Icra Vice President Kinjal Shah said. "Assuming the same proportion on routes to and from China and other impacted South East Asian countries, the Indian aviation industry could see a maximum impact (of 19.5-23.8 per cent) on the international passenger traffic growth..."

According to her, such a scenario would be negative for the Indian aviation industry, which is already reeling under significant passenger traffic slowdown, with the international traffic growth for up to December quarter of the fiscal having witnessed a decline of 8.4 per cent. As per Icra, prolonged shutdown of manufacturing activities in China and subsequent impact of the outbreak on the global economic activity could result in a slump in global oil demand.

Markets slump for fifth day on coronavirus woes, F&O expiry

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices reeled for the fifth straight session on Thursday, pressured by a sell-off in bank, IT and energy counters, as the global markets grappled with fears of the coronavirus outbreak turning into a pandemic.

After plunging over 465.69 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally settled lower at 39,745.66. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 45.20 points or 0.39 per cent to end at 11,633.30. The Sensex has now lost 1,577.34 points in five days, while the Nifty has shed 492.60 points. ONGC was the top loser in the Sensex pack on Thursday, dropping 2.61 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, M&M, SBI, IndusInd Bank and ICIC Bank.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Titan, Axis Bank and Asian Paints climbed up to 3.68 per cent. World markets extended their losses while safe-haven assets like gold and US Treasuries strengthened after President Donald Trump announced that the US was stepping up its efforts to combat the Covid-19 outbreak, while the number of cases surpassed 81,000. Indian markets were in

the negative territory as the rapid global spread of the coronavirus kept investors on the edge and made them seek safety in gold and bonds, said Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research (Investment Services) - AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathis Shares & Stock Brokers.

India is at risk of getting severely impacted by the epidemic economically because of its high reliance on Chinese imports for various goods, he noted. Benchmarks also remained volatile on account of monthly expiry of derivatives contracts, he said, adding that sentiment remained sluggish amid reports that GDP growth is likely to stay flat at 4.5 per cent in October-December 2019. The government's GDP estimate for the December quarter is scheduled to be released on Friday. Further, relentless selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) spooked retail investors, traders said. According to provisional data available with stock exchanges, so far this week, FPIs have offloaded stocks worth a whopping Rs 6,812.57 crore on a net basis. Sectorally, BSE realty, oil and gas, metal, tech, IT, industrials, energy, telecom and auto indices ended up to 2.09 per cent lower, while consumer durables and healthcare settled on a positive note.

₹ extends gains, climbs 4 paise to 71.61 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending gains for the third day, the rupee climbed 4 paise to close at 71.61 against the US dollar on Thursday amid easing crude oil prices and weakening of the greenback overseas.

Forex traders said the rupee consolidated in a narrow range as gains were restricted by sustained foreign fund outflows and robust selling in domestic equities. Moreover, market participants will be keeping an eye on third quarter GDP growth number scheduled to be released on Friday.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 71.65 to the US dollar. During the day, it swung between a high of 71.55 and a low of 71.69.

The domestic unit finally finished at 71.61, up 4 paise from its previous close.

Meanwhile, investor sentiment remained fragile amid concerns over the coronavirus outbreak turning into a pandemic, traders said.

The death toll from the virus epidemic now stands at 2,744 in mainland China and there are now nearly 81,000 cases in total.

Rupee consolidated in a narrow range but traded with a slightly negative bias against the US dollar ahead of the pre-

liminary GDP number that will be released from the US later this evening," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Somaiya further noted that "on the domestic front, growth number will be released tomorrow and weaker-than-expected number could keep the rupee under pressure".

The global crude oil benchmark Brent futures fell 2.11 per cent to trade at USD 52.30 per barrel.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the Indian capital markets, offloading equities worth a net Rs 3,127.36 crore on Thursday, according to provisional exchange data.

"Rupee heads for the third day of gain following weaker dollar index and lower crude oil prices," said V K Sharma, Head PCG and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

"Indian sovereign bonds were steady as a slide in oil prices is seen easing inflationary pressures. A decline in US Treasury yields and RBI's announcement of long-term repurchase agreements provided further support," he added.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.25 per cent to 98.74.

Delhi violence, anti-CAA protests have not dampened investor sentiment: Nirmala

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that investor sentiment has not been dampened by anti-CAA protests and the recent Delhi violence.

Addressing a press conference here, she said the investors she met in her recent visit to Saudi Arabia expressed willingness to invest more in the country.

When asked about the Delhi violence and anti-CAA protests, Sitharaman said, "The sentiments of foreign investors have not been dampened."

ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, SHE SAID THE INVESTORS SHE MET IN HER RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO INVEST MORE IN THE COUNTRY

On the possible impact of coronavirus scare on the industry and the economy, the finance minister said there is none as of now.

"However, if the situation doesn't improve in the next two months, there may be shortage of raw material. We are working on how to address the issue and help the industry," she added.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty 50 stocks with their current prices and daily changes.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists the next 50 Nifty 50 stocks.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists the top 50 BSE 500 stocks.



Table with columns: NAUKRI, JUDICIAL, MGL, TVSMOTOR, WIPRO, HINDPETRO, WELSPUNIND, DIVISLAB, NTPC, BEL, GODREJIND, PIDILITIND, DREDDY, STRTECH, TATAPOWER, APOLLOTYRE, TATAELXSI, HINDALCO, AUBANK, RAJESHXPO, ACC, BRITANNIA, ZEEL, SOBHA, JUBLFOOD, LITS, TECHM, VTMART, DIXON, M&MFIN, SAIL, BDL, TORNTPOWER, AVANTI, TATACONSUM, TORNTPOWER, BAJAJ-AUTO, PTC, GMRFINRA, GRAPHITE, SPICEJET, SANOFI, AJANTPHARM, DFCFIRST, ADANIPORTS, SBILIFE, WELCORP, HEIDELBERG, JAICORP, HINDZINC, DABUR, BATAINDIA, NMDCC, GUJGAS, AMARAJABAT, IPCALAB, MRF, BERGPAINT, BEML, SUNTV, AMBUJACEM, BANKINDIA, RELAXO, ADANIPOWER, ADANIGREEN, COLPAL, DELTACORP, PAGEIND, HAVELLS, SUZLON, ICICPRULI, BOSCHLTD, VOLTA, NATIONALUM, MARICO, CONCOR, GODREJCP, TRENT, RADICO, NLIKAMAL.

Table with columns: IRB, ALKEM, BOMDYEING, RECLTD, GRANULES, SUNTECK, GODREJPROP, ARVINDFAS, PETRONET, EXIDEIND, GODFREYPHL, ABBOTINDIA, PHOENIXLTD, INOXLEISUR, SHREECEM, SUDARSCHEM, CASTROLIND, NCCOL, ISEC, TATAMTRDRV, BAYERCROP, IDBI, INFIBEM, SPARC, DHANUKA, OMAXE, BLISSGVS, LINDSALAW, CAREKATING, VENKYS, IOX, IEL, ENGINEERSIN, SCI, OBEROIRTY, GHCL, BAIAJELCC, NBJECC, PNBHOUSE, FOREMOT, HONATA, CREDITACC, RALLIS, VBL, SWANENERGY, ABFL, UNIONBANK, AMBER, LALPATHLAB, WHIRLPOOL, RPOWER, JUBILANT, HFCL, RAIN, MEGH, CANFINHOME, ADANTRANS, IDFC, GAFBIFRES, GNFC, RELINFRA, FCONSUMER, IRVNL, BREALIST, JPCHEPHARM, JMFINANCIL, HCSL, J&KBNBK, MAXINDIA, GSKCONS, DISHTV, GLAXO, PRESTIGE, CADILAH, MPHASIS, PARAGMILK, BALRAMCHIN, ITI, ESSELPRO, GICRE, METROPOLIS, KTKBANK, GILLETTE, BIRLACORPN, AKZOINDIA, REPCOHOME, CHOLAFIN, TIMKEN, GOREJAJGRO, THYROCARE, APJLEW, PCJEWELLER, MINDIA, JSL, ORIENTELE, WESTLE, PFIZER, PHILIPCARB, DBL, DCBBANK, INTELTEC, VINATIORGA, VINDPI, INDIANB, MOTILALOF, CESC, TATACOFFEE, GULFOILFAC.



Table with columns: EMAMILTD, LUNXIND, LUNXIND, ORIENTBANK, KANSAINER, RELCAPITAL, TRIDENT, COROMANDAL, SOUTHANK, FDC, HUDCO, TCEIEX, CRISIL, CCL, CHANCOCEM, REMONPETRO, HINDCOPPER, NH, GREAVENTCO, BAJAJJALDNG, SADBHAV, PINCFINRA, DCAJ, BAJAJHLDNG, ORIENTCEM, GUJALCAM, MINDACORP, IBULIS, DALBHARAT, MONAT, SONATSOFTW, KNKCON, SHANKARA, CAPPL, SCHNEIDER, DCEMHRIFAC, DECAFERT.

Table with columns: FINEORG, TATAMETALI, TAINVEST, MHRIL, KALPAPOWR, STARCEMENT, FINOLEXIND, IKCITEM, INOXWIND, PGHL, KAJARIACOR, BALMLAWRIE, MAHLOG, SYNGENE, GPNL, ALBK, PERSISTENT, JSILAJEQS, SIMS, HANWATSEIDE, FINCABLES, MPMC, SYNDBANK, TEJASNET, IFFIND, ALLCARGO, SYMPHONY, MRPL, CARBORUNIV, THYROMAX, JYOTHYLAB, UNDRMFASST, SUOCARB, LAURUSLABS, CENTRUPLY, SFL, JKLAJKSHMI, ASHOKA, GEPIL, VSTIND, TKPRESTIG, NRVENTURES, MAGMA, RTL, VATNAMANI, GINCHGFIN, MINDSIND, PGGH, TEAMLEASE, ASTRAL, IIFL, NETWORK18, JAGRAN, GRINDWELL, SJVN, MAHSCOOTER, ZENSARTECH, IOB, IDCEM, TNP, MGCLDIT, WABCOINDIA, CYIENT, SHILPMAE, ENDURANCE, ERIS, ADVENZYMES, HATHWAY, ASTERDM, GALAXYSURF, BLUEDART, MAHABANK, CORPBANK, ERIS, ADVENZYMES, VARROC, CERA, ECLERX, MAHSEAMLES, LAKSHVILAS, DBCORP, GET&D, TVSSRICHAK, EIHOTEL, FSNINDIA, SOLARINDS, SOMANYCERA, CENTRALBK, UNIDESTAR, FFL, JSHISAR, MAHLIFE, VRLLOG, SUPRAJIT, TAKE, CHOLAHLDNG, SHK, KPTITECH, ZYDUSWEL, SHRIRAMCIT, KPRMILL, TCNSBRANDS, CHALET, GAYAPROJ.

# Trump faces credibility test as he plays down virus threat

Washington: President Donald Trump faces a critical personal challenge in grappling with the new coronavirus outbreak: asking Americans to believe him after he and some of his top advisers have contradicted federal scientists in playing down the threat.

Keenly aware of the stakes not just for public health but also his credibility, Trump conducted a lengthy press conference Wednesday evening aimed at reassuring everyone that he has the crisis well in hand.

Trump surrounded himself with his administration's top health experts. And he encouraged Americans to be prepared for the virus' potential spread.

But he continued to minimize the risk, saying the outbreak "may get a little bigger; it may not get bigger at all." And

he continued to distance himself from the stated opinion of public health officials that it's inevitable the virus will spread within the United States.

As businesses, schools and people in general think about preparing, the X-factor may be an unpredictable president who has clashed repeatedly with scientists in his own administration and tends to see any crisis through the lens of his own reelection chances.

"I don't think it's inevitable," Trump said at the

news conference, where he announced Vice President Mike Pence would lead the administration's response to the outbreak. "I think it has a chance that it could get worse. There is a chance you can get fairly substantially worse. But nothing's inevitable." He also said he had recently learned that thousands die from the flu each year, contrasting that to the coronavirus.

After two days of the stock market tumbling, Trump took to Twitter Wednesday morning to blame the media and Democrats for causing undue alarm and harming American financial markets.

He singled out MSNBC and CNN for "doing everything possible to make the Coronavirus look as bad as possible," including panicking markets, if possible, and added that "incompetent Do Nothing Democrat comrades are all talk, no action."

He blamed part of this week's stock market slide on people's reaction to Tuesday night's Democratic debate and the possibility one of those candidates might replace him. And Trump acknowledged that the outbreak could "have an impact on GDP" but insisted that the U.S. Economy is still "doing great." **AP**

**China death toll climbs to 2,744 amidst decline in cases**

Beijing: The virulence of the novel coronavirus continues to show a declining trend in China which reported 29 new fatalities, the lowest in weeks, taking the death toll to 2,744 while the confirmed cases climbed to 78,497, officials said on Thursday.

The country's National Health Commission (NHC) said it received reports 433 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus infection and 29 deaths on

Wednesday from 31 provincial-level regions on the mainland. Among the deaths, 26 were from the epicentre of the virus Hubei province and its capital Wuhan and one each from Beijing, Heilongjiang and Henan, it said.

In Hubei province alone 2,641 people died due to the virus since it erupted in December last year including 2,104 fatalities in Wuhan. **PTI**

**Iran's V-P, spokeswoman for 1979 hostage-takers infected with virus: Media**

Dubai: A state-owned newspaper in Iran says Masoumeh Ebtekar, a vice president in the Islamic Republic and a spokeswoman for the 1979 hostage-takers, has the new coronavirus.

The report came from the English-language IRAN daily newspaper via its Twitter account.

Ebtekar was known during the hostage crisis as "Mary". The report comes as other top officials in Iran's Shiite theocracy have caught the virus. **AFP**

**Iran confirms 26 deaths: Ministry**

Tehran: Iran has confirmed seven new deaths from coronavirus over the past 24 hours, the health ministry said Thursday, taking the overall toll to 26, the highest outside China.

An additional 106 confirmed infections took the total number of cases so far to 245, ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour told a daily briefing. **AFP**

**JAPAN WOMAN TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS AFTER 'RECOVERY'**

Tokyo: A woman in Japan who contracted the new coronavirus and was released from hospital after recovering has tested positive again, officials said Thursday.

The case is the first time a patient apparently cleared of the virus has subsequently tested positive for it, a local official in Osaka said.

The woman in her 40s was first confirmed as

## Religious minorities continue to face violence in Pak: UN rights chief

Geneva: Religious minorities in Pakistan continue to face violence and repeated attacks on their places of worship and government's failure to amend the blasphemy law provisions led to violence against them, UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet said on Thursday.

Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, briefing the ongoing 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on human rights developments around the world, mentioned the case of Junaid Hafeez, a university lecturer in Pakistan, who has been sentenced to death in December for blasphemy.

"Religious minorities in Pakistan continue to face violence, repeated attacks on their places of worship, and discrimination in law and practice," Bachelet said. "The Government, despite recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, has not amended or repealed blasphemy law provisions which have led to violence against religious minorities, as well as to arbitrary arrests and prosecution," the former Chilean president said in a statement on Pakistan's controversial blasphemy law. "The death penalty remains mandatory for blasphemy, and in December, the Multan Court sentenced Junaid Hafeez to death on a blasphemy charge, in contravention of international human rights law," she said. **PTI**

**Mosquito quite powerful, don't let it eat into votes: Hasina**

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday told her party leaders that the mosquito, despite being a small insect, is quite powerful and they should not allow it to take a toll on their popularity among voters.

Speaking at the oath-taking ceremony for the newly-elected mayors and councillors of Dhaka, Hasina told them to find ways to keep the mosquito menace in check, bdnews24 news website reported.

"You must make sure the mosquito menace does not take a toll on your popularity and reduce the number of votes. Despite being a small insect, the mosquito is quite powerful," she said.

Hasina asked the public representatives to ensure equal services for all citizens and alleviate their sufferings by controlling the mosquito menace.

"Sometimes you confront multiple problems at the same time. Right now, we're facing the risks of coronavirus; dengue was another problem just days ago. We need to destroy the mosquito breeding grounds," she said.

Last year, Bangladesh faced its worst-ever dengue fever outbreak as hospitals were flooded with patients, putting a severe strain on the country's already overwhelmed medical system. **PTI**

**Parl will pick new PM: Mahathir**

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's interim leader Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday said Parliament will pick a new prime minister next week following the collapse of the ruling alliance and that snap elections will be called if the vote ends in an impasse.

Mahathir, who met the king earlier on Thursday, said the monarch couldn't find a candidate with a clear majority to lead the nation after consulting all 222 lawmakers over the last two days. As such, he said the king decided to have the lower house of Parliament vote on a new leader on March 2.

"If the lower house fails to find a person with the majority, then we will have to go for a snap election," he told a news conference.

A failed bid by Mahathir's supporters to form a new government without his designated successor, Anwar Ibrahim, and Mahathir's shock resignation on Monday broke apart the ruling alliance less than two years after it defeated a corruption-tainted coalition that had led the country for 61 years.

Both Mahathir and Anwar are vying for the premiership, renewing a political feud that stretches back more than two decades.

"The king is obviously being very cautious. He decided not to give Anwar or Mahathir to form a government and let the MPs decide," said James Chin, head of the Asia Institute at Australia's University of Tasmania. "This means horse trading will carry on all week-end until Monday morning."

Anwar was Mahathir's deputy in the 1990s during Mahathir's first stint as prime minister, but he was sacked following a power struggle and later jailed on sodomy and corruption charges that he said were trumped up.

Anwar led a reform movement that helped build a fledgling opposition but was jailed a second time for sodomy in 2014 in a move he said was aimed at killing his political career.

Mahathir, who retired in 2003 after 22 years in power, made a comeback in 2016, spurred by anger over a massive graft scandal involving a state investment fund. **AP**

**German top court upholds headscarf ban for legal trainees**

Berlin: Germany's highest court on Thursday upheld a ban on headscarves for Muslim trainee lawyers in courts, finding that the requirement of maintaining religious neutrality was justified.

The Federal Constitutional Court's ruling came after a Frankfurt-born German-Moroccan legal trainee filed a challenge to Hesse state's rules. In the western state, trainees who keep their headscarves on are not allowed to take on tasks in which they may be seen to be acting as representatives of the judiciary or the state. This means for instance that headscarf-wearing trainees are not allowed to sit on the judges' bench as they observe proceedings like other trainees, but would need to follow the process from the floor.

**UN demands 'unfettered access' for China Uighur region visit**

Geneva: A team preparing for UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet's possible visit to the tightly controlled Muslim-majority Chinese region of Xinjiang this year should be given "unfettered access," she said on Thursday.

In a speech in Geneva, Bachelet welcomed the invitation from China to tour the region but added: "We will continue to request unfettered access for an advance team in preparation for this proposed visit."

"We will seek to analyse in depth the human rights situation in China, including the situation of members of the Uighur minority," she said, addressing the UN Human Rights Council. **AFP**

**Japan PM calls for nationwide closure of schools over virus**

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday urged schools nationwide to close for several weeks to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, as authorities reported the country's fourth death linked to the outbreak.

The move comes as crew members from the Diamond Princess, a coronavirus-stricken cruise ship quarantined off Japan, began leaving the vessel where more than 700 people have tested positive for the disease.

"The government considers the health and safety of children above anything else," Abe said. **AFP**

## Macron says France facing virus 'epidemic'

Paris: President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that France was preparing for a jump in the number of coronavirus cases, adding "we are going to have to deal with it as best we can."

"We are facing a crisis, an epidemic that is coming," Macron said while visiting staff at the La Pitie-Salpetriere hospital in Paris, where the first French person carrying the new coronavirus died Tuesday.

"We know that we're only at the beginning... We're going to try with all our caretakers to make the right decisions," Macron said alongside Health Minister Olivier Veran.

"You had a case here... I know this affected many of your teams," he said, pledging to address the crisis "truthfully" so that measures can be taken "calmly." France has reported 18 cases so far and two deaths, including an 80-year-old Chinese tourist who was the first casualty of the virus reported outside Asia. **AFP**

She had no symptoms a week later, but returned to the doctor on February 21 complaining of a sore throat and chest pains.

On Wednesday, she tested positive for the coronavirus for a second time, officials said. At least 186 people in Japan have so far contracted the virus, with four deaths in the country linked to the outbreak. **AFP**

**कार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी**

पत्रांक: 2686 दिनांक: 27.02.2020

**अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (E.O.I.)**

नगर निगम हल्द्वानी द्वारा ट्रेडिक व्यक्त्वा हेतु नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 05 स्थलों में ट्रेडिक लाईट सिगनल निर्माण, रख-रखाव एवं संचालन हेतु, बी.ओ.टी. मोड में अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (E.O.I.) आमंत्रित की जाती है। ट्रेडिक लाईट सिगनल के निर्माण, रख-रखाव एवं संचालन हेतु निर्माता कम्पनी (OEM, Original Equipment Manufacturer) जिन्का ट्रेडिक लाईट सिगनल निर्माण, रख-रखाव एवं संचालन के कार्य में दक्ष हो, से सील बन्ध प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। उक्त ट्रेडिक लाईट सिगनल का निर्माण (MORTM) के मानकों के अनुरूप किया जाना है। ट्रेडिक लाईट सिगनल निर्माण, रख-रखाव एवं संचालन हेतु प्रस्ताव दस वर्ष के लिये आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (E.O.I.) दस्तावेज लिफाफे के ऊपर ट्रेडिक लाईट सिगनल निर्माण, संचालन एवं रख-रखाव लिखकर रजिस्टर्ड/सील पोस्ट द्वारा कार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी, पिन कोड- 263139 को भेजें। प्रस्ताव प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि 13 मार्च, 2020 साय 5:00 बजे होगी। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी नगर निगम की वेबसाइट [www.nagarnigamhaldwani.in](http://www.nagarnigamhaldwani.in) पर उपलब्ध है, तथा सशोधन/अद्यतन हेतु समय-समय पर वेबसाइट का अवलोकन करें।

नगर आयुक्त  
नगर निगम हल्द्वानी

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058  
Phone: 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044  
E-mail: [teag@kangrabank.com](mailto:teag@kangrabank.com), [legal@kangrabank.com](mailto:legal@kangrabank.com) Website: [www.kangrabank.com](http://www.kangrabank.com)

**ANNEXURE IV**  
**[See Rule 8(1)]**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**(For immovable property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated: 30-05-2017, calling upon the borrower Rajinder Prasad Singh S/o. Sh. Dharam Raj Singh, R/o. B-17, 1st, Floor, Gali No.19, Railway Colony, Mandawali, Delhi-110092, also at, 230/9K, Street No.19, Railway Colony, Mandawali, Delhi-110092, and also calling upon the Mortgagee Smt. Sanju Devi W/o. Sh. Rajinder Prasad Singh R/o. B-17, 1st, Floor, Gali No.19, Railway Colony, Mandawali, Delhi-110092, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being ₹12,85,083/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Eighty Three Only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The above mentioned borrower/mortgagor/surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the Bank has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules, on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

The borrower/mortgagor/surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of ₹12,85,083/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:** The property under consideration is Built up 1st Floor, (Front Side) area measuring 36 sq. mtrs. (Apro.)

All the part and parcel of the built up unit/flat/portion on first floor (front side), upto the extent of the ceiling level only, area measuring 36 sq. mtrs. approx. consisting of two rooms set, with common rights to use staircase, passage, entrance, and two wheeler parking at ground floor, a part of property No. B-17, out of khassa no. 631, situated in Mandawali Fazalpur, Gali No.19, Railway Colony Khassa Shahdara, Delhi-110092.

All the part and parcel of the built up unit/flat/portion on first floor (front side), upto the extent of the ceiling level only, area measuring 36 sq. mtrs. approx. consisting of two rooms set, with common rights to use staircase, passage, entrance, and two wheeler parking at ground floor, a part of property No. B-17, out of khassa no. 631, situated in Mandawali Fazalpur, Gali No.19, Railway Colony Khassa Shahdara, Delhi-110092. Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar VIII, Delhi.

**BOUNDED AS UNDER:**  
EAST : Gali,  
WEST : Others Property,  
NORTH : Others Property,  
SOUTH : Others Property,

(HARISH SHARMA)  
AUTHORISED OFFICER  
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.  
HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.

DELHI.  
DATED : 24.02.2020

**ECL FINANCE LTD**  
Registered Office: Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098

**E-AUCTION CUM SALE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive/physical possession (as detailed below) of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where it is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30-03-2020 at 12:00 PM (Last date and time for submission of bids is 29-03-2020 before 4:00 PM) for recovery of the amount (Shown below in respective column) due to the ECL Finance Limited Secured creditor from respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s) shown below. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit of respective properties as shown below in respective column.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower / Mortgagor and Branch	Description of Property/House/ Having Total Area About	Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price	EMD Price	Outstanding dues (In Rs.)
1.	(Loan No. LDELSLE0000049977) Ess Aar Industries (Borrower) Ritesh Garg (Co-Borrower) Ayushie Garg (Co-Borrower) Satya Narain (Co-Borrower)	Scheule A All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Plot No.27, On 2 Nd Floor Of G+2 Storied Building Known As Jaipuria Enclave, Admeasuring About 1062 Sq.ft, Situated At Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201010, Bounded As Under: North: Plot No.26; East: Other Property South: Plot No.28; West: Road.	Date 28.02.2020 Time 10 A.M to 1 P.M Date 29.02.2020 Time 1 P.M to 4 P.M	Rs. 55,00,000/-	Rs. 5,50,000/-	Rs. 1,90,64,597.81/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven and Paise Eighty One Only) as on 14.08.2019 + Charges
		Scheule B Residential Flat Bearing No. A-104, On 1 St Floor Of Tower A, In The Building Know As Evotica Elegance, Admeasuring 2050 Sq.ft, Situated At Plot No. 9a, Mall Road, Ahimsa Khand-ji, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, On Land Bearing Khassa No.527/1 & 527/4, Village Mohiuddin Pur Kanawani, Pargana Loni, Tehsil Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201014. Bounded As Under: North: Road And Park; East: Flat No.101; South: Lift; West: Other Tower. North: Flat No. 402. South: Plot No. 8. East: 7.50 Mtrs Wide Road. West: Common Passage	Date 28.02.2020 Time 1 P.M to 4 P.M Date 29.02.2020 Time 10 A.M to 1 P.M	Rs. 90,00,000/-	Rs. 9,00,000/-	

For inspection of the properties or for any other assistance, the intending bidders may contact Legal Associate Mr Shrish Mohan at Delhi Branch (No 110, 1st Floor Mercantile House 15 K G Marg, Delhi- 110001) during office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m, M+ 91 88607 82145 or may contact Legal Manager Mr Naved (M-9970502255) at Mumbai.

**Terms and conditions of Auction:**

- The auction sale will be conducted online through the website [www.bankeuctions.com](http://www.bankeuctions.com).
- The Secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
- The shortlisted bidders will be provided user ID and Password well in advance which is mandatory for e-bidding. Intending bidders should contact e Auction Service Provider "M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd.;" Plot No 301, Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Gurgaon, Haryana-122015 Tel: Help Line No. +91-124 4302020/21/ 22/23/24, Mr. Jay Singh Ph. +91-7738866326 and K.N. Shrinath Ph. +91-9840446485, Help Line e-mail ID: support@bankeuctions.com.
- Training on e-Auction Process will be conducted by "M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd." to those bidders who deposit the EMD.
- Only those bidders holding valid Email, ID PROOF & PHOTO PROOF, PAN CARD and have duly remitted payment of EMD through DEMAND DRAFT/ NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible to participate in this "online e-Auction".
- The intending bidders have to submit their EMD by way of remittance by DEMAND DRAFT / RTGS/NEFT to: Beneficiary Name: ECL FINANCE LIMITED, Bank: Citibank, Account No. 36401265, IFSC code: CITI0100000.
- The bidder shall improve the auction by minimum of Rs.10,000/-. Thereafter the successful bidder has to pay balance, which shall be amounting to 25% of the bid amount by adjusting the EMD already deposited by DEMAND DRAFT/ NEFT/RTGS to the above-mentioned bank account (Ref. Point 8 for account details). The BID FORMS should be uploaded online along with acceptance of terms and conditions of this Notice and EMD remittance details (UTR NO.) the copy of KYC proof which should contain the address for future communications, along with ID & Address Proof (Voter ID/ Driving License/Pass Port & Pan Card) in the website [www.bankeuctions.com](http://www.bankeuctions.com). on or before the Last date for submission. The EMD will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders within 7 days from the date of auction and the bidders will not be entitled to claim any interest, costs expenses and any other charges (if any).
- In case of default in payment of the balance amount which shall be 25% (deducting the EMD amount) of the bid amount on the very same day of the auction, and also the EMD will be forfeited. And the secured asset will be re-Auctioned.
- The successful bidder shall be required to deposit the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor or such extended period, as may be permitted by the secured creditor at their sole discretion, through DEMAND DRAFT/ NEFT/RTGS to our bank account (Ref. Point 8 for account details).
- In case of default in payment of the remaining 75% of the bid amount within the prescribed period, (the 25% amount deposited EMD will be forfeited) and the secured asset will be re-auctioned.
- If the dues of the Financial Institution together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by them or part thereof as may be acceptable to the bank are tendered by/on behalf of the borrowers, at any time on or before the date fixed for sale, the sale of the asset may be cancelled.
- All statutory dues/attendant charges/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes, etc. shall have to be borne by the successful bidder.
- The sale certificate shall strictly be issued in the same name of the bidder which is appearing in the e-Auction BID Form.
- Words and expressions used herein above shall have the same meaning respectively assigned to them in SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Rules framed thereunder.
- Any dispute/differences arising out of sale of the asset offered for sale shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts/Tribunals at Bangalore only.
- This publication is also 30 days notice to the borrower /mortgagor of the said property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Place: Ghaziabad  
Date : 28.02.2020

Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer)  
ECL Finance Ltd

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**Open Tender Through E-Tendering 2019-20**

CW/M/Carrriage & Wagon workshop North western railway, Bikaner acting for and on behalf of the president of India invites E-Tender No. MECH-BKNW-CASNUB-19-20 Dated 25.02.2020. Tenderer will be able to submit their original/revised offer up to closing date and time only. 1. Name of work : Dismantling and Other Multi Skilled POC activities work of CASNUB bogie in Bikaner Workshop. 2. Estimated Cost of work : Rs. 63700/-. 5. Tender Document Cost : Rs. 3000/-. 6. Last Date and time for submission and opening of e-tender : 23.03.2020 upto 14:30 Hrs. E-tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. on same day. 7. Website particular where complete details of a tender can be seen and participated :- [www.i-reps.gov.in](http://www.i-reps.gov.in). 224-DT/20

Please join us on #NWRRailways

**TRUMP MULLS TRAVEL BANS ON ITALY, S KOREA**

Washington: Donald Trump has said he was considering US travel restrictions on Italy and South Korea over coronavirus fears, adding the situation would not inevitably worsen in the United States.

The president's optimism about containing the pathogen contradicted a senior health official in his own administration and came as authorities said they had identified the first case of unknown origin in the United States. **AFP**

**Saudi suspends entry for pilgrims**

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia on Thursday suspended visas for visits to Islam's holiest sites for the "umrah" pilgrimage, an unprecedented move triggered by coronavirus fears that raises questions over the annual hajj.

The kingdom, which hosts millions of pilgrims every year in the cities of Mecca and Medina, also suspended visas for tourists from countries with reported infections as fears of a pandemic deepen.

Saudi Arabia, which so far has reported no cases of the virus but has expressed alarm over its spread in neighbouring countries, said the suspensions were temporary.

But it provided no time-frame for when they will be lifted, and the decision left tens of thousands of pilgrims preparing to visit the kingdom from around the world in limbo. **AFP**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the public that I, Mr. NT Aniladas, CEO & MD, M/s. Concepta Software Technologies Pvt. Ltd, having its registered office at: # 22, 100th Ring Road, 2nd floor, 6th block, 3rd phase, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru - 560085, CIN No: U72900KA2004PTC034151, has lost /misplaced the safe deposit locker key no. 316 of safe deposit locker no. 322 (linked to SB account: 01571050014395, Account holder's name: NT Aniladas). The said safe deposit locker facility is at HDFC Bank Ltd, New Delhi-110065. The key no. 316 may be lost/ misplaced probably while shifting our office from New Delhi to Bengaluru office during March-2014 to May-2015.

We have successfully registered the lost report under Bengaluru City Police e-lost report & obtained the acknowledgement vide lost report no. 020137\_2020.

If any person/s who finds the key no. 316 is requested to return the same to us at the above mentioned address within 7 days of this newspaper publication. Contact Details: Telephone-080 41559618, 08026799382. E-mail: [info@concepta.in](mailto:info@concepta.in). Contact Person : Arun. P. Ph. No. 9741769504.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to all Men that Plot No.14, U-62 located in DLF Qutub Enclave, Situated in Village Nathpur ad measuring 50 Sq.mtrs., was registered in the name of Shri Suresh Chander Mehta, S/o Late Shri P.D. Mehta, R/o H. No. DB-118 A, G-8, Area, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110064 and last residing at B-6/134-135, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, who has expired on 07.05.2019 without leaving any will. The said Shri Suresh Chander Mehta is survived by his wife Smt. Madhu Bala Mehta who is his only legal heir and he did not have any biological or adopted child. Accordingly the name of Smt. Madhu Bala Mehta is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned plot / property. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach M/s. DLF Limited or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this Notice. Issued on behalf of, and under instructions from Smt. Madhu Bala Mehta.

N.K. Bhatnagar  
(Advocate)



Gabriel Jesus hugs Kevin de Bruyne after scoring Manchester City opening goal

AFP ■ MADRID

Kevin de Bruyne orchestrated a dramatic Manchester City comeback on Wednesday as they stunned Real Madrid 2-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu to put one foot in the Champions League quarter-finals. Madrid looked on course to edge a cagey contest after Isco's smart finish early in the second half, but De Bruyne teed up Gabriel Jesus in the 78th minute and then tucked away a penalty five minutes later.

A pulsating finish saw Sergio Ramos sent off for preventing Jesus from going clear and Madrid's

captain will now be banned for the second leg at the Etihad Stadium on March 17.

City's two away goals will make them heavy favourites to go through, even if manager Pep Guardiola was quick to discourage complacency.

"It's still not over," he said. "If there is one team that can overcome this it is this club (Real Madrid) with their experience and their history."

"We know the situation," said Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane. "We have to go there and win."

Madrid have now won only one of their last five games, with the

# EIGHT MINUTE COLLAPSE

## City score twice before Ramos sees Red in awful night for record champions

Clasico against Barcelona in La Liga to come on Sunday. "We are on a bad run but we have to get ourselves out of it," said Zidane. "Sunday is a chance to change."

### STRIKERS ON BENCH

Guardiola sprung a surprise by picking De Bruyne up front and leaving Raheem Sterling, Sergio Agüero and Fernandinho all on the bench.

"We played without a proper striker because of the way they defend," said Guardiola.

"They are so aggressive down the middle and when that happens you have to make the pitch wide."

His gamble paid off handsomely, even if Nicolas Otamendi made the mistake that led to Isco's opener while an injury to Aymeric Laporte meant Fernandinho had to be introduced midway through the first half.

Laporte must now be doubtful for Sunday's League Cup final against Aston Villa.

### RAMOS RED

City enjoyed their best spell after the break. Casemiro carelessly conceded possession and De Bruyne tore away, feeding Mahrez, who cut in and curled wide. Jesus drove another shot at Courtois.

Zidane considered a change and Gareth Bale was warming up when Madrid took the lead.

Otamendi failed to control a Rodri pass and Vinicius broke, with Kyle Walker and Fernandinho rushing to meet him.

They left Isco free behind them and Vinicius picked him out, giving the Spaniard a simple finish.

The hosts smelt an opportunity for a second as Dani Carvajal weaved through and Ramos's volley was deflected over by Fernandinho.

Bale came on for Madrid and Sterling for City. Shortly after, De Bruyne's clipped cross was too high



Lucas Tousart celebrates after scoring Lyon's opening goal against Juventus

## Lyon roar on Tousart tunes

LYON: Cristiano Ronaldo drew a blank as a Lucas Tousart goal handed Lyon a surprise 1-0 win over Juventus in the first leg.

Midfielder Tousart netted in the 31st minute to give Lyon a lead to defend when they head to Turin for the return on March 17.

The goal came with Juventus defender Matthijs de Ligt off receiving treatment, but it was just reward for an excellent first half by Jesus drove another shot at Courtois.

They then survived late Juventus pressure to claim their finest European result since defeating Manchester City in last season's group stage.

"It was a top-class first-half performance from us. It was much harder in the second half, but I was happy with how we hung in there," said Lyon coach Rudi Garcia.

"I said to the boys that when you're at home in the first leg it's very important not to concede,

for Ramos at the back post and Jesus's header beat a weak right hand from Courtois to equalise.

Five minutes later, City completed the turnaround when Carvajal slid in late on Sterling and De Bruyne made no mistake from the spot.

and now we need to go and score there. We must remain humble, it's only half-time."

Maurizio Sarri's side have genuine ambitions of winning a trophy that has evaded Juventus for almost a quarter of a century now, but they could not claim a precious away goal here, with Paulo Dybala seeing a late effort disallowed.

"In the first half it was not the Juve that we know. We didn't get going in attack. I am struggling to understand certain things," said Sarri, who thought his team could have had two penalties.

"We didn't do enough given this was a Champions League match but fortunately we still have 90 minutes to turn it around."

The match went ahead before a full house at the Groupama Stadium, including around 3,000 Juventus supporters allowed to attend despite calls from some French politicians to block their access amid fears about the spread of the coronavirus.

AFP

## Korea ask NRAI to clarify position on coronavirus

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The national shooting federation of South Korea, one of the global hotbeds of the deadly novel coronavirus, has asked its Indian counterpart to make its position clear on whether athletes from the East Asian country would be allowed at next month's ISSF World Cup here.

In a letter to National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) President Raninder Singh, Korea Shooting Federation Secretary General Yongjae Lee has said that shooters are keen to participate in the event from March 15 to 26.

"Currently, most of the Korean athletes are wishing to acquire Minimum Qualification Standard at the ISSF World Cup — New Delhi. However, there is a great deal of concern and worries among athletes and officials that they might not be able to participate," Lee said.

"Kindly state your position regarding COVID-19," he added.

Lee said the tickets for the athletes and officials have already been booked and their visa fees have also been paid.

The letter was prompted by a February 26 directive from the Indian Embassy there in which it was stated that people coming to India from Korea, Iran and Italy — all severely affected by the virus — after February 10 "may be quarantined for 14 days on arrival."

South Korea has more than 1700 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 13 people have so far died of the disease.

Meanwhile, Bahrain has become the latest country to pull out of the World Cup. China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, North Korea and Turkmenistan have already pulled out of the tournament due to the virus.

## Rangers break Europe's knockout duck

AFP ■ GLASGOW

Steven Gerrard hailed a "faultless" Rangers performance as an impressive 1-0 victory at Braga on Wednesday booked their place in the last 16 of the Europa League, winning 4-2 on aggregate.

Gerrard has been critical of his side in recent weeks as they have fallen 12 points behind Celtic at the top of the Scottish Premiership.

But the former Liverpool captain was bursting with pride as Ryan Kent scored the only goal just after the hour mark in northern Portugal and the visitors should have scored many more.

"Super proud of the players. To a man tonight they were outstanding. I thought they were faultless, certainly out of possession," said Gerrard.

"This is no fluke. This has come from sheer hard graft."

Rangers were without top



scorer Alfredo Morelos through suspension and the absence of the Colombian could have proved costly as they missed a host of big chances before the break.

Kent has been criticised for his lack of impact when Rangers have most needed their £7 million signing most of late.

However, the former Liverpool winger produced a big goal when he had too much

pace for the Braga defence to latch onto a long ball before firing low into the far corner.

Rangers' first win in a European knockout tie for nine years means they will be in the hat for the last-16 draw today.

"We knew there was an opportunity," added Gerrard. "We need to enjoy tonight. We'll be really proud when the draw is made."

## Dev, Vaishnavi book Paris tickets



Dev V Javia and Vaishnavi Adkar pose for photo with Mary Pierce after win

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Young tennis players Dev V Javia and Vaishnavi Adkar emerged victorious at the Roland-Garros Junior Wild Card Series at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association on Wednesday.

Tournament ambassador and 4-time Gland Slam champion Mary Pierce witnessed the action on the final day of the tournament and gave away the coveted trophies to the winners. The two players will now travel to Paris to compete against their counterparts from Mexico, Brazil and China in the Roland-Garros Junior Qualifiers with a shot to

qualify for the main draw of the Roland-Garros Junior Tournament 2020.

In the Girls' category unseeded Vaishnavi Adkar and Sanjana Sirimalla pulled off upsets against the top seeds to reach the final. The two young players battled it out in a tense, three-setter which went down to the wire. After losing the first set 4-6, Maharashtra girl Vaishnavi Adkar registered yet another

gritty comeback to win the 2nd set 6-4. In the third set, fortunes fluctuated till Adkar eventually clinched the set 7-6 (3) in a tie-breaker.

The Boys' final was a more straightforward affair as top seeded Dev V Javia stamped his authority over the competition once again to defeat Chirag Duhan 6-2, 6-1. Gujarat player Javia's dominant performance throughout the tournament saw him clinch the title without losing a single set in all three matches. Up and coming player Duhan put on a brave display but ultimately proved to be no match for Javia.



Rafael Nadal returns a ball in 2nd round match

## Nadal cruises into Mexico quarters

AFP ■ ACAPULCO

World number two Rafael Nadal stepped up his bid for a third ATP Mexico Open title with an impressive display of serving and shotmaking to beat Serbian youngster Miomir Kecmanovic on early Thursday.

The Spaniard hit 20 winners as he kept his hopes alive of regaining the top ranking with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over the 20-year-old Kecmanovic to reach the quarter-finals at the Acapulco hardcourt tournament.

"He's a very dangerous player. Young, with a lot of power. I'm very pleased with the victory," Nadal said.

"I played a very good first set and that's important for me. That gives me confidence."

Next up for Nadal is Kwon Soon-woo, who reached his fourth quarter-final of the month with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-0 upset against eighth-seeded Dusan Lajovic.

## Rodgers backs Vardy to end goalless run

AFP ■ LEICESTER

Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers is confident Jamie Vardy will end his current drought and reach a century of Premier League goals.

The former England forward, 33, has scored 97 times in the top-flight but has failed to find the net in nine matches in all competitions.

Rodgers, whose side travel to bottom side Norwich on Friday, said he had no worries about Vardy's recent poor form. "It is only a matter of time before he gets back to scoring goals again," he said. "He doesn't look like the nervous type to me."

Vardy found the net in eight successive matches from mid-October through to early December but has just one goal in his past 12 games.

"Sometimes you get a run like it," Rodgers said. "Probably when he came back from his (glute) injury (in late January) he was maybe not quite up to speed."

"But I thought against Manchester City (in Saturday's 1-0 home defeat), you saw the return of that running power and speed."

"I have no doubt he will get the goals and beyond that. You don't force it, you don't put the pressure on, he knows that is his job. As long as he is contributing, then I'm fine."

Vardy's drought has coincided with Leicester's inconsistent form since mid-December. They have collected just 15 points from the past 36 on offer.

Former Celtic boss Rodgers said his side, third in the Premier League table, could not afford to rely on Vardy's goals.

"You have threats from various parts of the team, and for long periods of this season we had a central threat with Jamie, and other guys were working hard, and they started to contribute, but it's dried up a little bit," he said.

"It's a team responsibility. The strikers are important, but there are other things."

"Look at Roberto Firmino at Liverpool -- he's scored 10, but you look at his influence in the team and what he gives and allows to the other players."

## Jinghan, Jeje called for national camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Sandeep Jinghan and striker Jeje Lalpekhlua on Thursday returned to the fold for the 18-day national football camp ahead of India's FIFA 2022 World Cup qualifier against Qatar in Bhubaneswar.

India's World Cup qualifier against Qatar will be played on March 26.

Jinghan had been sidelined because of a knee injury which he sustained six months ago, while Jeje is returning from a knee injury he suffered in June last year.

Lalengmawia, Jerry Mawihmingthanga, Jeakson Singh, Liston Colaco, Pratik Chowdhary, Shubham Sarangi,

Rafique Ali Sardar, Prabhukhan Gill, Sumit Rathi, Seriton Fernandes, Edwin Sydney Vanspaul are among the ones who have been handed their first call-up to the senior team.

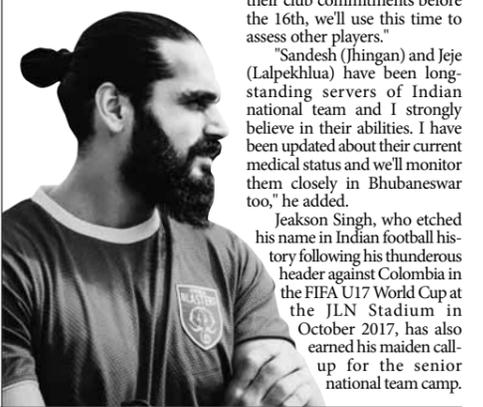
A total of 23 player have been called up in the first phase of the training camp in Bhubaneswar on March 9 before 20 other players, from four ISL semi-finalist teams join on March 16.

"Time is very crucial for us. We have planned to utilise the maximum time possible, so we want to see as many players as possible before the Qatar match," India's head coach Igor Stimac said.

"As some players won't be able to join the camp because of their club commitments before the 16th, we'll use this time to assess other players."

"Sandesh (Jinghan) and Jeje (Lalpekhlua) have been long-standing servers of Indian national team and I strongly believe in their abilities. I have been updated about their current medical status and we'll monitor them closely in Bhubaneswar too," he added.

Jeakson Singh, who etched his name in Indian football history following his thunderous header against Colombia in the FIFA U17 World Cup at the JLN Stadium in October 2017, has also earned his maiden call-up for the senior national team camp.



## Evans reaches Dubai last four

AFP ■ DUBAI

Britain's Dan Evans upset sixth seed Andrey Rublev 6-2, 7-6 (11/9) on Thursday to reach the fourth ATP semi-final of his career with victory at the Dubai Championships.

World number 37 Evans said the thought of playing another set after more than two hours was just too much to consider and worked hard to wrap up victory in straight sets.

"It was tough, I just hung in at the end and got through," unseeded Evans said.

"But I just didn't fancy playing another set; I think that's what got me through."

The 29-year-old, whose previous last four appearances came in Zagreb in 2014, Sydney in 2017 and Delray Beach a year ago, needed nearly two and a quarter hours to advance.

He now awaits a Friday opponent as second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas plays Jan-



Lennard Struff.

"Semi-finals in any tournament on the ATP Tour is great," he said.

"It doesn't matter who it's (semi-finals) against. Everyone is so good here."

Evans faced constant pressure from the Russian who started this season with an 11-match win streak, lifting back-to-back trophies in Doha and Adelaide.

Evans needed to battle to earn the opening set, finally taking it after a final game in which he saved five break points before winning on his third set point.

The second set was equally intense. Evans was broken while serving for victory leading a set and 5-4, with Rublev taking it into a tiebreaker.

Evans missed on his first two match point chances in the decider before his opponent sent a return over the baseline to end it. The victory was the second tight contest in a row for Evans, who saved three match points in the previous round.

# PIONEERING CHANGE

The Pioneer group is expanding its umbrella of connecting with thinking minds through live talks. Called *The Pioneer Agenda* series, we hope to generate awareness on ideas that will shape India in 2030 and could be a template for policy-making. The first such dialogue, *Exotica* Tourism Summit, *Exotica* being the group's travel and wellness magazine, was held at Shangri-La hotel, New Delhi on February 26. Since tourism is poised to become a major growth driver and employment generator of the economy, the day-long event had interactive sessions with Union Ministers, industry experts, travel operators, tourism boards, the hospitality sector and brand creators

## LOOK WITHIN

How to rebrand an old concept and link it to the discovery of new destinations, given the Government's intent to develop 17 iconic tourist destinations? How to get domestic travellers to look for exoticia within, given the Prime Minister's call to travel to at least 15 destinations at home? How to develop a hub and spoke model where the hinterland of known tourist spots can be developed as a linked experience? These were some of the questions that were answered by panellists Ashwani Lohani, Ritu Beri, Pronab Sarkar and Anil Chadha at the inaugural session of the *Exotica* Tourism Summit. Moderated by Dr Chandan Mitra, it explored the possibilities of a deep-pore look within.

Unveiling another of his films in the *Virtual Bharat* series, filmmaker Bharat Bala said that the familiar corners of India evoked different emotions when looked at through the eyes of its people. His film on the *shabad* singers of Amritsar was an interesting perspective of the holy town. Highlighting the need for "felt emotion" to convey a refreshing idea of Incredible India, he said, "It's very critical to showcase what we are doing and how we can build a new idea for tourism in this country. A place is not a destination, it's an emotion, a story and a culture. You tell a story, you will find the traveller. When domestic or international tourists travel and hear a story, they become a part of that destination. Almost 20 years ago, I started *Incredible India*, all thanks to Amitabh Kant. It's time to discover the new avatar of *Incredible India*. It has done a wonderful job of showcasing the diversity of this country but today's marketing and advertising needs are different. We need to move on from typical advertising and find new ways to reach the audience. We talk about 5,000 years of heritage, at least we can make 1,000 stories out of them. I have travelled 150 km by road, discovering India. And what I discover, I put into films. In September, we started the new initiative called *Virtual Bharat*. It is going to be a repository of virtual stories of India. To start with, we decided to do 1,000 stories of the country. Deeper stories will connect deeper with the audience and they will have something to take home as emotion. When we talk about culture, it is something you need to win over as an emotion. When people look at India, they see the Taj Mahal because they find it as an embodiment of a great love story. We are a 5,000 year old country, we don't need to hide only behind Taj Mahal. There's a lot more to showcase."

Ashwani Lohani, Ex CMD, Air India, felt that there is always scope for exploration and rebranding India. "Nobody can ever beat the impact of tourism in the country. It is the biggest job creator and also sways the image of the country. A few years back, whenever somebody used to talk about tourism of India, it was always about international market and footfalls. Yet the numbers were not encouraging. The fact is you cannot make tourism a growth driver till you cater to a domestic market. When I got a chance to head Madhya Pradesh tourism, I decided to generate new interest in its diversity."

Lohani shared that people have a fair idea about the places abroad but they are not aware about the rich culture they have at home. He said, "We need to start exploring our own country. Indian tourism has something on offer for everyone in every category with all budgets — India on shoestring, India in luxury, the royal India, urban India, the common man's India, historical India and much more. Why not circulate the funds in our own country for the good of our own people? There is a need to catalyse a movement of people within the states. Tourism is a sector which has a massive potential to grow. And I feel we are moving towards that."

Luxury entrepreneur and fashion designer Ritu Beri believes in the idea of being Indian. She understands the value of being Indian. She tries to promote the country in everything that she does. "My first fashion show in Paris was based on Indian heritage. From culture, designs, motifs to fabrics and embroidery, everything was Indian. I presented the collection in Hindi, it had French translations and the music was Indian too. People absolutely loved it. The country is very well accepted abroad," Ritu said.

"If I go anywhere in the world wearing Pashmina, people go crazy. Khadi, I feel, is true luxury because it's handmade and today, more and more people are forgetting the art of handcrafted things. That is why it's our strength and we need to promote it. So when we talk about tourism of India, it's the whole concept of being Indian. I have a 12-year-old daughter. I am always telling her that India used to be the richest country in the



From the right: Dr Chandan Mitra, Pronab Sarkar, Ritu Beri, Anil Chadha and Ashwani Lohani



Filmmaker and storyteller Bharat Bala

world in recorded history. Our country is very proud of many inventions. From zero, yoga, geometry, snakes and ladders to chess, it all comes from India. So why are we not proud of being Indian or taking a holiday here? Why are we always aping the West. Why are we apologetic of what we stand for. From the Taj Mahal to Rabindra Nath Tagore to Mahatma Gandhi, we have a prolific history," she added.

Ritu said that we are all empowered today to present an India that is richly felt and authentic. An India that we don't even think can exist. "Platforms like these are very important for first, us Indians, to accept the fact that we are above the rest of the world. And then to spread the message abroad. I know we can do it together," said she.

Anil Chadha, COO, ITC Hotels, said that in colleges they always teach you a few



lines — if it is to be, it is up to me. Somebody has rightly said that the three biggest drivers in this century are going to be tele communications, information technology and tourism. "India has had a good story so far. Our growth rates have been better than the world. A lot has been done by the government. However, there is still a lot to be done because the numbers coming in are much less in comparison to the numbers going out. One big

thing that we all have been speaking about is domestic tourism. I feel, we should take pride in our own country. Domestic tourism is something that has the capability to catch the eyeballs of the world market. That's probably the way to move the international tourism forward," said Chadha.

He felt that if we compared ourselves to certain benchmarks available with reference to footfalls, India was at one per

cent, China was at three per cent for their domestic tourism and the US was at six per cent. "That is exactly where we probably need to reach. And it has to be a collaborative effort. It has to be a great partnership between the Centre and the states, private players and the government. Everybody has to put their best foot forward," he says.

As a hotel chain, for example, Chadha said that they had the honour of hosting the US President, Donald Trump. The hotel was full of Americans. They got to see motifs of India that the hotel sports in its decor. "They saw all the artworks and wanted to know what went into their creation. So there's a lot of storytelling that needs to be done. The travellers are looking for experiences more than anything. And we need to create that for them. They want to really get enriched at the destination they travel, in the hotel they live, in the food they eat, the clothes they wear, the mode of transport they use, it's all getting experiential day by day," said Chadha.

The president of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Pronab Sarkar, has been in this industry for last 45 years. He felt that the government plays a bigger role in the promotion of tourism because they are the ones framing guidelines and all the taxes. "We also have to include the state government. It is not possible without their help. India is blessed with domestic tourism with more than 180 million tourists. We get only 10 million foreign tourists in comparison, which is very low. As far as the world scenario is concerned, it is less than 0.5 per cent. We don't even get one per cent of international tourism. Therefore, there is a huge scope," he said.

Though some of our neighbours are smaller and have a finite infrastructure, they have had higher international footfalls. "It is very important to state that we are losing out to our neighbours because of the highest taxes. I feel, tourism is not a luxury. It is an economic activity, which is very important. Domestically, we have to be very well connected. Our people must have easy access to reach where they desire. Everybody has to come together and make it happen," said Sarkar.



# Punjab is the heart of India: Charanjit

Stars, light, mountains, trees, river...everything is yours in Punjab. So said Punjabi poet Lala Dhani Ram Chatrik. At the Exotica Tourism Summit organised by The Pioneer media group, Tourism Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Singh Channi, recited this poem and made people aware about everything that Punjab has on offer. "We have always had a very rich culture. Nowadays, even the Punjabi music and dance industry is making waves. No film is successful without its music and dance. We have the heart of India. Whether it's the independence movement or any other fight for the nation, Punjab has always been in the front," said he.

There have been many reasons everyone has been in love with Punjab, which is why the state government is making efforts to promote tourism in the state. The farmers are not only involved in agriculture but also are now setting up homestays by building cottages in their farms. Coupling farming with tourism is the growing trend in the state.

He apprised us of the fact that Virasat-e-Khalsa in Anandpur Sahib



has the largest footfall in Asia. The state has also developed wetlands. It has large number of birds coming from outside. Efforts are being made to upgrade the farmhouses so that people can stay and see Punjab's culture. They can interact with the

local musicians and potters. "We are trying to tap the tourists from everywhere. There's also a great connectivity, which will in turn help people from all across to visit us. The rail connectivity is good. We are developing the State highways for a better road connectivity. Five airports have been developed to garner more visitors."

Rahat Indori, lyricist and Urdu poet once said, "Chalte Phirte Huye Mehtaab Dikhayenge Tumhe, Humse Milna Kabhi Punja Dikhayenge tumhe..." The minister said that this poem sums up Punjab very well. In the state, one would feel home. "I invite all of you with a big heart. Come and witness the beauty of the state," he added.

He also expressed his gratitude for The Pioneer for dedicating a day to promote tourism.

## 'NEW STOP ALONG PUNJAB HIGHWAYS'

What if all the goodness of the world comes alive in a single place? This is Punjab as presented by Harkirat Ahluwalia, founder of Citrus County Farm Stays. "You will find that the beautiful smiles of the state seem to weave a poetry. That's the magic of Punjab. It casts a spell and the rich heritage takes everyone by awe. The spiritual ardor will bring inner peace and every stone in every wall has a tale to tell," he told us.



Taking pride in being a Punjabi, Ahluwalia focussed on the Kartarpur corridor and the benefits it has brought along. "When people celebrated 550 years of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, almost 60,000 people have visited Sultanpur Lodhi.

The government handled the pilgrims in such a way that there was no mishap.

Another advantage that the State has is the connectivity and also the fact that it's

geography is good.

"It is the new stop in the tourism line. We will promote this state as one of the best tourism destinations, especially its rural tourism, said he.



Hours long traffic jam in hill stations, hotels displaying "full" in red on their gates, internet flooded with pictures of people forming a beeline for water and residents left with no adequate resources due to over-tourism. All these incidents have become common, especially during the summer as the temperatures goes up and more and more visitors head towards the hill stations. Now the question here is: where do we draw the line and where do we divert the travel addict without denting the tourism economy?

To ponder upon the issue and come up with various solutions across the industry, Mandip Singh Soan, Sumant Batra and Seema Bhatt spoke on *Over-tourism and Sustainability* at Exotica Tourism Summit organised by The Pioneer media group. It was moderated by Saimi Sattar.

A mountaineer, explorer and environmentalist, Mandip Singh Soan began the session talking about the potential of eco-tourism and the need to reflect upon responsible tourism. "We will soon ask the government to launch an itinerary for responsible tourism. There will be various checkpoints that the travellers will need to look at before embarking on a journey. It will also include checklist for the travel operators of the industry," said he.

Another panelist, Sumant Batra, an insolvency lawyer and founder of Te Aroha, shared the instances which helped him set up his property in Uttarakhand.

## Disperse the crowds

The tourism industry needs to set standards, increase awareness among the visitors, diversify and integrate communities to combat over-tourism

He said, "This place was not much discovered earlier. We started with five rooms and now have 22." It has an unusual but appealing way to attract the visitors through storytelling. It has a museum and houses a library of 12,000 books. This new experiential helped draw tourists to a new Himalayan experience and ease the pressure of usual favourites. Sitting next to him, Seema Bhatt who has worked extensively on issues related to eco-tourism, biodiversity and climate change emphasised upon carrying capacity, setting industry standards and striking a balance between sustainability and livelihood. "There is over-tourism because there are too many people visiting a certain location only. It is very important for us to see the figures of a particular location, set standards and put a limit on the number of people visiting," said she.

She talked about the factors that determine the carrying capacity of a region. When its an ecologically fragile area like Ladakh, it depends on its ecosystem. It requires detailed involved

research such as the revenue generation of the area, population, number of tourists visiting, water consumption, waste disposal and many other factors.

But in order to keep the number of tourists intact, it is very important to route them to a different location. So we need to diversify tourism. "As we are operating in a country, which has the largest number of youth, we need to move beyond the old definition of tourism of just visiting places and focus more upon the experiences," added she.

However, every solution comes with its own challenges. Mandip said that the people usually don't take ecological challenges into account during the beginning. For instance, the number of jeeps in Ladakh increased from four to 450 after people watched the film *3 Idiots*. "When we suggest people on the carrying capacity they say 'we have just started, we need people'. And they only react to it when it gets worse. But you need to consider this problem during the beginning in order to disperse the peo-

ple in a better way," said he.

While building a property in a local area, it is very important to strike a balance between the local people, the area and tourists. Sumant said that he was very clear about not destroying the apple orchards to build the rooms. "I also decided that I would hire only the local people. But most of them hadn't stepped out of their homes. So I called an expert from Mumbai who trained the locals for six months. They are very quick learners. Now they are all well-trained, some of them can also read wine labels," he added.

The emphasis is to aid the local ecosystem and ensure that the tourists do not impact the local people adversely. There are literature, art and film festivals to boost the local culture and attract more visitors.

For Seema, it is important to hire the local people, not just as labours but build their capacity too. "One must train and empower them. The local cuisine is a strong tool in their hands, one must use that wisely," she added.



Abu Sufiyan, independent mobile journalist, founder of *Purani Dilli Waalo Ki Baatein* and digital campaign adviser for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has made an effort towards reinventing Old Delhi. He says that there is an urgent need to explore Delhi and promote its culture

through micro-tourism. Abu has travelled most of the places on foot, which has helped him to have a deeper insight into the subject.

He said that in order to promote the abandoned havelis, we need to conduct *Mushayara* and *Qawwalis* in them. This will attract more visitors.

An effective solution for this would be to outsource the maintenance and exterior lighting of the heritage monument to corporate giants in return for some branding opportunity at the monument. "We need to have a proper gateway to take the best out of our destinations," added he.

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India entered the semifinals of the women's T20 World Cup after Shafali Verma's 34-ball 46 followed by a superlative performance from the bowlers helped the team notch up a narrow four-run win over New Zealand here on Thursday.

Invited to bat, India posted a below-par 133 for eight in the group A match with Shafali top-scoring with a 34-ball 46 and Taniya Bhatia chipping in with a 25-ball 23.

They, however, produced a disciplined performance with the ball to restrict New Zealand to 129 for six and register their third successive win in the tournament and seal a last-four spot.

With this win, India topped Group A, having beaten Australia and Bangladesh in their last two outings.

"It is a great feeling when your team is performing like that," India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said after the match.

"We did the same mistakes, we got a good start in the first 10 overs and we didn't carry the momentum. We did bowl well in patches and some times, we were not up to the mark and have to focus on those areas," she added.

Defending a below-par total, India introduced spin straight away but Deepti Sharma bled 12 runs with opener Rachel Priest (12) hitting her for two boundaries.

But experienced pacer Shikha Pandey removed Priest in the next over when she had her caught at mid wicket.

With Shikha and left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad bowling in tandem, New Zealand played with caution to reach 28 for one.

Back into the attack, Deepti then cleaned up Bates with a beauty of a delivery as New Zealand slipped to 30 for two.

Poonam Yadav and Radha Yadav then mounted the pressure on the Kiwis and soon the Black Caps were 34 for 3 when the former dismissed skipper Sophie Devine (14).

Maddy Green (24) and Katey Martin (25) then tried to resurrect the innings with a 36-ball 43-run stand.

However, Gayakwad returned to

# THREE IN A ROW

Shafali's 46, bowler's economical spell help Harman & Co book last 4 place with narrow four-run win over White Ferns



Indian team celebrate their win over New Zealand in their third game of Women's T20 World Cup in Melbourne

## We read & handle situations better now, says Taniya



Poonam Yadav celebrates with Taniya Bhatia after the later stumped out opposition player

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Wicket-keeper batswoman Taniya Bhatia says the Indian team has got better at reading and handling different situations, which was evident during the recent tri-series in Australia.

India on Thursday became the first team to seal a semifinal spot at the T20 World Cup following a narrow four-run win over New Zealand here.

"In the last 12 to 14 months, we have improved a lot as a unit. We're in a really positive position. We've been playing well ever since the tri-series. I think we've got a lot better as a team in working out how to handle and read situations well," Bhatia said at the post-match press conference.

"The results are in our favour,

but we need to keep up the momentum. If we do that, we will do well and hopefully we can win the final," Bhatia added.

Bhatia is optimistic that their batters will definitely come good in the remaining matches of the tournament.

"We're playing well, it's just one or two odd games where our batters failed to perform. Shafali is giving us a good start and the rest of our batters will take up responsibility," she said.

Bhatia said she is open to bat at any position for the team's cause.

"I can bat well up the order and I know I'm capable of scoring runs there," she said.

India will play Sri Lanka in their last Group A game on Saturday.

## Aus thrash B'desh

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney hit attacking half-centuries in a dominating 151-run opening stand as Australia hammered Bangladesh by 86 runs in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup match, here on Thursday.

The partnership between Healy (83) and Mooney (81 not out) is Australia's highest for any wicket at the Women's T20 World Cup.

Australia's 189 for one, the highest total of the tournament, proved too much for Bangladesh who could manage only 103 for nine.



remove Green, who danced down the pitch only to end up with an outside edge as Bhatia did the rest.

Radha then dismissed Martin to leave New Zealand at 90 for 5 in 16.3 overs.

Needing 44 off 21 balls, Kerr (34) blasted four boundaries to accumulate 18 runs in the penultimate over bowled by Poonam to bring the equation down to 16 off six balls.

In the final over, Heyley Jensen (11) and Kerr cracked a four each but Shikha held her nerves in the end to ensure India's win.

## Aggressive intent & clear mindset against pace will help us: Rahane

CHRISTCHURCH: Ajinkya Rahane wants to take on the New Zealand pace battery with more intent in the second Test and his foolproof strategy includes countering the awkward angles which became a nightmare for Indian batsmen during the first Test.

Rahane, who top-scored with 46 in the first innings of the opening Test, is hopeful that a turnaround will happen on a green top at the Hagley Oval, which he reckons will be better for batting compared to the one they got in Wellington.

"I am not saying (we have to be) more aggressive but having that intent and clear mindset will help us," Rahane told reporters on Thursday.

New Zealand pacers Trent Boult, Tim Southee and Kyle Jamieson used the short ball liberally after coming wide of the crease with an angle that was disconcerting for the batsmen.

"I think they used that angle really well in Wellington. Bowling wide of the crease or from the centre, they changed angles while bowling the short balls. I think their plan was completely clear.

"As a batsman, if you going to think about a particular shot, then you need to back yourself and play that shot. You cannot doubt yourself. We need to forget what happened in Wellington," the Indian vice-captain said.

According to Rahane, the two net sessions

at the Hagley Oval is being used to practice negating the awkward angles that Neil Wagner and company can create.

"That's what I said: try and learn what mistakes we did as a group, what we can learn. I think we have to practice those angles. We had a practice session and we have one more tomorrow. And you have to practice that and trust your ability in the middle," Rahane said in a reassuring tone.

While net sessions are important, it's the instincts in match situations that counts, he said.

"But to change or adjust those angles there are times you need to be instinctive while you are batting. It can mean standing on off-stump, or standing outside the crease or staying deep inside the crease - like if it is a pitch for cut shot then you can stand deeper in the crease. This is the mental side of the game," Rahane said.

"For me, as a batsman it is important you show your intent to the bowler, if you stand in one spot then the bowler doesn't need to change anything. These are small things we have been working on in practice and how to use the crease and the angles. Doesn't matter how much you practice you must trust or have the belief to be able to do it in the middle," he added.



Virat Kohli plays a pull shot

## Kiwis look to exploit sideways movement against Kohli

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Virat Kohli will be itching to make a comeback in the second Test and the best chance for New Zealand will be to exploit the sideways movement which can spell trouble for the Indian captain, feels opener Tom Latham.

Kohli had an indifferent tour of New Zealand so far. He was out for 2 and 19 in the first Test in Wellington.

"When Virat comes out to bat we will be ready. He is a quality player and there is a reason why he is up around that No 1 rank for such a period of time," Latham said at the media conference on Thursday.

"He has done it for long time and done it in all conditions. If the surface is conducive to sideways movement we will try and exploit that," said Latham.

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami might have had a below par game in Wellington but Latham said they remain world class bowlers and the team would be certainly wary of them.

"We have played those guys really well in the first Test. But they are World class performers and we will be wary of them. Certainly they would be on top of their game and if we play well it will give us a good chance. We need to be consistent for long periods," he said.

Latham is sure that Neil Wagner's comeback will add firepower to the side.

"I haven't yet seen him but when he rocks up for training he will be absolutely fizzing up to get going and obviously he will be raring to go. He is been a quality performer for a number of years for us," Latham said.

The Hagley Oval surface will have bounce and Latham expects Wagner to be more than a handful.

"It's something that Neil has obviously been so good at for so long and he is second to none in terms of accuracy.

"He is a short guy and that makes him harder to play. If the surface is up for that plan he will be looking to go round with that."

The first day will be important reckoned Latham.

"Generally, it's a good surface and surfaces in NZ have been on the greener side at the start and then flatten out. So we need to do well on day one."

## Warner, Finch power hunt Proteas



Australian players pose with winners' trophy after win in 3rd T20I

AFP ■ CAPE TOWN

David Warner and Aaron Finch launched a brutal assault on the South African bowlers to set up a comprehensive 97-run Australian victory in the series-deciding third Twenty20 international at Newlands.

In a near-repeat of Australia's record 107-run win in the first match of the series in Johannesburg, South Africa captain Quinton de Kock's decision to bowl first backfired spectacularly.

Led by opening batsmen

Warner (57) and captain Finch (55), Australia piled up 193 for five - three fewer than they made in Johannesburg.

They then bowled out South Africa for 96, just seven more than the host country's record low in Johannesburg.

As in Johannesburg, left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc bowled De Kock, South Africa's star batsman, in the first over of the home team's reply.

He followed up by dismissing former captain Faf du Plessis in the third over and was named man-of-the-match after taking

three for 23.

Finch was named man of the series for his aggressive batting and astute captaincy.

"The guys have bought into the roles they have been asked to play," he said.

It was the first time Warner and Steve Smith had played at Newlands since both were banned for a year after a ball-tampering scandal at the same ground two years ago.

South Africa were never in the game after Warner and Finch thrashed 120 for the first wicket off 74 balls.

Apart from some powerful hitting by both players, they forced the South Africans into fielding errors with their aggressive running between wickets.

"It's something we pride ourselves on," said Finch.

"It's quite disappointing the way we lost," said De Kock. "We have to keep our heads up and keep looking forward."

Although Finch said he would have batted if he had won because of the dryness of the pitch, De Kock said he would make the same decision to bowl again.

He said he still thought chasing a target at Newlands was a preferred option, but admitted: "Australia were 20 runs above par"

## Jaffer advises Indian batsmen to score big

NAVI MUMBAI: Wasim Jaffer, a domestic cricket giant, says unless the Indian batsmen build on their starts and put a big total on the board, bouncing back in the Test series against New Zealand will be extremely difficult.

"Virat has a lean patch for a while, so I am expecting him to come back stronger. Pujara needs some runs under his belt. Most importantly they need to convert their starts into three figures, if that doesn't happen and if we don't put score of 350-400 runs then it is difficult," Jaffer told PTI.

"In 200-250 (runs) you can't win a Test match unless there is much help from the pitch. When we bat first or bat second, we need to score 400-450 runs," Jaffer said.

Jaffer also felt that the team getting bundled out for below 200 in the first Test was not befitting of its number one rank in the longest format of the game.

"They kept our run-rate in check and kept our batsmen under pressure for long periods. I felt that in the first innings the conditions were favourable for bowlers, but they worked out an strategy of bouncers and we should have batted better in the second innings. To get out both times under 200 is unlike the number one Test team," he said.

## Prithvi skips practice with swollen foot

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Young opener Prithvi Shaw missed Thursday's training session due to a swelling on his left foot, increasing Indian team management's worries ahead of the second Test against New Zealand beginning on Saturday.

According to sources, Shaw will undergo a blood test on Thursday to ascertain the reason of the swelling.

In case the medical report is favourable, a call will be taken during Friday's practice session on his availability for the second Test. If Shaw is not comfortable while batting, he will not make it to the playing XI.

Shubman Gill had a good net session on Thursday and it is expected that he would be asked to open the innings a long side Mayank Agarwal if Shaw is unable to make it.

During Thursday's nets, head coach Ravi Shastri was seen paying extra attention to Gill's session. At one point, Shastri walked up to Gill and was seen giving some technical inputs about footwork to Gill and what's required to check his uppish drives.

The Indian team management is hopeful that the swelling will not be a serious concern for Shaw.

The Mumbai opener didn't even take part in the customary warm-up session where players had a good time playing touch rugby.

Shaw had a poor outing in the first Test in Wellington, getting dismissed cheaply in both the innings.

## Guwahati will host 2 games of RR in IPL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati will host former champions Rajasthan Royals' first two home matches during the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League, the BCCI said on Thursday.

"They will now play Delhi Capitals & Kolkata Knight Riders on April 5th & April 9th respectively in Guwahati. Both games will have an 8 PM IST start," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a release.

Rajasthan Royals will play their remaining five home matches at their designated home ground of Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

The Steve Smith-led Rajasthan Royals will open their campaign with an away match against Chennai Super Kings on April 2.

"The Royals are bringing the IPL to the Northeast for the very first time, expanding cricket's footprint in the region. See you in

April, Guwahati!" Rajasthan Royals wrote on their official twitter handle.

Last year, Rajasthan Royals had made a request to play few of their matches in Guwahati and have been in talks with the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) for quite sometime. The move, which is backed by the IPL Governing Council, was however challenged by a PIL at the Rajasthan High Court earlier this year.

The reason behind such a move was Royals' unhappiness with the ailing cricketing ecosystem in the state and also their poor relation with the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA).

The Royals also had been incurring losses due to reasons such as high demands for free tickets and mandatory allotment of seats to RCA.

Inaugural edition winners Rajasthan Royals had earlier played at Ahmedabad in 2010, and Ahmedabad and Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium in the 2015 season.



David Warner walks back to the pavilion