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CAN INVISIBLE HAND WORK?

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BORIS JOHNSON HAILS UK'S NEW BEGINNING AS BREXIT DAY ARRIVES

SPORT 15

THIEM REACHES AUS OPEN FINAL

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹3



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RICHA SPEAKS ON PAY DISPARITY
13 VIVACITY

Tareekh pe tareekh...

Justice hangs fire as Nirbhaya convicts not to be hanged today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Court on Friday deferred the "death warrant" of the four convicts of the Nirbhaya gangrape-murder case till further order as the mercy plea of one of the convicts is pending before the President. The hanging was scheduled for Saturday (February 1) at 6 am.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana of the Patala House courts ruled that four "death-row convicts"—Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Kumar Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar (31) — of the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case will not be hanged on Saturday and postponed the execution of their death warrants till further order.

Vinay's mercy plea before the President is pending, while Akshay has not filed a mercy plea yet. Pawan is the only one yet to file a curative plea. Mukesh's mercy plea was dismissed by President Ram Nath Kovind on January 17.

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court dismissed Pawan's plea seeking review of the decision by which his application claiming to be a juvenile at the time of the commission of offence was rejected.

Convicts have the option of moving a mercy petition before the President only after the apex court dismisses their curative plea.



Nirbhaya's mother breaks down on learning the court has put off the execution of the convicts, in New Delhi on Friday PTI

The court passed the order on the plea by the convicts seeking adjournment of the executions "sine die" (with no appointed date for resumption). This is for the second time that the execution of the death warrants has been deferred. The first order for execution of death sentence, issued on January 7 for January 22 was stayed on January 17.

Tihar jail administration has completed all the formalities for the execution. The

hangman, Pawan Jallad, requisitioned for the hanging has even carried out a dry run of the hanging and has been housed on the jail premises.

Advocate AP Singh, the counsel for the three convicts — Pawan, Vinay and Akshay — had urged the court to adjourn the matter "sine die" saying their legal remedies were yet to be exhausted.

The Tihar jail authorities had challenged their application saying it was not main-

tainable and the death-row convicts can be hanged separately. However, the argument of the Tihar jail authorities was not accepted by the court.

The convicts' lawyer had argued that rules dictate that when one convict's plea is pending, the others cannot be hanged. In the order, the judge noted that if an appeal or an application is made by only one convict, the execution of sentence shall be postponed in the case of co-convicts also.

The judge said, "Without commenting upon the dilatory tactics adopted by the convicts, suffice it would be to state that seeking redressal of one's grievances through procedure established by law is the hallmark of any civilised society. The courts of this country cannot afford to adversely discriminate any convict, including death-row convict, in pursuit of his legal remedies, by turning a Nelson's eye towards him."

"As a cumulative effect of the aforesaid discussion, I am of the considered opinion that the execution of warrants issued by this court vide order dated January 17, 2020, deserves to be postponed till further orders," the judge said. The court said a copy of this order be given to the counsel for convicts and the jail officials present in the court. "The jail superintendent is directed to file the compliance report by tomorrow," it said.

Assemble-in-India for \$5 tn economy

Eco Survey sees growth pick-up, recommends labour-intensive export to create 4 cr jobs by 2025; markets recoil on fiscal slippage fears

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey on Friday projected revival of economic growth to 6-6.5 per cent next fiscal and suggested that the Government should relax the budget deficit target to boost growth.

Sensex skidded 190 points while the Nifty closed below the 12,000-mark on Friday after the Economic Survey suggested relaxing fiscal deficit target to boost growth.

The Survey, released a day before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the Union Budget for 2020-21, suggested a cut in food subsidy to create fiscal space at a time when tax revenues were falling.

Facing the worst economic slowdown since the global financial crisis of 2008-09 that worsened job prospects, the Survey said businessmen should be respected as they create wealth and jobs.

For India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, it prescribed strengthening trust in the economy, enabling and



empowering markets, promotion of pro-business policies, and measures to enhance farmers' income.

It also suggested reforms to make it easier to open new businesses, register property, pay taxes and enforce contracts.

Giving a new dimension to "Make in India", the Survey suggested that the Government should integrate "Assemble in India for the world" into its flagship programme to boost exports and generate jobs. "By integrating 'Assemble in India for the world' into Make in India, India can raise its export market share to about 3.5 per cent by 2025 and 6 per cent by 2030. This will create 4 crore well-paid jobs by 2025 and 8 crore by 2030," the survey said.

The survey said China's remarkable export performance vis-a-vis India is driven

primarily by deliberate specialisation at large scale in labour-intensive sectors, especially network products, where production occurs across Global Value Chains (GVCs) operated by multi-national corporations.

It batted for aggressive investment to bring higher profitability and efficiency, minimal government intervention in markets, encouraging entrepreneurship, and supporting wealth creation.

Commenting on the Survey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the report focuses on wealth creation for Indians. "It outlines a multi-faceted strategy to achieve a \$5 trillion economy through enterprise, exports, ease of doing business and more," he tweeted.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

3 JeM ULTRAS KILLED IN JAMMU ENCOUNTER

Bann Toll Plaza: Three Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were killed on Friday in a fierce gunbattle with police at a toll plaza on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway here, officials said. A group of three-four terrorists were intercepted at the Bann toll plaza, about 28 km from Jammu city, when they were trying to enter the Valley on a truck.

PM ASKS NDA LEADERS TO BACK CAA STRONGLY

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that his Government has no reason to feel defensive about the CAA and asked NDA leaders to back the measure strongly in Parliament.

CONG SUSPENDS EX-MP MAHABAL MISHRA

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday suspended ex-MP Mahabal Mishra for anti-party activities during campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections.

KOREGAON PANEL: CAN'T WORK WITHOUT FUNDS

Pune: The panel conducting enquiry into the 2018 Koregaon Bhima violence asked the Maharashtra Government to wind it up, saying it cannot function due to "want of money" and "the Government did not seem to be serious about it".

AI flight to bring back students from Wuhan today

Army, ITBP ready quarantine facilities for returnees; WHO declares coronavirus outbreak global emergency

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An Air India jet landed in Wuhan on Friday evening to bring back the Indian students stuck in China's Hubei province, the epicentre of deadly coronavirus outbreak. All students, save two suffering from fever, boarded the plane which is scheduled to reach India early on Saturday.

After arrival in Delhi, they will be taken to the newly set up Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) quarantine facility. Besides medical care, the paramilitary will provide them basic amenities like food, lodging and internet facilities.

The Army and ITBP have set up separate quarantine centres in the NCR. The ITBP has set up a 600-bed facility, the Army facility will cater to about 300 students being evacuated from China's Hubei province.

Meanwhile, as the death toll due to lethal coronavirus climbed to 213 with nearly 10,000 infections across 15 countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.



A parent places a medical mask on a child as a safety precaution in view of the outbreak of coronavirus, at a hospital in Thrissur on Friday PTI

The facility at Chhawal area of south-west Delhi is ready with medicines and monitoring equipment along with a team of qualified doctors from the paramilitary and Safdarjung Hospital, ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said.

A team of doctors have been stationed at the facility where special arrangements have been made to host children and women at this quarantine facility, Pandey said.



A view of the quarantine facility which has been set up by the Army for the 300 students, who are being brought back from coronavirus-hit Wuhan in China, at Manesar, Haryana PTI

The Army quarantine facility in Manesar near Gurugram will keep around 300 Indian students. Officials said the students will be monitored for any signs of infection for two weeks by a qualified team of doctors and staff members.

JJB remands Jamia shooter in 14-day protective custody

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The youth, who fired at a group of anti-CAA protesters near Jamia Millia Islamia on Thursday injuring a university student on the hand, was on Friday sent to a 14-day protective custody by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).

"The juvenile was presented before the JJB on Friday afternoon. We have also urged the board to form a medical panel to conduct a bone ossification test that will verify the age of the youth," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rajesh Deo.

On Thursday, the accused opened fire at an anti-CAA protester injuring him before walking away while brandishing the firearm aloft and shouting "Yeh lo aazadi" amid heavy police presence. He was soon overpowered by police.

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik has asked the Crime Branch to probe the case as it is sensitive in nature and should be investigated from all angles following claims that his Class Xth marksheet issued by the CBSE, shows that he is a yet to attain 18 years of age and he is a minor.



The injured Jamia student, Shadab Farooq, was discharged from AIIMS after a surgery on Friday. No injury to blood vessels or nerves were sustained, a doctor said.

Atta at ₹2/kg, potable water: BJP's Sankalp

Party manifesto for Delhi polls pledges 10L jobs in 5 years

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP has promised good quality wheat flour at ₹2 per kg for the poor and supply of clean drinking water to

every household in its Delhi Sankalp Patra for the February 8 Delhi Assembly elections.

The BJP also promised creation of 10 lakh jobs in Delhi in the next five years. It has also promised to implement Central Government's flagship schemes Ayushman Bharat and Kisan Samman Nidhi in the national Capital.

Continued on Page 4

Farrukhabad captor shot, wife lynched

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/FARRUKHABAD

The hostage drama ended early on Friday after the captor was shot by security forces and his wife was lynched by angry villagers. All 23 children held captive for eight hours were rescued.

Eight policemen and a local resident were hurt when Subhash Batham, 40, opened fire at them during the siege in Kasaria village, police said.

The accused had invited the children for his daughter's birthday party and held them hostage since 5.45pm, UP Director General of Police OP Singh said.

The crisis continued past midnight, he added. *Continued on Page 4*

India go 4-0 up as Kiwis Super Over jinx continues

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

A nervous New Zealand threw it away yet again as a perseverant India prevailed in the Super Over for the second successive time to take a 4-0 lead in the T20 International series here on Friday.

Needing just 11 runs off the last two overs with seven wickets in hand, New Zealand dug a hole for themselves yet again, taking the game to a Super Over two nights after doing the same in Hamilton.

New Zealand managed 13 runs in six balls and India got there effortlessly. "What's happened in last two T20 games is unbelievable... We are very proud of how we went about our business today," said India captain Virat Kohli, who struck the winning four in the game.

KL Rahul smashed 10 runs off the first two balls before he was caught. Then, a fired-up

Kohli and Sanju Samson finished the game in style. "It is very tough. To get ourselves into the position we got today and then give them a chance... India grabbed it with both hands," said New Zealand stand-in skipper Tim Southee.

This was after New Zealand won a fourth consecutive toss and opted to field. Their regular captain Kane Williamson didn't take part in the match owing to a shoulder niggle. The Indians weren't off to a great start but Manish Pandey proved his value to the team with an unbeaten 50 off 35 balls, taking the visitors to 165 for eight from 88 for six in the 12th over.

India's total wasn't enough considering the batting-friendly conditions but the hosts made life a lot tougher for themselves from a commanding position before succumbing to pressure.

Detailed report on P16



Virat Kohli during the T-20 cricket international between India and New Zealand in Wellington, New Zealand on Friday PTI



BJP leaders Nitin Gadhkar, Prakash Javadekar, Harsh Vardhan, Manoj Tiwari, Vijay Goele, Meenakshi Lekhi and Gautam Gambhir release the BJP Sankalp Patra for Delhi polls in New Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

BJP's Sankalp a jumla patra: AAP

BJP's manifesto deception, says Cong

The country was now staring at the highest unemployment rate in 45 years and several lakhs have been rendered jobless in Delhi due to the sealing drive. The BJP has not only failed to generate fresh jobs but the existing jobs were also snatched away from the youth following demonetisation and the wrong implementation of GST during its six year rule at the Centre

SUBHASH CHOPRA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the BJP's manifesto has proved that it will stop facilities like free electricity and water given by the Delhi Government. "Manifesto of the BJP proved that if you vote for them then your free electricity, free water and free bus journey will be stopped. Think and vote," he said in a tweet. Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh termed BJP manifesto a 'Jumla Patra'. He said it clearly showed the BJP aims to end all the welfare schemes given by the Delhi government. Singh said, "It is clear from this manifesto of the BJP that it has no intention of continuing any of the welfare schemes which the AAP Government started such as free electricity up to 200 units, water, and bus travel for women among others. This manifesto clearly says

that all the welfare schemes being run for common people today will be closed down if BJP comes to power. So, basically, it's not a manifesto, but a scheme to completely ruin the lives of the people of Delhi". Accusing the BJP of anti-women party, he said the manifesto has not addressed issues like safety of women, education and health as they are not in position to say anything on these issues. He also said the BJP has not made any strategy to deal with pollution precisely. "One of the causes of pollution in Delhi is crop burning in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, both ruled by the BJP and Punjab ruled by the Congress," he said. Singh said they promise to do away with tanker mafia, a system they themselves had facilitated in the first place, whereas it was Kejriwal who demolished this devious system in Delhi and rescued people

from its vicious clutch. When we came to power, only 58 per cent of Delhi received piped water but now this number reached at 93 per cent. Targeting the BJP over promises to halt sealing in Delhi, he said "It is the BJP that spread the fear of sealing and ruined lives and livelihood of traders. None of their leaders stood with the traders at that time, while we fought for them coming on the streets and raised the matter even in the Parliament. Who is going to believe these blatant lies of the BJP," he said. "The BJP will stop 'Fariشتهy Yojana', free surgeries, medicines, MRI, Ultrasound tests - and all these will be replaced by the Ayushman Yojana if it comes to power," he said. T h e promise to regularise the safai

karamcharis is ridiculous, he said, adding as of now, the subject matter of 'services' is under their jurisdiction and Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari had said on record that the dues for all safai karamcharis will be paid. What happened to that promise? Now again, they have brought this up during the Assembly elections — it is nothing but a jumla, he added.

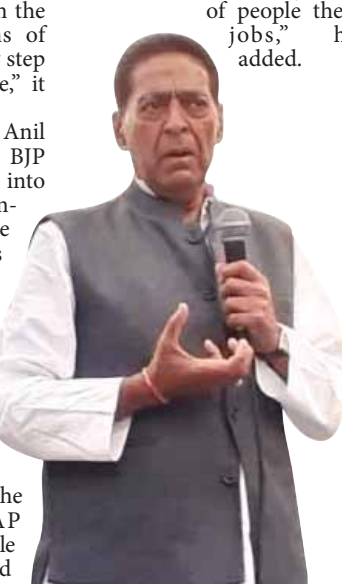
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress termed BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' as yet another 'Jhansa Patra' (deception paper) to throw dust into the eyes of the people of Delhi to get their votes. Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra said the promises like bringing back the black money stashed away in foreign banks, and depositing Rs 15 lakh to each account holder in the country made by the BJP in 2014 Lok Sabha elections is yet to be fulfilled. Chopra said that the manifesto has promised to provide 10 lakh jobs for the youth of Delhi, though it has woefully failed to fulfill its promise of giving two crore jobs to the youth of the country every year, made in the 2014 Lok Sabha

election manifesto. "The country was now staring at the highest unemployment rate in 45 years and several lakhs have been rendered jobless in Delhi due to the sealing drive. The BJP has not only failed to generate fresh jobs but the existing jobs were also snatched away from the youth following demonetisation and the wrong implementation of GST during its six year rule at the Centre. "The economic slump, wrong economic policies and GST have resulted in the closure of small and medium industries, and even big companies were forced to retrench their employees," he added. Chopra said that the sealing drive in the Capital led to the closure of small and medium shops and businesses, leaving lakhs of people jobless.

"Despite BJP being in power both at the Centre and in the Municipal Corporations of Delhi, it did not take any step to stop the sealing drive," it added. DPCC spokesperson Anil Bhardwaj said that the BJP manifesto only rubs salts into the wounds of the unemployed youth of Delhi. "The condition in Delhi was far worse as the unemployment rate in the Capital was 12 per cent. All the seven MPs from Delhi belong to the BJP, and the party is also in power at the MCDs, they could not bring any new law to stop the sealing drive in Delhi. The BJP and the AAP Government are responsible for the sealing of shops and

industrial units, robbing lakhs of people their jobs," he added.



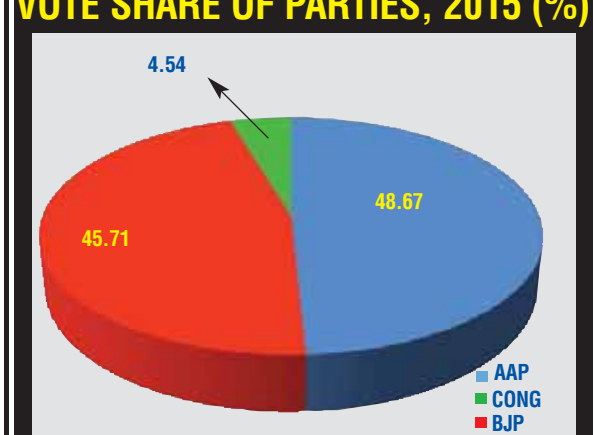
Constituency profile

BJP's Vats aims to wrest seat from Jain

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Shakur Basti constituency appears to be locked into a straight fight between the ruling AAP and the BJP. The AAP has fielded sitting MLA Satyendar Jain who won the seat defeating BJP candidate by 3133 votes in Assembly election held in 2015. BJP candidate SC Vats, who represented the constituency two times on Congress symbol, is well known for development carried out during his tenure as an MLA. The Congress has fielded Dev Raj Arora. Shakur Basti Assembly seat has witnessed an interesting battle since the first election held in 1993 in which BJP's Gauri Shankar Bhardwaj won the seat by huge margin, securing more than 51 per cent of vote share.

ELECTION	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTE SHARE (IN PER CENT)		
Year			AAP	BJP	CONGRESS
1993	Gauri Shankar Bhardwaj	BJP	48.67	45.71	4.54
1998	Dr SC Vats	Congress	42.30	34.87	19.76
2003	Dr SC Vats	Congress	—	50.20	45.20
2008	Shyam Lal Garg	BJP	—	36.14	56.21
2013	Satyendar Jain	AAP	—	42.67	56.14
2015	Satyendar Jain	AAP	—	51.45	38.12



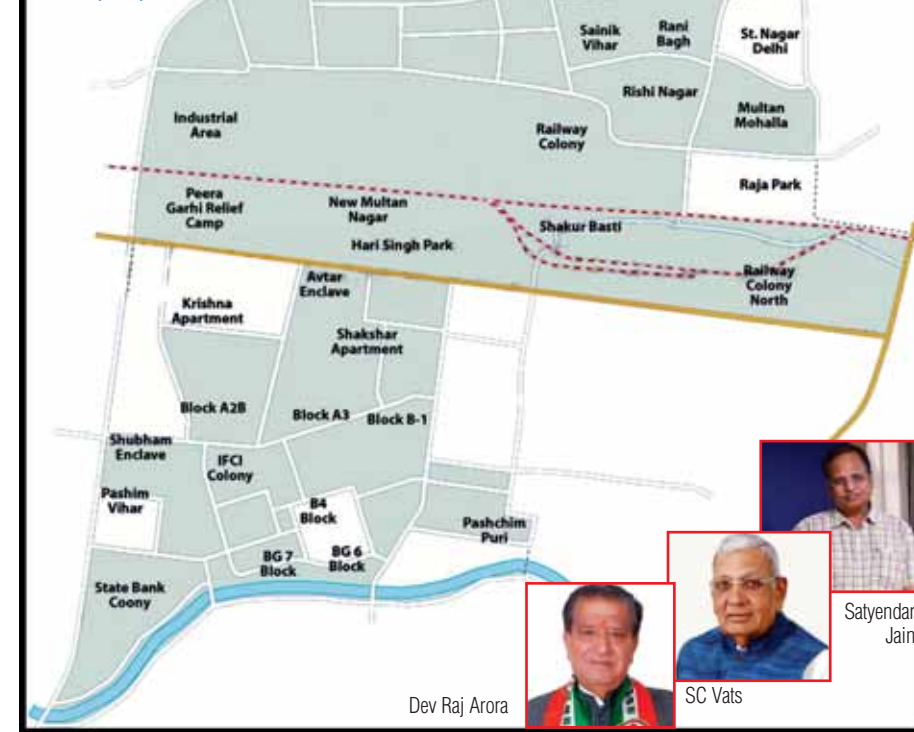
margin of 4,000 votes. The voting percentage for the BJP has been constant on this seat as it got on average 42 per cent in last five assembly elections. Interestingly, the BJP

gained 10.84 per cent vote share in 2015 compared to 34.87 of total votes polled in 2013. While the Congress vote share has seen a declining trend in last five Assembly elections as the party secured 56.14 per cent in 1998, 56.21 per cent in 2003, 45.20 in 2008, 19.76 in 2013 and reduced to just 4.54 per cent in 2015. The share of Congress votes has come down to 14.42 per cent on average in last two years as the voters were shifted to AAP. If political experts are to be believed the BJP candidate may win the seat comfortably after Congress managed to reach its average vote share which is 36.37 per cent. When asked about pace of development in the area, most of the residents expressed satisfaction but also denied that

freebies have any role to impact polls. People praised AAP Government for providing free electricity and ensuring 24 hours water supply, saying that it has provided a great relief to poor and middle class. Puneet Bansal, a businessman and a resident of Rani Bagh said that undoubtedly Kejriwal has done some good work such as providing free electricity, water and transport and people are being benefited from it but there is not even a single infrastructural works are undertaken in the area. "Vats is our favorite here. He transformed the area by completing many infrastructural projects. Besides, constructing roads and developing educational institution, the credit of 200 bedded multi specialty Hospital with a state of art equipments, operation theatres and staff quarters is also goes to him," said Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Paschim Vihar. "A state of art flyover with sound absorbers (to reduce vehicle noise pollution up to 50 decibels) was constructed with a total cost of seven crores, was also constructed during his tenure as an MLA which has reduced traffic congestion considerably at Britania Chowk," he said.

SHAKURBASTI

VOTERS — 1,05,077



There are about 1, 05,077 eligible voters in this constituency. The voting in the Delhi Assembly Election will be held on February 8 and the counting of votes will take place on February 11. The last Assembly election in Delhi was held in 2015 in which the AAP won with a thumping majority securing 67 seats out of 70 seats.

We give pens, BJP gives guns: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday attacked the BJP over the Jamia Nagar firing incident and said while his Government gave computers and pens to children while "they are giving guns and hate". Tweeting a video of a Delhi Government school student addressing an IT-Tech conference, Kejriwal said in Hindi, "We have given pens and computers in the hands of children and dreams of entrepreneurship in their eyes! They are giving guns and hate.

"What do you want to give to your children? Tell me on February 8!" Tension spiralled in Jamia Nagar on Thursday after a man fired a pistol at a group of people protesting against the new citizenship law, injuring a student, before walking away waving the firearm and shouting "Yeh lo aazadi". He was subsequently overpowered by police. The AAP smelt a BJP conspiracy behind the incident, saying the saffron party wants to create a "riot-like" situation and get the assembly polls, scheduled for February 8, postponed as it can sense its defeat.

Jamia students condemn firing incident

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hundreds of Jamia students staged a peaceful protest against the amended Citizenship Amended Act (CAA) on Friday, a day after the violent incident where a man fired a pistol at a group of agitators there, injuring a student. Condemning the attack on their fellow students, the protesting students carried posters and placard with slogans written it saying, 'Stop Hate Speech, Safety really? What's in the name' and 'Tamache Pe Disco, Jamia se Khisko'. The students said they were shocked when they saw the man emerge from the crowd and open fire in full public view amidst heavy police presence. "I am protesting here for the last two months and it was a peaceful protest till yesterday but witnessing the firing incident, it feels like there is no safety at all inside and outside the campus and in this area. All we wanted was a peaceful protest to Rajghat on the death anniversary of the father of our nation. The police were standing still talking on phone and hands inside the pocket. They could have done something during the incident," said a protesting student on condition of anonymity. Thousands of people and police personnel faced off against each other near the university on Thursday after a man fired a pistol at a group of anti-CAA protesters. As night fell, massive protests broke out with agitated students and others gathering near the university, breaking barricades and clashing with police personnel. The protests ended around 9 pm after police released four detained demonstrators, according to university and police officials. "We students have been protesting peacefully for the last



two months. On Thursday, we were heading for a peaceful march towards Rajghat where we were to form a human chain. But police had already put up barricades at several intersections. We somehow wanted to cross those barricades peacefully and head towards our destination," another student said. A resident of Jamia area said, "We are living here and watching this protest for the last two months but no such act happened. But, firing openly in public creates sense of fear among the students and residents." Another protesting student who is from Bihar, said "Now, our parents more scared and they want us to leave the university and return to hometown." Students also said the protest is solely by the student's community and politicians and unscrupulous elements will not be allowed to take part in their peaceful protest. "The political parties which is making this CAA protest their political agenda for the elections will not be allowed to entered the protest site," they said.

मेरा वोट दिल्ली का वोट

मेरे लिये, मेरे अपनों के लिये मेरी तरक्की मेरे सपनों के लिये आओ चलो वोट करें

मतदान - 08 फरवरी 2020, गुरुवार

समय - प्रातः 08 बजे से शाम 06 बजे तक

मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, दिल्ली

Govt. of Bihar

Police Headquarters, Bihar, Patna

Notice Inviting Short Re-Tender No.-47/2019-20

- Name of the Department: Office of Director General of Police, Bihar, Patna.
- Last date & time for the acceptance of the short re-tender: 10/02/2020, Till 02:00 PM
- Date & time fixed for the opening of the short re-tender: 10/02/2020, At 04:00 PM
- Place fixed for receiving & opening the tender: Office of Director General of Police, Bihar, Patna.

5. Details of Job:

S.N.	Item name	Quantity
1	High End Rack Server System with Accessories	01

Specifications and other terms & conditions of the tender may be obtained in person from this office or may be downloaded from the website www.prbihar.gov.in or www.biharpolice.bih.nic.in.

AIG (Q)
Bihar, Patna

PR. No. 14904 (Police) 2019-20

अवेध शरार एवं मादक द्रव्य के सम्बन्ध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

SHAH BLAMES AAP FOR DIRTY RIVER YAMUNA

Launches campaign blitz

Attacking both the AAP and the Congress, Amit Shah said on one side the BJP is contesting election which is dedicated and committed for the security of the country while on other side, the Congress and the AAP say they are with Shaheen Bagh



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Amit Shah has launched an aggressive campaign and has held several public gathering of around 1,000 to 15,000 people in one day Jan Samvad in Ashok Vihar, Tri Nagar and Pitampura on Friday. Addressing masses in Pitampura, Shah lashed out at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for dirty river Yamuna in Delhi.

Referring Ganga in Paryagraj, Shah dared AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal to take a dip in Yamuna. "Go and take a dip in Prayagraj, you will learn work done by Modi and Yogiji in cleaning the river," Shah lauded, "Kejriwal promised to clean Yamuna!"

Shah bordered Kejriwal in his for not fulfilling AAP's promises in Delhi. "Where is free WiFi, jobs for youth?"

Citing report of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the BJP leader said out of 21 samples of waters collected from 21 cities across India, Delhi's water report was poor. "Delhi people are drinking polluted water," Shah added.

Quoting BJP national president JP Nadda's tweet in which he uploaded a video of Mohalla clinic, Shah said there are no facilities in the clinic.

Accusing the AAP for depriving Delhi people from Centre-run Ayushman Health Scheme, the Union Home Minister said for the sake of your (Kejriwal's) selfish politics, you played with lives of poor's in Delhi.

Attacking both the AAP and the Congress, Shah said on one side the BJP is contesting election which is dedicated and committed for the security of the country while on other side, the Congress and the AAP say "We are with Shaheen Bagh."

Taking a jibe on the AAP, Shah said the State Governments compete for various development works, but Delhi Government is nowhere at number one, where are new 50 colleges.

Citing an audit report of Delhi Jal Board (DJB), he said earlier the civic body was in profit of ₹178 crore and today is in a loss of ₹800 crore whereas Kejriwal himself is the chairman of the DJB.

While attacking the opposition on CAA, Shah said that the Congress party had divided the country on the basis of religion, with millions of Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis and Christians left in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. "Today the BJP Government is giving citizenship to them, both the Congress and the AAP have a problem. Communist, SP, BSP and Mamata are all the same, so they could not abolish Article 370 because they only care for their own vote bank."

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi on resolving Ram Mandir issue, Shah said, "Modii resolved all the 70-year-old issues within just eight months, the decision of Ram Mandir came and now where Sri Ram was born, the grand temple construction will start there itself within four months. The BJP is the only party which follows the ideology of nationalism and is always moving forward to make successful the works of national interest," he added.

Raising the slogan of "Modi hai to Mumkin hai", Shah said Modi has dreamed of grooming Delhi, and also working for it continuously, under which regularisation of 1731 colonies.

With few days left for Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP has made a major shift in its strategy while it entered into the last leg of campaigning for the high voltage Delhi Assembly elections to be held on February 8, 2020.

The BJP has planned the public rallies and meeting of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to carpet bomb the poll arena. "As part of the reworked strategy the BJP has asked its various mandals to organise public meetings of 10,000-15,000. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will also hold a rally," a BJP leader said.

According to a party insider, the big rallies would begin from February 1. While Nukkad meetings will take place till the last day of campaigning, there would be big rallies of the top leadership of the party," informed a senior party leader.

Delhiites have adopted me, CM retorts to Vardhan's outsider jibe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

War of words erupted between Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal and Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday after the latter called him an "outsider".

Kejriwal hit out at Union Minister for calling him an "outsider", saying the people from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana settled in Delhi can be outsiders for the saffron party but the city has "adopted" them.

Responding to Vardhan's tweet in which he questioned the CM for calling himself as 'Delhi's son', Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi, "Doctor Sahib, you hate me. You can abuse me. How can you call all those born in UP and Haryana who are settled in Delhi outsiders? They may be outsiders to the BJP. But they are part of our Delhi family. We Delhiites adopted them all, made them our family."

The Union Minister said while Kejriwal was born in Hisar,

Haryana, he was settled in Kaushambi in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. "How can he be Delhi's son?" Vardhan asked.

In another tweet, Kejriwal responded to the recent "sting" of the BJP on mohalla clinics, saying the party has again "mocked" the people of Delhi by issuing "fake" videos.

"The BJP once again mocked the people of Delhi by issuing fake videos. Delhiites worked hard to build 450 world class mohalla clinics. Mohalla clinics have brightened the name of Delhi all over the world. Today, BJP's lie was caught in media investigation. People of Delhi are very happy with mohalla clinic," he said, tagging a news report.

AAP senior leader Sanjay Singh said the BJP is an anti-migrant party and that is the reason that senior BJP leader believes that Arvind Kejriwal who was born in Haryana, lived in UP but settled down in Delhi and then served Delhi as the CM for five years, cannot be a son of Delhi.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan said while Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal was born in Hisar, Haryana, he was settled in Kaushambi in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. "How can he be Delhi's son?" Vardhan asked

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CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

SAVING LIVES AT SEA

PRESERVATION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT

FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS

COMMUNITY INTERACTION PROGRAMME WITH FISHERMEN

Ensure law & order during polls, EC directs police

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday directed the Delhi Police to ensure law and order in the national Capital during polls in view of the ongoing protests in several parts of the city on CAA. This comes after a review meeting with the Delhi Chief Secretary, police commissioner and other top officials to review poll preparedness.

The EC also appointed former IRS officer B Murali Kumar (former IRS 1983) as special expenditure observer and ex-IPS officer Mrinal Kanti Das (IPS 1977) as special police observer for the Delhi polls.

Sources said the Delhi Police Commissioner has assured the poll panel in the review meeting that police will keep a strict vigil on law and order situation and take prompt and strict action against violators of law. Police have also shared a detailed plan for polling officials and vehicle transportation during polls on February 8. Besides, sensitive and hyper sensitive polling booths have increased this year due to protests.

On the appointment of special observers, the EC said

"As Special Expenditure Observer, Murali in consultation with the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer, will be supervising and monitoring the work being done by the electoral machinery and ensure that stringent and effective enforcement action is undertaken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through C-VIGIL, Voter Helpline 1950 against all persons/entities trying to induce voters by distributing cash, liquor & freebies etc. Similarly Das as the Special Police Observer is assigned to oversee the deployment and other security related issues", it said.

Das, who retired as Director General of Manipur Police, was also deputed earlier as Special Police Observer for Tripura and Mizoram during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections and also the recently held Jharkhand Assembly elections. Given past experience in the Investigation Wing of Income Tax Department, Kumar was also appointed Special Expenditure Observer for 8-Vellore Parliamentary Constituency and for the recently concluded Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

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CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

Headmistress, parent held for 'Modi abuse' in drama

Bengaluru: Days after a sedition case was slapped against a school in Karnataka, its headmistress and a student's mother have been arrested for alleged involvement in staging of a drama portraying Prime Minister Narendra Modi in poor light over the CAA and NRC, police said on Friday. The police action came after they questioned the two women, a few staff members of the Shaheen School in the district headquarters town of Bidar and students on Thursday.

They were produced before a court which remanded them to judicial custody, police said adding further investigation was on.

The drama was staged by students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on January 21. A sedition case was booked by police on January 26 against



The drama was staged by students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on January 21. The play uploaded on social media had gone viral

the school, along with some other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on January 26, based on a complaint from social worker Neelesh Rakshyal.

The play uploaded on social media had gone viral.

Officials said, the utterances against the Prime Minister were not part of the original script, but the mother of a Class six student allegedly incorporated them during the practice and the teacher allowed it to be part of the

Goa: Complaint against school for involving kids in protest rally

Panaji: The National Student's Union of India (NSUI) on Friday filed a complaint with the director general of police (DGP) against a school in Porvorim for allegedly brainwashing students and making them participate in a pro-CAA march.

The action has come hours after the police registered a criminal case against a wing of Goa Church and an NGO for allegedly making children take part in a rally against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

NSUI Goa chief Ahras Mulla filed a complaint with the DGP alleging that Porvorim-based school Vidya Prabhodini had brainwashed students and made them participate in a pro-CAA rally at Porvorim on December 18 last year.

In its complaint, the NSUI said the management of Vidya Prabhodini has been brainwashing young students and had reportedly asked them to participate in a rally supporting CAA and National Register of Citizens.

The management exposed children to political ideology and aggressive language, and also exposed them to psychological abuse and an unsafe environment, the NSUI alleged.

"There have been complaints that students from the institution are forced to be part of such rallies, failing which strict action is taken by the management against students who oppose NRC and CAA," the complaint states.



Muslim women during a protest against CAA, NRC and NPR at Shahid Smarak in Jaipur on Friday

Maha Congress: Slap sedition case against school for pro-CAA event

Mumbai: The Congress on Friday demanded that a sedition case be registered against the management of a school in Mumbai for allegedly forcing children to support the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act.

The demand from the Maharashtra Congress comes against the backdrop of a move by police from neighbouring Karnataka to slap sedition charges against a school in Bidar there for staging a drama critical of CAA and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The drama was staged by students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on January 21, and a sedition case was regis-

Goa: Cong condemns FIR against church wing over protest rally

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Congress on Friday condemned the FIR filed against a Goa Church wing and an NGO over the presence of children at anti-CAA protest, terming it an 'assault on a religious institution'.

The Goa police's women and child protection unit on Thursday filed an FIR against Council for Social Justice and Peace (Goa Church's wing) and National Human Rights Organisation (Goa Chapter) for using children to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at a rally in Margao on January 24.

"The politically dictated FIR by the Goa Police is not only an attack on freedom of expression and speech, but also a direct assault on a religious institution," Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar said.

Talking to reporters here, Chodankar accused the BJP-led state government of cre-

3 PFI activists held in connection with violence during protest in Lucknow

Lucknow: Three members of the Popular Front of India (PFI) were arrested on Friday for their involvement in the December 19 anti-CAA protests in Lucknow which had turned violent, police said.

Shakeel ur Rehman, Shabi Khan and Mohammed Arshad were among the conspirators behind the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act violence that had rocked the State Capital, a police spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

The trio were held from Hasanganj Police Station area of the city.

"They were arrested following a tip-off by their associates who were arrested earlier. Shakeel ur Rehman, Shabi Khan and Mohammed Arshad are linked to PFI, and they used to instigate people," the police said.

On December 31, last year, the Uttar Pradesh Police had sought a ban on the PFI, days after its complicity was suspected in the recent statewide violent protests against the amended citizenship law.

The then Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police O P Singh had said that they had written to the Union Home Ministry, seeking a ban on the PFI after its Uttar Pradesh head, Wasim and 16 other activists were arrested for allegedly masterminding the violence in the state capital.

"We have written to the Union Home Ministry, recommending that the PFI should be banned,"



Protesters raise slogans against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) during a demonstration, in Mumbai on Friday

FIR against Ghosh for remark against protester

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A college girl has lodged a police complaint against Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh for threatening murder and making uncouth remarks lowering a woman's dignity.

The complaint was lodged a day after Ghosh told the media that the woman — who was heckled by the BJP workers while protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act — was lucky to have escaped with a torn poster "otherwise many more things could have happened to her."

Sudeshna Dutta Gupta, a Second Year student of Sanskrit University was allegedly heckled by BJP workers on Thursday while she was standing with an anti-CAA poster by the route of a Abhinandan Yatra (rally) led by Ghosh.

The poster that read "No CAA, No NRC" apparently infuriated the BJP workers who challenged the woman and pushed her around until the police came to her rescue.

Subsequently, Ghosh told the media that "why do these people come to protest? She should consider herself lucky that his party men only tore the poster and did nothing else," adding, "she had come to the spot either to be humiliated or get martyred.... She should remain cautious for the next time. We warn her against such misadventures. We have tolerated enough and won't put up with any such nuisance again."

The woman who was protesting alone by holding aloft a placard only later lodged an FIR at the Patuli Police Station in south-east Kolkata.

"I was not only heckled but also abused by the people in the rally and I was luckily saved by the police men," Dutta Gupta said adding, "I have also brought charges of murderous intent... he is creating panic and trying to divide the people... He has also made sexual remarks. The women in our country are not safe. Every 22 minutes, a woman is raped in India. I am not surprised by his comment. But he should remember that he is a people's representative and must use his words with caution."

Elsewhere CPI(M)'s Sujana Chakrabarty slammed Ghosh for publicly acknowledging that his party was dividing the people to get votes. "What more is left to know the real face of these people and the party they represent?" Chakrabarty the Left legislature Party Leader said referring to a recent speech by Ghosh where he took pride in dividing the population to garner votes.

"They (opposition) say that we are dividing the people. If I am doing so I am justified in doing that. I will again do that. What happened then when you (Congress) divided India and Bengal? What happened when Hindus were tortured and driven out of their own homeland?... I will give divisive speeches. Do whatever you can," Ghosh had allegedly told in a recent rally.

Meanwhile, the Left and Congress continued to protest at Jalangi in Murshidabad demanding the arrest of the main accused and a local TMC leader who allegedly shot dead two persons protesting against the CAA and NRC. "The twin murders only prove that Mamata Banerjee is actually backing the BJP's cause," Chakrabarty said.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Kerala Govt: No need to panic, patient stable

Thrissur (Ker): A day after India's first novel coronavirus (nCoV) case was reported from Kerala, the State Government on Friday warned the people of the potential gravity of the threat but maintained that there was no need to panic.

Camping in this city, where the woman medical student who came from China tested positive for the coronavirus, Health Minister KK Shailaja activated the health department and said the patient is currently treated at an isolation ward of the Government Medical College hospital here.

The condition of the patient is stable, official sources said. Earlier in the day, health authorities shifted the student from the general hospital to the Government medical College.

The minister requested those who had travelled to China in recent days to voluntarily report themselves to the nearest hospitals. Some have reported to the health facilities in their neighbourhood in response to a directive given by the State Government, she said.

Strengthening its resolve to check the spread of illness to others, the Minister directed those coming from China and other affected regions to strictly remain under home quarantine.

The Minister also requested the fam-

Min: No coronavirus in TN, 242 from China under Govt gaze

Pudukottai/Chennai: Tamil Nadu Health Minister C Vijayabaskar on Friday asserted that there was no case of coronavirus in the State and said 242 people who returned from infection hit China were being monitored. A day after he said 78 people who had arrived from the dragon nation were under 'house quarantine,' he told reporters at Pudukottai that the number of returnees has climbed to 242.

"As of today, 242 have arrived from China and the Public Health Department is in direct touch with all of them. They are all normal. There is no case of coronavirus in Tamil Nadu," he said. Such returnees were being monitored and were under home quarantine, he noted.

As regards a techie who recently returned to his native place in Tiruvannamalai district from China, there was no manifestation of any coronavirus symptom in him, he said.

Hence, there was no need as of now to take the software engineer's blood sample to check if he had contracted the infection and similar was the status of a student who has come back to Krishnagiri district, he pointed out.

The Minister asked people not to panic and wanted them to take precautions like washing their hands and

Man admitted in Goa hospital tests negative

PTI ■ PANAJI

A foreign national hospitalised in Goa as a precautionary measure since January 28 for the novel coronavirus has tested negative and would be discharged soon, a senior State medical official said on Friday.

The man had arrived in Goa after visiting China and was kept in the isolation ward of Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) with symptoms similar to novel coronavirus, officially called 2019-nCoV, infection.

"We have received the report from the Pune-based laboratory. His sample has tested negative. As per World Health Organisation guidelines, he can now be discharged from the ward," GMCH Dean Dr Shivanand Bandekar told PTI.

The Goa Government, on Thursday, said six people were under surveillance for suspected novel coronavirus infection.

MEA informed about students from Guj in China

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Government has shared with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Indian Embassy in China the information about over 200 students from the State, who are currently in China and want to return after the outbreak of novel coronavirus in that country, officials said on Friday.

The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Gujarat has collected and shared the information about such students and other people from the State living in China.

"The SEOC control room in Gandhinagar has shared the details of 215 persons, mostly students, with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in China to help authorities in bringing them back," SOEC Deputy Collector Trupti Vyas said.

"We had received phone calls from the parents and relatives of 215 persons, mostly students. The parents had inquired about various aspects of the steps being taken by the Government to bring the students back, about the airline booking, connecting flights and other things," Vyas said.

All of the parents were given contact numbers of the Indian embassy in China for any other inquiry about their children. According to officials, no case of coronavirus has been found in the state so far.

Novel coronavirus belongs to the coronavirus family that causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to acute respiratory syndromes. It has emerged from a seafood and animal market in Wuhan city of China and is suspected to have spread as far as the United States.

FIRST COLUMN

Address farm sector woes

If the Government wishes to grow the economy, then it needs to make an all-out effort to turn agriculture into a profitable business



DHIRESH KULSHRESTHA

As India plans to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, it cannot ignore the importance of the farm sector in helping it achieve this target. This is because we are an agriculture-based economy and more than 50 per cent of the population depends on the agri sector for its livelihood. However, the poor state of the rural economy is an area of concern for everyone and is affecting the country's fiscal health too. The Government would do well to pay attention to some of the predominant problems hampering the growth of this key sector in its pursuit of the \$5 trillion dream.

Subsidise inputs: India is a consumption-driven market and not an export-driven one like China and Singapore. As per the report of the National Statistical Office (NSO), half of the country's population lives in rural India. Hence, it becomes a critical consumption market for the fertiliser industry, seed industry, tractor producing companies, other items essential for farm production and a host of consumer goods. The Government needs to provide farmers essential inputs on subsidised rates, especially for those growers who have holdings that are smaller than five acres.

Small and marginal farmers' issues: The Government must focus on the problems plaguing small and marginal farmers. According to a report by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) small and marginal farm holdings generate meagre incomes and result in farmers accruing major debts and then committing suicide due to the inability to pay off those loans. If the Indian economy has to be resurgent, the agriculture sector needs more subsidy and easy agri-credit for small and marginal farmers.

Develop the dairy sector: Dairy farmers can earn as much as 75-85 per cent of the market price by selling the milk produced on their farms to cooperative societies like AMUL and other major milk marketing companies. India also has the largest bovine population in the world. However, the milk production per animal is significantly low as compared to the other major dairy producers of the world. Moreover, nearly all of the dairy produce in India is consumed domestically, with the majority of it being sold as milk. On account of this, the dairy industry holds tremendous potential for value-addition and overall development and the Government must focus on this to better the lot of farmers.

Need to develop vegetable and fruit markets: Indian farmers earn scarcely 10 per cent of the market price for their perishable produce like vegetables and fruits. Since a market is the primary medium for farmers to exchange their produce for money, lack of connectivity to ensure that their harvest reaches buyers in time, results in lowering the farmers' ability to monetise their produce. The Government needs to plug these gaps and provide farmers a way to get their produce to the markets at the earliest and provide cold storages and freezer trucks, better road and rail connectivity so that the 40 per cent of the produce that is lost now can be saved and this in turn improves the monetary gains of the growers.

Reduce imports: As we all know, agricultural imports cause domestic prices to fall and this directly hurts the farmers. The Government needs to focus on increasing agricultural production in the country and review its policy on bumper production. The Minimum Support Price should be reconsidered for the development of the farm sector as farmers are producers and their interests must also be protected by policymakers, just like that of any citizen of the country.

Need for more agri-NBFCs: Adequate availability of finance is a prerequisite for the growth of any sector and the farm sector is no exception to this rule. However, the difficulties faced by growers in accessing loans when they need them the most have hampered the growth of the sector. Many farmers are either left un-served or under-served due to the lack of timely access to institutional finance via agri-loans. Without access to credit, most farmers with small holdings are restricted to farming, trading, processing practices that result in low levels of productivity. Although various financial institutions have come up and have set shops in rural India, the majority of agri stakeholders still have limited or no access to them. For the inclusive development of agriculture sector, financing is an important element and the Government must focus on developing this on a war footing.

Irrigation facilities: Farmers suffer due to floods in one part of the nation and drought in another area. The Government needs to focus on water management through river linkages and also provide subsidy for water conservation in rural areas for agrarian purposes.

If the Government wishes to stem the crisis plaguing the farm sector and grow the economy, then it needs to make an all-out effort to turn agriculture into a profitable business and make major policy decisions to achieve that goal.

(The writer is Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty of Business Management at the Marwadi University, Rajkot)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE HEAR INSTANCES OF HINDU WOMEN PICKED UP BY MUSLIM MEN. NO ACTION IS TAKEN AS TERRORISTS LIKE KEJRIWAL ARE HIDDEN EVERYWHERE.

—BJP LOK SABHA MEMBER
 PARVESH VERMA



THE PEOPLE OF DELHI WILL DECIDE WHETHER THEY CONSIDER ME THEIR SON, THEIR BROTHER, OR A TERRORIST.

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER
 ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Iran's loss, ISIS' gain

The terror group stands to gain much from the assassination of Iranian General Soleimani, who was the face of armed resistance against it in Iraq and Syria



ANIL GUPTA

Not very long ago, December 2017 to be precise, the world was celebrating the defeat of the Islamic State (ISIS), the deadly face of terror that had compelled the world powers with differing strategic interests to come together to defeat it and along with it the idea of a medieval Islamic Caliphate. The ISIS had succeeded in recreating it by capturing swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria, including oil fields, refineries and mine fields of strategic minerals.

The aura of the ISIS was such that it not only attracted thousands of jihadists from different parts of the world, including Europe, but also dared to challenge the might of the United States (US) by executing and beheading American citizens. The menace of ISIS grew so fast and rapidly that the entire world was unanimous in countering the threat posed by it. Qasem Soleimani, an Iranian General, was the face of armed resistance against the ISIS in Iraq and Syria along with the USA, Russia, Turkey and its European allies. Soleimani contributed in a big way in the defeat of the ISIS. The US and Iran, adversaries in the Middle East, identified a common enemy in the ISIS and effectively fought together against it to eliminate the terror group's de facto state in Iraq and Syria. However, geopolitics soon overtook the strategic convergence of interests with Iran and the US almost at the verge of a war with a renewed Middle East crisis.

The ongoing US-Iran crisis reached the peak last month with US President Trump authorising the killing of General Qasem Soleimani, the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force and an American ally in the fight against ISIS while he was on a visit to Iraq. This raised the tensions between the US and Iran to a new level with the future of the US forces in Iraq in the doldrums.

It also let loose many Shia militias which Soleimani had carefully raised and groomed to counter and challenge the ISIS. Their focus all of a sudden shifted from combatting ISIS to their newly-emerged enemy, the US assets and troops in the Middle East. Under the threat of Iranian retaliation, even the focus of Americans and others has been diverted from the ISIS and other radical Islamist jihadi terror groups for the time being. If at all there was a clear winner of the ongoing US-Iran conflict, it was undoubtedly the terror organisation. It has provided the ISIS with the much-needed oxygen as well as time and space to reorganise and regroup.

As a result, the US and its allies now face the dual threat of Shia militias and the Sunni radical Islamist jihadi terror groups led by the ISIS. The fall of Soleimani has provided them a new opening. The growing demand of ejecting US forces from Iraq has further complicated the security scenario in the region and in the process hurt the efforts to counter ISIS which have suffered a serious blow.

My assessment when Iraq's Prime Minister declared a final victory over Islamic State in December 2017 was that the "ISIS may have been defeated but it was not destroyed. It may have been disseminated but was not dissolved."

According to Goldenberg, an American diplomat who had served as Special Advisor in the Middle East between 2009-12, "The ISIS retains an underground presence and could take

“ ISIS MAY WELL USE PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH AS LAUNCH PADS TO RENEW ITS THREAT OF GHAZWA-E-HIND. INDIA WILL HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS AND WATCHFUL AND AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHEN ITS INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS TO COUNTER THE EMERGING CHALLENGES IN THE REGION ”



advantage of the chaos of an American withdrawal or a US-Iranian conflict to improve its position in Iraq."

The assessments are seeming to be proving true with increased frequencies of terror attacks by the ISIS after the elimination of General Soleimani. The upheaval created by his killing has given rise to such conditions in Iraq that the ISIS is ever-willing to exploit.

The weakening of the Shia militias as a consequence to absence of Soleimani's charisma as well as sterling leadership qualities will definitely weaken the Iraqi Government which would create a space for the ISIS and other Sunni terror groups to stage a comeback in the region.

Moreover, the US focus shifting towards defending its bases in Iraq and the security of green zone, will allow the terror group to manoeuvre more freely. The ISIS fighters, who had dispersed and gone underground are now rebuilding and re-emerging fully recuperated as a potent threat in form of insurgency. Improvised Explosive Devices, bombings, targeted killings, suicide attacks, sniper attacks and lone wolf attacks. It is too early to assess if they would continue with this tactics or attempt once again to establish an Islamic Caliphate.

The US is trying to put up a brave front by denying any surge in the activities of the terrorist organisation due to its own activities. It is also obstinately claiming that most of the recent attacks by the group may have been planned well before the killing of Soleimani (because of the time and resources required to plan and execute such operations, more so when the ISIS is suffering

from a unified command crisis and dispersion of its fighters). But the fact remains that with a divided focus it has become increasingly difficult for the US to contain the terror group.

The flare-up in the US-Iran crisis has certainly provided opportunity to Abu Ibrahim al Qurayshi — the newly-appointed successor of the assassinated long-time ISIS leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi — to strengthen his grip and revitalise the terror outfit to intensify its attacks in the region.

Under Qurayshi's leadership, the group may also attempt to regain lost territories in Syria and Iraq depending on the resistance it faces, as this would give the new chief an opportunity to establish his hold more firmly over the group and prove his mettle. The ISIS attacks on US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have also intensified during the last month. The group is also trying to restore and rejuvenate its social media wing, its main source of funding and recruitment. Disturbingly, the terrorist group's propaganda sites are on the rise on various social media platforms and apps.

The re-emergence of ISIS would have a definite impact on the Afghanistan-Pakistan region (Af-Pak region) with its consequential fallout for India and regional peace and stability in South Asia.

Soleimani's successor, Brigadier General Ismail Qaani, is an old hand at fomenting trouble in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Soleimani himself had played an active role in Afghanistan by cooperating with the Northern Alliance to fight the growing might of the Taliban.

In a later turn of events after the American invasion of Afghanistan, Iran courted Taliban to fight the Americans and other Western troops in Afghanistan. General Qaani, who till late as 2018 was the Iranian deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, was instrumental in managing Iran's Afghan policy.

Pakistan has also been accused of cross-border terror in Sistan-Baluchistan by Iran. Tehran is opposed to the rise of any Sunni-fundamentalist regime on its eastern border and with Pakistan now assisting the US to forge a deal with the Taliban, Iran has further been angered.

Shia-Sunni violence in Pakistan and persecution of Shias remains a constant point of friction between Iran and Pakistan. Thus a US-Iran conflict may have an impact in the situation in Afghanistan with Iran turning a blind eye to the rise of ISIS in the Af-Pak region as a complimentary threat to the US. In the process, Iran will try its best to derail the Afghan peace process. While Iran may have its own axe to grind in Afghanistan and sort out Pakistan as well for promoting the American interest in the region, rise of ISIS will have adverse impact on India's security.

ISIS may well use Pakistan and Bangladesh as launch pads to renew its threat of Ghazwa-e-Hind. India will have to be cautious and watchful and at the same time strengthen its intelligence apparatus to counter the emerging challenges.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran, political commentator, security and strategic analyst)

It is possible to fix the economy

When faced with a prolonged slowdown, a prescription of fiscal stimulus is normal. When the private sector is not forthcoming in terms of consumption and investment expenditure, the Government has to step up



MEENAL JAGTAP

fiscal policy is limited owing to lower than expected tax revenues and the corporate tax cut announced in September 2019 that have constrained income.

The Government has already committed an economic stimulus through the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), the proposed expenditure for which in the Financial Year 2021 (FY) is ₹19.5 trillion. Providing such funds (the Centre and States are required to pitch in 39 per cent each) at a time when the resources of the Government have hit rock bottom is a challenge.

Taxes, which are a major source of Government revenue, have reached only 45.5 per cent of the FY 2020 Budget estimates as per the Controller General of Accounts.

Clearly, the tax collections have not matched the seven per cent growth of the economy in the first half of this fiscal. It is highly unlikely that the Government will be able to reach its target tax collection of ₹24.61 trillion by the end of March 2020. Therefore, a larger fiscal hole is expected in this Budget. The higher

oil prices amid US-Iran tensions have not helped ease the Government's fiscal deficit worries.

When faced with a prolonged slowdown a prescription of fiscal stimulus is normal. When the private sector is not forthcoming in terms of consumption and investment expenditure, the Government has to step up. The Centre must stretch itself without worrying too much about missing the deficit target. When the fiscal stimulus shows its impact, the corporate earnings increase along with that of retail investors. Also, it directly impacts the jobs and incomes generated in the process.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has done its bit by changing its stance on the monetary policy from "neutral" to "accommodative" and reducing the repo rate by 135 basis points in 2019. Thereafter, it adopted a wait-and-watch approach and kept the repo rate unchanged to a nine-year low of 5.15 per cent. This was necessitated by rising inflationary pressures in the economy. The RBI has revised its estimate of retail inflation for the second half to 5.1-4.7 per cent from 3.5-3.7 per

cent. Under the given circumstances, when pursuing an expansionary monetary policy looks dangerous and the Government finds its hands tied for fiscal stimulus, the question arises what approach should be adopted that can be successful in bringing the economy back on track?

Here are some ways through which the Finance Minister can steer the economy on the path to recovery.

Boost demand: Economists agree that a slowdown in consumption through a lack of demand has been a major contributor in the current deceleration as consumption is the "engine" of the economy. Hence, the Finance Minister should ensure an increase in disposable income in the hands of people who have the high marginal propensity to consume and low marginal propensity to save. Schemes like the Kisan Samman Nidhi, increasing allocations under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, giving income tax relief to the lower middle class and even schemes having the character of the Universal Basic Income (UBI) like Universal Pension

can go a long way in boosting demand, especially rural demand.

Allow States to borrow more: States can help the Central Government in providing a fiscal stimulus and distribution of resources. The Centre should in fact raise the borrowing limits of States so that more money flows into all regions, thereby boosting demand.

Fill Government posts: If the Centre and State Governments decide to fill vacant posts in their offices on a priority basis, it will not only create purchasing power but also give a fillip to the youth who are living through the worst employment crisis the country has seen in decades.

Private investment revival: Private investment has not picked up till now due to stress in the banking sector, especially in the non-bank financial company sector, a weakening demand and falling business sentiment. The early December quarter earnings indicate that the stimulus through rate cuts and lower corporate taxes has not been able to boost business growth. Net sales of many BSE-listed companies show a lower year on

year growth of 4.07 per cent from 4.81 per cent in the preceding September quarter.

Faster revenue generation: The Government's tax revenue for April-November 2019 was just ₹11.7 trillion, just 0.8 per cent more than collected last year. Through disinvestment also, the Government generated revenue of ₹18,099 crore, which is way below the target of ₹1.05 trillion that it set for itself. In order to meet its expenditure, the Government will have to step up revenue generated through the disinvestment route while not giving any further rebates in income tax rates. A major relief in personal income tax rates may also not help in boosting consumption. Given the present circumstances of low business sentiment, uncertainty in the global business environment and deceleration in private investment — any increases in disposable income will not convert into spending entirely — it is likely that most of it will be saved for emergencies. Instead the Government should bring more of high income earners into the tax net.

Control wasteful expenditure

for fiscal consolidation: During hard times, no one, including the Government can afford wastages and leakages. The Government needs to seriously plug in leakages from the system and plan its expenditure in a better way.

A cautious monetary policy: At present the RBI has to worry about infusing capital into banks that need it, ensure smooth mergers and takeovers and prevent any further bank frauds that have proven detrimental to the health of the banking sector in the past. Some relief announcements for the non-banking sector for purchase of bad assets should be there. The transmission of rates must be ensured and at a quicker pace, while further reductions can only be done if inflation allows that. Since the fears of "stagflation" gripping the Indian economy are already there, the RBI can do nothing more than just wait and watch.

(The writer is Professor and Head of Department of Management and Commerce at Trinity Institute of Professional Studies, GGSIPU, in Dwarka)

Economic Survey sees pick up in growth

The Economic Survey on Friday projected revival of economic growth to 6-6.5 per cent next fiscal and suggested that the Government should relax the Budget deficit target to boost growth from a decade low of 5 per cent this year.

2025, it prescribed strengthening trust in the economy, enabling and empowering markets, promotion of pro-business policies, and measures to enhance farmers' income.

"The government must use its strong mandate to deliver expeditiously on reforms, which will enable the economy to strongly rebound in 2020-21."

Economic slowdown bottomed out, uptick from here onwards: CEA

Chief Economic Adviser KV Subramanian on Friday said India's GDP is expected to grow at 6-6.5 per cent next fiscal as the economic slowdown has bottomed out.

According to it, the uptick in second half of 2019-20 would be mainly due to ten positive factors like picking up of Nifty India Consumption Index for the first time this year, an upbeat secondary market, higher FDI flows, build-up of demand pressure, positive outlook for rural consumption, rebound of industrial activity, steady improvement in manufacturing, growth in merchandise exports, higher build-up of foreign exchange reserves and positive growth rate of GST revenue collection.

India needs \$1.4 trn infra spend in 2020-25 to become a \$5 trn economy: Survey

To prevent 'lack of infrastructure' becoming a 'binding constraint' on the growth of Indian economy that aspires to become a USD 5 trillion by 2024-25, the country needs to spend about USD 1.4 trillion on infrastructure, the Economic Survey said on Friday.

Thalinomics in times of rising prices: Veg, non-veg thalis more affordable, says survey

Rising inflation may have burnt a hole in common man's pocket but Finance Ministry's chief economic advisor believes otherwise as he brought a novel 'thali' concept to otherwise heavy-duty data crunching to drive home the point that affordability of a plate of meal has improved.

As per the survey, a vegetarian thali comprises a serving of cereals, 'sabzi and dal' and the non-vegetarian thali comprises of cereals, sabzi and a non-vegetarian component.

Corporate tax cut to mostly benefit less than 1% of companies: Survey

The steep cut in corporate tax rate will benefit large companies the most as smaller ones were already paying lower rates, the Economic Survey 2019-20 said on Friday.

GDP growth rate for 2018-19 revised downwards to 6.1%

The Government on Friday revised downwards the economic growth rate for 2018-19 to 6.1 per cent from 6.8 per cent estimated earlier, mainly due to deceleration in mining, manufacturing and farm sectors.

Fiscal deficit target may be relaxed to arrest declining growth: Economic Survey

The Economic Survey on Friday made a case for relaxing the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP in view of the need to arrest declining growth, estimated to touch an 11-year low of 5 per cent in the current fiscal.

TENDER NOTICE table with columns: 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

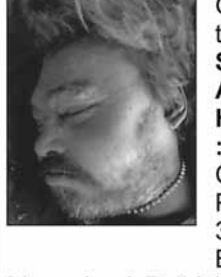
PowerGrid Q3 net up 14% at ₹2,672 cr

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a "Maharatna" company under Ministry of Power, GoI and the "Central Transmission Utility" (CTU) of the country on Friday posted a profit after tax of ₹2,673 crore and total income of ₹9,497 crore for the third quarter (Oct-Dec, 2019) on standalone basis.

On a consolidated basis, the company has posted profit after tax and total income of ₹2,672 crore and ₹9,541 crore respectively for the third quarter (Oct-Dec, 2019), registering an increase of about 14 per cent & 7 per cent respectively with respect to corresponding period of FY19.

For nine-month period (Apr-Dec, 2019), the profit after tax and total income on standalone basis are ₹7,629 crore and ₹27,908 crore respectively, which are about 11 per cent and 7% higher with respect to corresponding period of FY19, while on consolidated basis, the profit after tax and Total Income are ₹7,746 crore and ₹28,163 crore are respectively, registering a

Appeal For Identification



General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 45 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 4 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : Blue Colour Jacket and Grey Colour Pant, has been found dead on 31.12.2019 at 09:06 am at B-Block, Kanwar Singh Park, Mangolpuri, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 03-A dated 31.12.2019 has been lodged at PS. Raj Park, Delhi.

PS. Raj Park, Delhi Ph.: 011-27910071, 27910070

'Feel good' Budget may see cut in tax rate, sops for social sectors

Atax, sops for rural and agriculture sectors as well as an aggressive push on infrastructure spending are likely to be part of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's "feel-good" second Budget.

Facing the worst economic slowdown in more than a decade, Sitharaman is expected to pull out all stops to spur consumer demand and investment, government sources and economists said. Sitharaman's second Budget, to be presented on February 1, is expected to announce measures to restore economic growth and to set out a clear road map for achieving the ambitious target of USD 5 trillion economy by 2025.

Markets recoil as Eco Survey stokes fiscal slippage fears

PTI ■ MUMBAI The Sensex skidded 190 points while the Nifty closed below the 12,000-mark on Friday after the Economic Survey suggested relaxing fiscal deficit target to boost growth from a decade low.

PowerGrid, HCL Tech, TCS, Tata Steel and Reliance Industries. Kotak Mahindra Bank was the top gainer, surging 3.87 per cent, after the lender settled its dispute with RBI regarding promoter Uday Kotak's stake.



indices fell up to 2.65 per cent. Telecom, realty, consumer durables, bank and finance rose up to 1.23 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and small-cap indices ended in the red.

0.38 per cent to USD 57.55 per barrel. Crude prices have seen some moderation in the past few sessions over demand slump amid rising coronavirus cases in China and other regions.

Govt must unleash bold reforms to achieve 6-6.5% growth in FY21, say experts, industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Attaining a GDP growth rate of 6 to 6.5 per cent in 2020-21 as projected by the Economic Survey will be "challenging" and the government needs to prioritise growth while unleashing bolder policy measures to achieve it, experts and industry bodies said on Friday.

pegged by the Economic Survey for 2020-21, is a target that is achievable with the right dose of reforms and public investments," CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said.

from history of impacts from the SARS outbreak," he noted. Economist from Deloitte India, Rumki Majumdar, said the Survey projects growth revival in FY 2021 but suggests that the government may have to incur expansionary policy to support growth.

"Realising economic growth targets and attaining national aspirations call for not just renewed focus and investment in key sectors like infrastructure and rural empowerment, but also on establishing and enabling a climate of trust," said Elias George, partner and national head (infrastructure) Government and Healthcare, KPMG in India.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty stocks and their price movements.

BSE 500

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks and their price movements.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty Next 50 stocks and their price movements.

'Fiscal deficit target may be relaxed to arrest declining growth'

New Delhi (PTI): The Economic Survey on Friday made a case for relaxing the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP in view of the need to arrest declining growth, estimated to touch a 11-year low of 5 per cent in the current fiscal.

of GDP in 2020-21, and continue at the same level in 2021-22. "While, on one hand the outlook for global growth persists to be weak, with escalated trade tensions adding to the risk; on the other hand, the pace of recovery of growth will have implications for revenue collections," it said.

During the first eight months of 2019-20, the indirect tax collections have been muted. Therefore, revenue buoyancy of goods and services tax would be key to the resource position of both central and state governments.

and thereby on the petroleum subsidy, apart from having implications for current account balance.

BSE Sensex



NSE Nifty

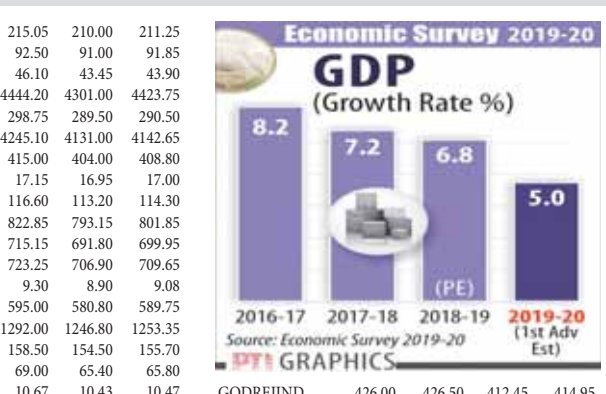


Table listing various stocks and their prices, including GODREJIND, WABCOINDIA, THERMAX, etc.

Table listing various stocks and their prices, including PHILIPCARB, ENGINEERING, DISHTV, etc.

WHO declares global emergency over coronavirus

DEATH TOLL SPIKES TO 213, MORE THAN 9,800 INFECTED GLOBALLY



A masked woman carries a girl wearing a protective face mask in Hong Kong on Friday AP

PTI ■ BEIJING
The death toll in China's coronavirus epidemic spiked to 213 and more than 9,800 have been infected, the Government said on Friday as the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak that has spread to more than a dozen countries, including India, as a global health emergency.

The death toll rose to 213, mostly of elderly people, after 43 new deaths all but one in Hubei, the epicentre of the outbreak, China's national health authorities said, adding 1,982 new cases had been confirmed, bringing the total to 9,692.

About 20 countries, including India, the UK, US, South Korea, Japan and France, have reported confirmed cases of the virus in travellers coming from China. The WHO, which held an emergency meeting in Geneva on Thursday, on declared the outbreak a global health emergency, a rarely used designation that could lead to improved international co-ordination in tackling the disease.

"Our greatest concern is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said as he announced the virus as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Reacting to the WHO announcement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying in a press statement said, "Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic, the Chinese Government has been taking the most comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control measures with a high sense of responsibility for people's health."

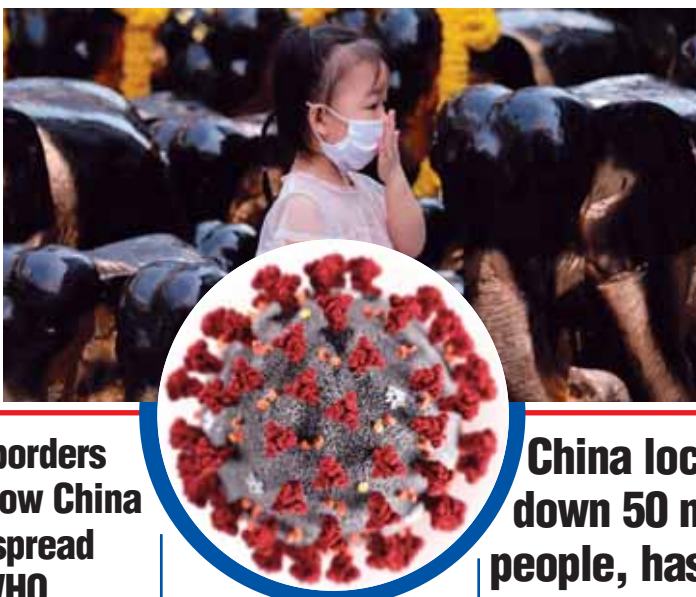
Many of these measures go well beyond the requirements of the International Health Regulations, she said. "We have full confidence and capability to win this fight against the epidemic," said the spokesperson. She said at the same time, the Chinese side informed relevant sides and shared the genome sequence of the coronavirus in a timely manner with openness, transparency and a responsible attitude.

Hua said China has been in close communication and cooperation with WHO. "WHO experts recently conducted a field trip to Wuhan. Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also visited China and discussed containment and mitigation of the 2019-nCoV with the Chinese side," she said. Noting that Tedros commended China's efforts and spoke highly of China's great contribution to the world by fighting against the novel coronavirus, Hua said the country will continue working with WHO and other countries to safeguard regional and global public health security. Xinhua news agency quoted her statement.

HOW THE WORLD IS RESPONDING

Voluntary evacuations of hundreds of foreign nationals from Wuhan are under way. The UK, Australia, South Korea, Singapore and New Zealand are expected to quarantine all evacuees for two weeks to monitor them for symptoms and avoid contagion

Australia plans to quarantine its evacuees on Christmas Island, 2,000km from the mainland in a detention centre that has been used to house asylum seekers
Russia said two Chinese citizens had been placed in isolation after they tested positive for the virus. Russia decided to close its 4,300km far-eastern border with China
Singapore closed its borders to all travellers from China
Italy declared a six-month state of emergency after two Chinese tourists in Rome were diagnosed with the coronavirus
Thailand confirmed its first case of human-to-human transmission



Mongolia suspended all arrivals from China until 2 March. It also banned its citizens from travelling to the country
In the US, Chicago health officials reported the first US case of human-to-human transmission
Japan raised its infectious disease advisory level for China
Some 250 French nationals were evacuated from Wuhan
Israel barred all flight connections with China
North Korea suspended all flights and trains to and from China, said the British ambassador to North Korea

FB working to provide helpful information

San Francisco: Facebook says it's working to help limit the spread of misinformation and harmful content about the coronavirus and will focus on providing helpful information to people. Kang-Xing Jin, Facebook's head of health, said in a post that the social media platform's third-party fact-checkers are reviewing content and debunking false claims related to the coronavirus. Facebook is also removing content with false claims or conspiracy theories that have been flagged by global health organisations and local health authorities, particularly focusing on claims designed to discourage treatment or taking appropriate precautions. AP

Closing borders could allow China virus to spread faster: WHO

AFP ■ GENEVA
The World Health Organisation cautioned on Friday that closing borders was probably ineffective in halting the transmission of the deadly novel coronavirus from China and could even accelerate its spread.
If you close official border crossings, you can "lose track of people and cannot monitor (their movement) anymore", World Health Organisation spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.

China locked down 50 mn people, has to keep them fed

Beijing: Carrying permits demanding "fast passage," truck drivers rushed a 560-ton shipment of disinfectant from eastern China to Wuhan, the locked-down city of 11 million people at the centre of a vast effort to contain a new viral disease. Outside the metropolis in central China, the cargo was shifted to local trucks with drivers in masks and protective suits, part of a tightly controlled flow of food and other supplies through checkpoints that have blocked most access to Wuhan since January 23.

As global anxiety about the new virus rises, authorities have blocked 50 million people from leaving Wuhan and nearby cities at the centre of the outbreak. That in turn requires a massive effort to keep them supplied with food and other necessities. "Wuhan is not an isolated island," declared a state newspaper, the Yangtze Daily. Few Governments could attempt such drastic restrictions on a population bigger than South Korea's or Australia's. They are made possible by the ruling Communist Party's extensive controls on society and experience combating the 2002-03 SARS epidemic. AP

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995
Regd. Off: NS-92, Khasra No-3321, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi - 110043
Email: id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com
Website: http://www.superiorfinlease.com
Phone No: +91-9953798335

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 & Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of Superior Finlease Limited ("the Company") will be held on Friday, February 07, 2020 at the Registered Office of the Company at 1:00 P.M., *inter-alia*, to consider and approve Un-audited Standalone Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019.
Further details are also available on the website of the Company i.e. www.superiorfinlease.com and also on the website of BSE Limited i.e. http://www.bseindia.com and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at the website: www.mseil.in where the shares of the company are listed.
For Superior Finlease Limited
Date: January 31, 2020 (VAIBHAV VASHIST)
Place: New Delhi CFO & Compliance Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by GAURAV KATURIA who is the owner of Leasehold Industrial Plot No. 32, area measuring 83.65 Sq. Mtrs., Block No. 6, Sector No. IX, Situated in the layout plan of New Okhla Industrial Development Area, District-Ghaziabad, U.P. after the death of his Father Mr. Ved Prakash and got the property mutated on his own name in Authority vide mutation letter dated 22.07.2010 and further will be mortgaging the same against the financial Assistance from IDFC First Bank Ltd. Also the Death Certificate & Legal Heir Certificate of Late Mr. Ved Prakash is not available. To comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person/s having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this notice, at below address.
Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh. Opp. Uday Park, South Ext. II, New Delhi-49 Contact # 011-40046316

IST LIMITED
CIN: L33301HR1976PLC008316
Regd. Office: Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi- Jaipur Highway No. 8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera, Rewari (Haryana)-123106
Head Office: A-23, New Office Complex, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024
Phone No.: 011-24694291-92;
Fax: 011-24625694;
Email: istgroup.ho@gmail.com; website: www.istindia.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29, 33 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 13th February, 2020, *inter alia* to consider, approve and take on record the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended 31st December, 2019.
Notice for the Board Meeting is also available on the website of the Company www.istindia.com and also on the website of BSE Limited www.bseindia.com
For IST Limited
Date: 31.01.2020
Place: New Delhi
Bhupinder Kumar
Company Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publically notified that the Flat No 1097, Sector-29, Noida, has been allotted in the name of Lt. Col. H.K. Sethi S/O Shri R.P. Sethi & Anita Sethi W/o Lt. Col. H.K. Sethi Both R/O 1097, Sector-29, Noida, had sold the said property, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:
A GPA was executed in favour of Smt. Sangeeta Kapoor W/o Shri Avinash Kapoor R/O 451, Sector-29, Noida registered at Sub Registrar Noida Vide Book No. IV Volume No. 291 on pages 479/484 at Document No. 266 dated 04.02.2000 and Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above property goes in favour of Kasha Singhal Dio Shri Kumar Shivam Singhal R/O A-205, ATS-1, Sector-50, Noida-201303, if any one has have any objection her/she may submit his/her objection in the Group Housing Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice.
Sangeeta Kapoor

MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLYING OF BALLAST
E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Eng/04 of 2020 Date: 27-01-2020. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work:** Manufacturing and supplying of 50 mm size machine crushed Pakur variety ballast in Kathiar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹10,02,91,889.40. **Earnest Money:** ₹6,51,500/- **Cost of Tender document:** ₹10,000/- **Date of time of closing of E-tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 28-02-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. of 28-02-2020. The complete information with tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 28-02-2020 in website www.ireps.gov.in
DRM (W), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Slow response made coronavirus epidemic worse: Chinese official

AFP ■ BEIJING
China's delayed response to the discovery of a deadly new coronavirus infection worsened the epidemic, the most senior official from the city at the centre of the outbreak said Friday. More than 210 people have died and nearly 10,000 others have been infected in China by the SARS-like virus and new cases have

been found abroad, with more than 20 countries now affected by the disease.

Public anger has simmered on Chinese social media over the handling of the health emergency by local authorities in Wuhan, where the virus was first detected.

Wuhan officials have been criticised online for withholding information about the infection until the end of last

year, despite knowing about the new illness weeks earlier.

"Right now I'm in a state of guilt, remorse and self-reproach," said Ma Guoqiang, the municipal Communist Party secretary for Wuhan.

"If strict control measures had been taken earlier, the result would have been better than now," he told an interview with state broadcaster CCTV.

Boris Johnson hails UK's new beginning as Brexit day arrives

AP ■ LONDON

Britain begins the day as a member of the European Union. Its status at the end of the day — as a proud nation that has reclaimed its sovereignty, or a diminished presence in Europe and the world — will still be up for debate.

Britain officially departs the EU at 11 pm local time Friday, midnight in Brussels (2300 GMT, 6 pm EST). The departure comes 3½ years after the country voted by a margin of 52%-48% to walk away from the club that it had joined in 1973.

It's the first time a country has left the EU, and many in the bloc regard it as a sad day. In Brussels, European Council President Charles Michel and EU Commission leader Ursula

von der Leyen are due to sketch out the EU's first steps as a group of 27, rather than 28.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to meet in the morning with his Cabinet in the pro-Brexit town of Sunderland, in northeast England. He is scheduled to deliver a televised address to the country an hour before departure, calling Brexit "not an end but a beginning." According to his office, he will describe it as "a moment of real national renewal and change."

The government hopes the moment will be marked in a dignified, nontriumphalist fashion, with red, white and blue lights illuminating government buildings and a countdown clock projected onto the prime minister's 10 Downing

St. Residence.

Some Brexit supporters will be holding more raucous celebrations. Arch-Brexititeer Nigel Farage and his band of devotees will gather for patriotic songs and speeches in London's Parliament Square to mark a moment that even Farage sometimes doubted would ever come.

Britain was never a whole-hearted EU member, but actually leaving the bloc was long considered a fringe idea.

It gradually gained strength within the Conservative Party, which has a wing of fierce "euroskeptics" — opponents of EU membership. Former Prime Minister David Cameron eventually agreed to hold a referendum, saying he wanted to settle the issue once and for all.

Trump trial could end soon; Alexander says no to witnesses

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Republican Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee will oppose calling more witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, all but dashing Democratic efforts to hear more testimony and boosting odds the Senate will vote to acquit Trump as early as Friday.

A vote on witnesses, expected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end and assured acquittal in only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history.

Trump was pressing for action in time for his State of the Union address, and that now seems likely.

As the Senate adjourned late Thursday, it set the date for Tuesday night's speech. Despite the Democrats' singular, sometimes-passionate focus on witnesses after revelations from John Bolton, the former national security adviser, the numbers are now falling short.
It would take four Republicans to break with the 53-seat majority and join with all Democrats to demand more testimony. Chief Justice John Roberts, in the rare role presiding over the impeachment trial, could break a tie, but that seems unlikely.
Alexander said in a statement there was "no need for more evidence," giving the Trump team the likelihood of a Senate vote in its direction. Trump was impeached by House last month on charges that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardising Ukraine and US-Ukraine relations.
Democrats say Trump asked the vulnerable ally to investigate Joe Biden and debunked theories of 2016 election interference, temporarily halting American security aid to the country as it battled Russia at its border.
The second article of impeachment says Trump then obstructed the House probe in a way that threatened the nation's three-branch system of checks and balances. Before Alexander's statement, Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said late Thursday she would vote to allow witnesses in the impeachment trial, briefly raising Democrats' hopes for a breakthrough.

Iran calls US sanctions on nuke organisation chief 'unwise'

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's nuclear energy organisation called recent sanctions on the head of the agency by the US. An "unwise move" that won't interrupt Iran's peaceful nuclear policies.

The US announced new sanctions Thursday against the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran and its director, Ali Akbar Salehi. The sanctions freeze any assets that Salehi has within US jurisdiction. The organisation said in a tweet Friday: "The unwise move by @realDonaldTrump to impose sanctions on Dr. Salehi and AEOI will not in any way interrupt (Iran's) peaceful nuclear activities and policies." "Such cruel sanctions will further enhance the nuclear scientist's motives in neutralising hostile US policies," the organisation continued.

UJVN Limited
H.O.: 'UJJWAL' Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2783089 | Fax: 0135-2783508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGCC25666
Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Tender Time extension Notice
Due to unavoidable reasons NIT No. 06/E/(C&M) MB-II/2009-2020 of this Office for the work 'Demolishing & reconstruction Suman Grammar School at Joshiyara' hereby extended as given below:

Last date & time of submission of bids on website	10.02.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs
Last date & time of submission of hard copies of bids	11.02.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs
Date & time of opening of bids on website	13.02.2020 at 11:00 Hrs

All other terms & condition will same as pre Uploaded Tender. For any other detail, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://ukenders.gov.in"
पत्रांक: 49 दिनांक: 30.01.2020 E.E (C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Himalaya Food International Ltd
(Formerly, Himalaya International Limited)
CIN: L70102DL1992PLC047399
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
Tel: +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178
E-mail: id: cs@himalayainternational.com | website: www.himalayainternational.com

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 1.00 p.m. at W1, B-112, Wellington Estate DLF V, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122003, *inter-alia*, to take on record the un-audited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019.

In terms of the Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading in Securities of Himalaya Food International Limited, the Trading window is closed from January 1, 2020 to February 9, 2020.
The said notice may be accessed on the Company's website at www.himalayainternational.com and also on the stock exchanges websites at www.bseindia.com.

For Himalaya Food International Ltd.
Date: January 31, 2020
Place: Delhi
Surabhi Maheshwari
Company Secretary

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

RELEASE OF OLD UN-USED CABLES AND TRANSPORTATION TO STAKE
Dy. CSTE/Tele, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 04.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work** : Release of Old un-used cables from station and inside tunnel and transportation to SSE/T/Store/KKHG of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value** : ₹ 13,80,000. **Earnest Money** : ₹ 27,600. **Cost of Tender Document** : ₹ 2,000. **Completion Period** : 6 months. The tender can be viewed at Website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in> The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.
Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work-35-2019-Retender, dtd. 28.01.2020
FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

WESTERN RAILWAY

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. cost of Work ₹	EMD ₹	Date & Time of submission	Date & Time of opening
1	BCT/19-20/367 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Outsourcing by engaging Engineering unskilled labour to railway welder for day to day welding of rail joint to prepare welding team under each SSE(P.way) in charge of DEN/E jurisdiction for 02 years under ADEN-Amalner.	79,71,600/-	1,59,400/-	On 26.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 26.02.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
2	BCT/19-20/368 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Outsourcing by engaging Engineering unskilled labour to railway welder for day to day welding of rail joint to prepare welding team under each SSE(P.way) in charge of DEN/E jurisdiction for 02 years under ADEN-Nandurbar.	1,19,57,400/-	2,09,800/-	On 26.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 26.02.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
3	BCT/19-20/369 dt. 30.01.2020	Udhna-Jalgaon section: Fabrication, supplying & fixing H beam sleeper in place of damaged/corroded channel sleeper on bridge No. 105 & 163 under DEN/East in connection with TBTR 97Nos.	25,16,849.38	50,300/-	On 26.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 26.02.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
4	BCT/19-20/370 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Maintenance of P.way for UP/DN line under SSE (P.way) Sindkhkeda for one year (Total 45.051 Kms).	2,29,59,234.29	2,64,800/-	On 02.03.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 02.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
5	BCT/19-20/371 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Maintenance of P.way for UP/DN line under SSE(P.way) Navapur for one year (Total 42.338 Kms).	2,29,59,234.29	2,64,800/-	On 02.03.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 02.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
6	BCT/19-20/372 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Maintenance of P.way for UP/DN line under SSE(P.way) Dharangaon for one year (Total 40.867 Kms).	2,29,59,234.29	2,64,800/-	On 02.03.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 02.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
7	BCT/19-20/373 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Maintenance of P.way for UP/DN line under SSE(P.way) Nandurbar for one year (Total 47.931 Kms).	2,29,59,234.29	2,64,800/-	On 02.03.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 02.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
8	BCT/19-20/374 dt. 30.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon Section: Maintenance of P.way for UP/DN line under SSE(P.way) Amalner for one year (Total 48.121 Kms).	2,29,59,234.29	2,64,800/-	On 02.03.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	On 02.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs.

Regarding detailed nature containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.
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SHORT CIRCUITS



RICHA CHADHA

I had not had an experience with respect to pay parity in Bollywood because I feel the industry rewards your box-office prowess. It's really the number of bums you put on the seats. I think the day people start commanding a higher box-office (they will get higher pay). The day people bring more business is the day it will all be fine.



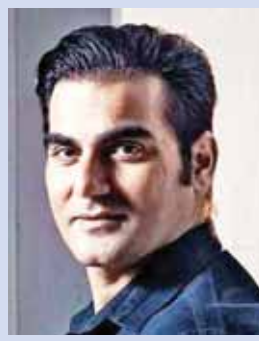
AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

I am really surprised that I was in *Roadies* 15 years ago and it's the 17th season now. I am glad that the show has garnered TRP. I am really proud of Rannvijay (Singha) that he is taking it forward so well. I am a huge fan of Raftaar. Neha Dhupia, Nikhil Chinappa and Prince — all are my old friends. I always wish the best of luck to them.



SHWETA TRIPATHI

I had a zero make-up look for the *Mirzapur 2*. I would walk into shoot with some sunscreen and that's it. *Mirzapur* was a long commitment of a few months. So initially we discussed going for a short hair look but then I thought of the hair-do and how it doesn't fit into my other work.



ARBAAZ KHAN

I feel the only thing that needs to be taken care of is the safety and security that will come with late-night places. We have to ask ourselves that 'are we equipped for that?' Otherwise, it's a good thing because we always say that Mumbai is a city that never sleeps. Now, malls and certain places will be open and it will not be in residential areas.

MARGOT ROBBIE

I love stunt work, I really, really love it. It's just cool to work with an amazing stunt team like 87 Eleven. They're truly amazing, like, backflips, that's Renae Money-maker. She's an incredible stunt performer. But yes, they got me doing everything else really, other than critical acrobats, so it was fun.



WALKTHROUGH 45 MINUTES

LIFE IS ART

The 12th edition of the India Art Fair speaks of the changing socio-political landscape of India and reveals how creativity is flourishing unbound. By CHAHAK MITTAL



Ghiora Aharoni's *Thank God For Making Me A Woman*

Who said that art is for the aficionado? A walkthrough at the India Art Fair clearly inspired us with its new ideas and a very humane approach to life as it is lived everyday. This wasn't an escape of imagination, it was of owning reality and an attempt to transcend it with human will. It was of a new India that is being scripted in the subterranean folds of the mind, no matter what is being dictated externally. It was a fresh breath that brought us alive.



Lee Leenam's *Be Reborn*

Voices from India
Curator Sudarshan Shetty's *Look Outside This House* stayed with us long after we had left the display area. Earlier showcased at the Serendipity Arts Festival 2019, the first part of the exhibition featured six videos of different people, singing in their native languages from different cities of India. The videos depicted how there are people outside our houses who act as objects, which may be dreaming of another world, one without frames and obligations and constraints. From a tribal woman from Jharkhand singing a song inspired by Gandhian philosophy, a Maharashtra woman singing Powada and initiating a conversation around how plastic is affecting our collective future, to a Mumbai-based Dalit bard standing beside the road, narrating poignant tales of daily battles against injustice and subjugation of the Dalit community... these objects look for meanings in society's changing ways. There was also the Bombay Lokai, the first hip-hop band from the suburbs of Mumbai, spreading socio-political awareness, with a vision to unite the country's youth, and recalling the leaders of the freedom movement as they sing, 'Follower hain hum Bhagat Singh aur Azad ke.' Then there were two Miyah poets, the last of their kind who chronicle their sorrow of being called so, the term is a derogatory slur used for Bengali-origin Muslims. They sing about violence, discrimination, apathy and threat of statelessness due to the changing socio-political climate in India.



Jellili Atiku's *Nobody is Born Wise*

Making space for more
Next up was the inclusivity portal or *Inclusion @ IAF*, which hosted a number of workshops at the fair by those who have played small but essential roles in keeping different arts alive and have yet stayed unrecognized. Moving further, Sandeep TK's series of photographs, *Declaration of Empathy*, gave an eye-opening and evocative message. The photographs represented the aftermath of what happened when Sandeep asked a few of his friends from Kerala who belong to the trans-community to imagine an alternative life. While in one photograph, a transwoman is dressed as a dancer holding her head high in front of her teachers and classmates, who ridiculed her for her feminine behaviour, in another, a transwoman is dressed as a lawyer, which would have been her answer to all the discrimination she has ever faced. There were also transpersons dressed as a nurse looking after a patient, a police officer riding a bike, a classical dancer, a film actress and a leader of the Communist Party in Kerala.

the traditional ritual of colouring sacred idols in turmeric, which is considered crucial during various "cultural, religious as well as culinary practices" in India. Dressed in an all-white garment, Atiku's clean attire soon turned yellow as he painted a 100 Ganesha idols with the colour, as we watched on.
Another one was by Maya Krishna Rao, who presented a solo performance, *Loose Woman*, giving short and sharp glimpses of a woman who finds herself in situations that push, pull and stretch her skin, as it were. Known for her feminist and protest theatre, she acted as a person driving through the streets, looking at her mother gardening, playing at a highway and dancing with abandon.
Naksha, an *Untold Odyssey*, by artist Piyali Ghosh, which will be showcased tomorrow, is a live drawing performance inspired by the mathematical design and symmetry the *Chakravayuh*, the military formation mentioned in the Hindu epic *Mahabharata*.

Meeting of the two worlds
One of the most eye-catching art-



Surtae Hwang's *The Sunny Room series*



Sandeep TK's *Declaration of Empathy*

work installations was that by New York-based artist Ghiora Aharoni, who has made some opposites meet with such ease that it looked like they weren't different from each other at all — vintage and technology, science and religion, Hindi and Urdu, and Jerusalem and Varanasi. Talking about the idea behind combining some completely different worlds, he said that the works were characterised by an interest in exploring dualities such as that of religion and science, which might seem distant, but in a way "go hand in hand." Looking around the gallery, one found traditional objects and symbols, cultural artifacts and sacred texts, which had been recontextualised with a new meaning, challenging the conventions. He also created a separate space where he combined Hindu and Urdu as the wall reads, 'Shukr Hai Bhagwaan Ne Mujhe Aurat Banaya', both in Devanagiri and Persian scripts. He said, "I had been working on combining Hebrew and Arabic. The motive behind combining Hindi and Urdu was to unite two

elements which are conflicted yet overlapping."
What struck the most
While Korea's Gallery Tableau's *The Sunny Room*, *Celadon Bowl*, and *See The World*, caught eyeballs, the exhibition *Be Reborn* at Simyo Gallery from Seoul, South Korea, made waves by showcasing old masterpieces by great artists which were digitally augmented and given a new life. From an old Asian masterpiece of a landscape to the famous Mona Lisa's painting, the artworks come alive through more dynamic, vivid and colourful elements being added to them. Lee Leenam has presented poetic images and transitions of space with new perspectives and interpretation through the theme, 'reborn.'
Tapasya Gupta's sculpture series, *Sweet Days of Summer*, by Gallery Veda presented the concept of destiny through a wry sense of humour and laughter, which, as per the artist, represent the inner beauty of a person.
Photo: Pankaj Kumar



Tapasya Gupta's *Sweet Days of Summer*

FINDING THE UNKNOWN

Inspired by the golden period of Hindi cinema, global artworks at the fair delve deep into India's history and culture. By TEAM VIVA

As one enters the India Art Fair, time becomes an illusion as you are surrounded by a plethora of creativity and art from across the world. It's entrancing to see how the contemporary art scene has evolved overtime in the country and today has an immense global presence.

There are around 80 galleries from across Indian and international cities, many of them first-timers. Taking a walk through the fair, one could see many live installations, events, bookshops and workshops.

Inspired by the imagery of the golden period of Hindi cinema — 1960s, the paintings of Canada-based artist Marcel Dzama gives an insight into the Indian culture, details about Bollywood and regional wildlife. Presented by the David Zwirner gallery, Dzama's works are a visual exploration of the Indian ethos with hints of divine iconography. His works presented a blurred relationship between the real and the subconscious through a understandable visual language. "I have always admired Bollywood. I loved how each character had a specific charm and tone which is somewhere still intact in the hearts of the people. So I have always been drawn to dance, costumes and masks. I remember, during my childhood, I used to dress up in a costume and pretend that I was a film's character all day long," Dzama said, pointing towards his work that seamlessly merge Indian mythology, pop culture and memories.



While I wondered the depth each painting talked about, the appealing tent facade designed by popular Indian artist Sameer Kulavoor, grabbed my attention instantly. It focussed on the routine Indian life, I couldn't help appreciating him for depicting the everyday ordinariness so beautifully.

Another artist, Chitra Ganesh has explored the lines between past and future. She has also portrayed a dynamic connection between mythology and science fiction. "There are always untold stories trying to rise to the surface. They are inspiring," said she.

B Prabha, a female modernist, brought one of her prized pieces to the fair. She began painting at a time when very few women were in this profession. Inspired by artist Amrita Sher Gil, Prabha represented real female subjects, liberated from the gaze of the male artist. She painted the trauma and tragedy of women and depicted the melancholy rural women in natural colour palettes.

Moving ahead was the miniature artist, Sahil Naik, who described his meticulous models in a fine manner. For Naik, close examination of structures offers the possibility of understanding what took place and under what circumstances. He is interested in knowing the incidents that led to a particular situation. One of his project called *Monuments, Mausoleums, Memorials and Modernism* explored the zeal of new nations. Models of structures were inspired by a proposed dam in his native Goa, whose building process would have displaced local residents from there. There is a human cost, Naik implies, to such large-scale ambition.

Apart from a diverse selection of contemporary and modern art galleries from across different cities, the fair also features international galleries from New York, Berlin, Seoul, Colombo, London, Hong Kong, and Dubai.

There were sections showcasing solo presentations curated by various galleries — Ratheesh T by Galerie Mirchandani and Steinruecke, Girjesh Kumar Singh by Rukshaan Art, Anjan Modhak by Emami Art, Avijit Dutta by Kalakriti Art Gallery, D Dhasan by Apparao Galleries, KS Radhakrishnan by Galleri Nvya and Subodh Kerkar by Gallery Art Positive.

Next in line were outdoor art projects, ranging from largescale interactive installations to sculptures. It also had giant wooden rain drops by Chennai-based printmaker Vijay Pichumani with Art Houz Gallery. It touched upon the ongoing conversation around water scarcity.

Yet another interesting part of the fair, that extends beyond the venue, are collateral events programmed by galleries, museums and arts spaces around the city. The opening of the newly refurbished Jaipur House, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Gujral Foundation, Khoj International Artists Association, Bikaner House and walkthroughs in Okhla, among others remained a centre of attraction.

Various artists were glad about the fact that they not only do a fair amount of business through the fair but have also been able to build long-term relationships.



VERVE 45 MINUTES

YOUNG AT HEART

Over the course of 40 years, actor ANIL KAPOOR had straddled the domain of arthouse and commercial cinema with equal ease. By AYUSHI SHARMA

The recent trailer of *Malang* has been making waves as people hazard wild guesses about what the film's storyline is about. There are conjectures all around as to who is playing what and actor Anil Kapoor fuels the curiosity further when you ask him about his character. He laughs and says that's the "intent" because it's a thriller. "Yes, it does look a bit confusing and that's the idea — to keep people's curiosity alive. The trailer should be such that people want to watch the film when it releases. Don't you want to?" he asks.

Anil has played a range of characters during the 40 years that he has been a part of the industry. But he is not flagging as he continues to reinvent himself with each film. His first reaction to the trailer was similar to that of most of the audience. So what made him go for such a character? "When I heard the script, I felt what the audience is feeling after watching the trailer. It makes you think about what and how will the film unfold. It confuses you. But then you are eager to find out the layers. The narrative is not simple but it is definitely interesting," says he.

The film revolves around a couple, Advait (Aditya Roy Kapoor) and Sara (Disha Patani), whose seemingly perfect life comes crashing down when they get linked to a corrupt cop (Anil) and his righteous counterpart (Kunal Khemu). To further complicate matters, all four are on a killing spree. Anil plays a police officer from Goa, who is disappointed with the ways of the world and the hostile environment around him. He feels that the process is slow and taxing. "He just wants justice. While his department is a little unhappy with the way he works, he is also dissatisfied with the manner in which his department handles operations. There's also a simmering anger within him about the decline of Goa. Earlier he was fine with the place becoming a tourist attraction but now he finds that it has become too commercial," he tells us. Anil feels that such films push one to use their mind and youngsters today enjoy doing that. "They don't want to be spoon-fed," he says.

Amid this flood of good content and realistic cinema, what do thrillers have to offer? Do they still appeal to the audience as they did before?

WHEN EVERYBODY KNOWS THE KIND OF WORK YOU DO, THEY START EXPECTING A LITTLE MORE AND YOU STAND IN A POSITION WHERE YOU HAVE TO DELIVER. AND YOU ARE ALSO PAID FOR THAT, SO WHY WON'T YOU DELIVER? AFTER ALL, THERE ARE NO FREE LUNCHES IN LIFE



Moreover, the idea of thrillers has also changed with *Sacred Games* and *Mirzapur*. They are no longer infused with fiction or fantasy. It's reality all the way. Anil thinks it's changing because of the kind of exposure to content we have now. "It's so important that even fantasy has a bit of reality now. People want the characters and stories to be real. A little larger than life. Nobody starts investing in something the customer doesn't require. It's always according to what people want. There are so many stakeholders, distributors and producers. They always invest in stories which the audience wants to consume. Sometimes they succeed and at times they don't. It's just a part of the business. Also, the choices vary from filmmaker to filmmaker, actor to actor. You just need to do your best and eventually, it is the audience which decides what's right, what's wrong," he says.

The actor is known to have blended in with the younger generation really well. So does he feel the pressure of putting the right content forward as many people, especially youngsters look up to him? He feels that it's not just him but almost everybody has the pressure of putting the right content forward, no matter the age or the profession. "When everybody knows the kind of work you do, they start expecting a little more and you stand in a position where you have to deliver. That's partially the price you pay for being in the show business. And you are also paid for that, so why won't you deliver? There are no free lunches in life," he laughs and says.

As an actor, Anil has straddled arthouse and big commercials effortlessly. How difficult is it to keep a balance while switching genres? It depends on the actor, he says. For him, the more challenging it is, the more exciting it becomes. "I love challenges. I want to dive into something which I have never done before. So I never step back from trying new things because when you keep on doing same things over and over again, there is a tendency to stagnate and people get bored. So that's not the right move for an actor who really loves his work. And when you start doing great work, people expect you to do the same thing and even that becomes more challenging. Both ways, it is difficult," says Anil.

Photo: Parikaj Kumar



Helmet will decide if I should play lead: Aparshakti

Actor Aparshakti Khurana says he had a great time shooting for his quirky next release, *Helmet*. The film, co-starring Pranutan Bahl, is his first outing as a solo lead actor. He added that the audience response to the film will determine whether he should do lead roles in the future.

"I think these all are wishes of my family, colleagues and the audience that all these things are happening to me. If *Helmet* connects with the audience then people might think about whether I should play lead roles or not. If it does not connect, then people will say that it was too early for me to do a lead-hero film and I should have done two to three films in supporting roles. So, it's all very situational. Having said that, I had a great time shooting for the film. Whatever I have seen and heard about it, it's all going great," said the actor, while interacting with the media at dancer choreographer Shakti Mohan's *Break A Leg Season 2* shoot along with actor Nushrat Bharucha.

Aparshakti has carved his niche as a fine actor and comedian with some interesting character roles and was recently seen in the dance hit, *Street Dancer 3D*. "This is the first time I played an emotional character. I have always played comic characters in films. When I used to do theatre, I used to do a lot of dark and intense roles

but when I started working in films, I continuously have been doing comic characters and that was a bit weird. I had fun while playing an emotional character in this film and I feel glad that it connected with the audience," he said.

Helmet, his first outing as a leading man, is directed by Satram Ramani. Nushrat Bharucha, who was also present at the location, talked about her forthcoming film *Chhalaang*, co-starring Rajkumar Rao. "We have recently launched the poster of the film. Everybody is excited to see what is going to happen in the film and why Raj (Rajkumar Rao) is sleeping in the poster. We are going to release the trailer very soon, so I don't want to talk about it any more. The film will release on March 13," she said about *Chhalaang*, a black comedy directed by Hansal Mehta and backed by Ajay Devgn, Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg.

This film will be Aparshakti's first as a lead actor. Directed by Satram Ramani, *Helmet* is a funny script which touches upon an unusual topic that is considered embarrassing for most people in India. It is yet to be disclosed. Rohan Shankar, who previously wrote *Luka Chuppi* has been roped in as the writer.

Aparshakti will play opposite Pranutan Bahl in the film. It has been shot in Varanasi and Mumbai. —IANS

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

'Live in the moment'

Actor DAVID ALAN GRIER says that the best part of his day is to feel a sense of belonging while walking into a theatre

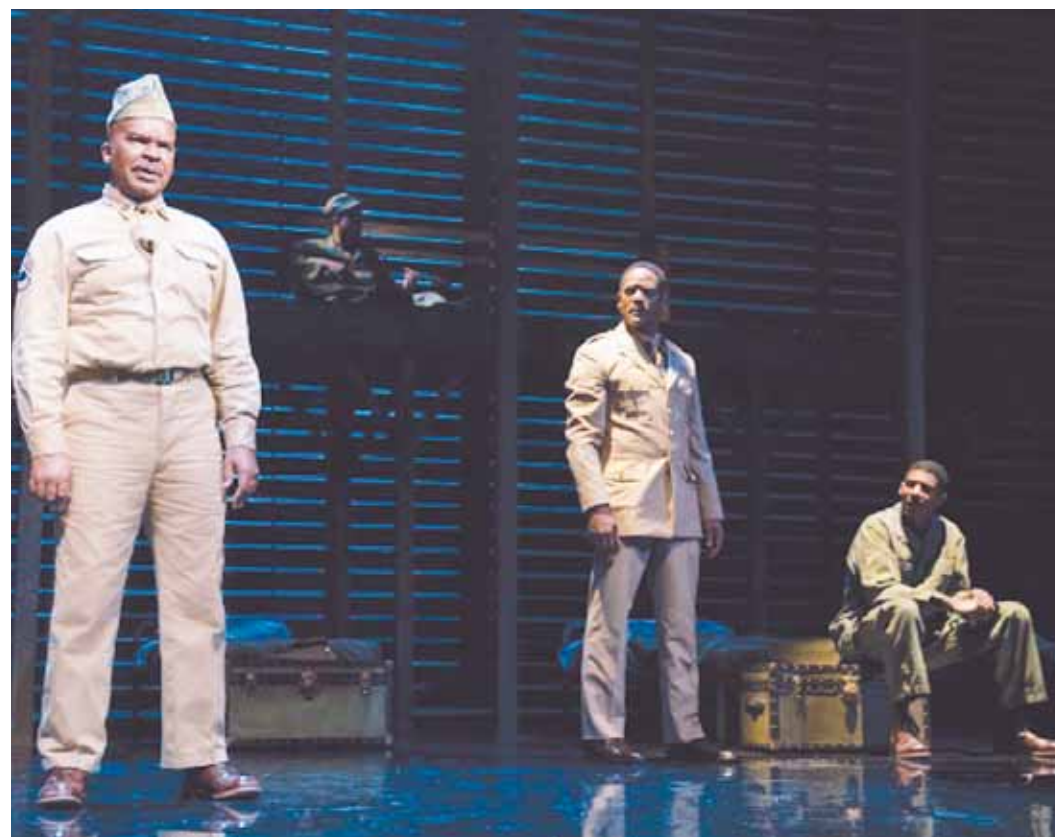
When David Alan Grier was offered a chance to revisit one of his favourite plays on Broadway, he quickly agreed. He just forgot about all the beatings. In *A Soldier's Play*, Grier plays a stern Army sergeant who during each show is pummeled twice and later shot dead, again twice. While the violence is fake, the actor does have to repeatedly drop and roll around on the American Airlines Theatre stage.

While this is Grier's third time performing *A Soldier's Play*, the fact that the role he's playing was so physical slipped his mind. He only remembered the physicality when a fight coordinator appeared.

"I forgot about all that. I was like, 'Oh, he has lots of lines. Yeah, I'll do it.' I thought there were little scuffles. I thought, well, he gets pushed a couple times. A lot of monologues. I'll take it," says Grier.

To be sure, Grier is the last person you'd expect to be caught unaware. One of his earliest roles was in a small part in the off-Broadway debut of *A Soldier's Play* when he was in his 20s. He revisited the work when it was turned into a 1984 film. This is his third bite of the apple. "I was the youngest actor. Now I'm the oldest," he says.

The play by Charles Fuller is set on an Army base in Louisiana during World War II. A Black investigator has been called to find out who murdered the Black sergeant of an all-black company. What he finds is racism — but not from white bigots or the KKK. He finds intolerance within the black



ranks.

The play won the Pulitzer Prize for drama and over the years has attracted some of the most accomplished actors in the black community: Denzel Washington, Adolph Caesar, Samuel L. Jackson, Wood Harris, Yave Diggs, Anthony Mackie, James McDaniel and Blair Underwood.

Jerry O'Connell, who plays a captain worrying about the direction of the case, said it's a kick having Grier — who has now played three different roles — around for the Broadway version. "It is pretty funny asking Grier for advice, like 'Hey, what happened in the original production?' He's like, 'It was 38 years ago! I don't remember any of it!'"

Grier recalls making the film in Arkansas and one day then Gov Bill Clinton stopped by the set. He also vividly recalled the food: Patti LaBelle, who played a nightclub singer, made rice and red beans daily and one day the caterer served something a little odd: catfish sushi. "I abstained. Wisely, wisely, I was told later," Grier says. One reason was that he'd never heard of such a dish. "And I'm going to go out on a limb. I speak for all Japan: Neither have they."

When you speak to the actor, food often comes up. He's an avid chef and shares his creations on social media and in a food blog. He recently detailed cooking a massive pork shoulder for eight hours. He managed to pull out the bone and simmer it with root vegetables to make bone broth. Someone mentioned in the comment section they'd also been boiling bones but

they were doing it for three days and the broth tasted terrible. "Yeah, you dummy. Three days? That's what you do to get rid of a body," joked Grier.

Food — well, dessert, really — had an important role in how he became an actor. Growing up in Detroit, he knew he was funny but he moved to New York in the mid-1970s to be a musician. And like all struggling musicians, he had a side hustle.

Grier worked at a Häagen-Dazs ice cream store in the Upper East Side of Manhattan and often after his sticky shift would go across the street to a disco. One night he was messing around when an actor spotted him and said he had talent and was wasting his life. "He was really responsible for saying you are on the wrong path. Whatever he saw in that moment was 'You need to go over here,'" says Grier. "And I listened."

Grier, who after that conversation applied to acting schools and chose Yale, would go on to a career on the stage (*Dreamgirls* and *Porgy and Bess*), on TV (*In Living Color* and *DAG*) and film (*Jumanji* and *Native Son*).

Being on Broadway again these days isn't old hat to the 63-year-old performer. He even likes to get to the theatre early, long before the place is buzzing.

"To walk into a theater and belong — this is my doorway into my life — is the best. It's the best part of the day," he says. "You walk in this environment before the audience is there and the crew is kind of just vacuuming, setting up, testing everything. I love it." —AP



The play by Charles Fuller is set on an Army base in Louisiana during World War II. A Black investigator has been called to find out who murdered the Black sergeant of an all-black company

FINAL THAT NOBODY SAW COMING

In a first, Kenin, Muguruza face-off for first Australian title

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Serena Williams dominated talk before the Australian Open but today's women's final is between unseeded Garbine Muguruza and unheralded Sofia Kenin — a 750-1 longshot of a championship match that nobody predicted.

After a tournament of surprises, the 21-year-old Kenin can even supplant Williams as the top-ranked American if she manages another plot twist by beating Spain's Muguruza in Melbourne.

The 38-year-old American legend Williams was attempting to equal the record 24 Grand Slam titles of Australian Margaret Court, but she lost in the third round to China's Wang Qiang.

Reigning champion Naomi Osaka went out at the same stage to 15-year-old sensation Coco Gauff, who was promptly turfed out herself by fellow American Kenin.

Six of the top 10 seeds exited in the third round, seemingly blowing the tournament open for Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty.

But step forward Moscow-born 14th seed Kenin once more, who showed remarkably few nerves in her first Grand Slam semi-final as she broke home hearts in straight sets.

Even if she loses the final, Kenin will reach a career-high nine in the world, rising from her current position of 15th.

If she beats Muguruza — and she did so in their only previous meeting, at the China Open in the autumn — she will



Kenin vs Muguruza
Live from 1:30pm IST
SONY SIX & TEN 3 NETWORK

Thiem outlasts Zverev

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Tireless Dominic Thiem came from a set down to outlast German Alexander Zverev and make his first Australian Open final on Friday, booking a show-down with seven-time champion Novak Djokovic.

The 26-year-old fifth seed, the first player from Austria ever to reach the Melbourne decider, battled past seventh-ranked Zverev 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4) on a sweltering evening.

Defending champion Djokovic awaits him after the second seed ended Roger Federer's dreams in straight sets on Thursday to make his eighth Melbourne Park final.

Thiem has his work cut out against the Serb who is on a 12-match unbeaten streak this season and has won all seven



Dominic Thiem, right, is congratulated by Alexander Zverev after win

had that, no matter who I'm playing, where I'm playing, I'm going to fight for it," said Kenin, who moved to the United States from Russia as a baby with her family.

The 26-year-old Muguruza will be the next to try to tame Kenin. British bookmakers William Hill said the odds of a Kenin-Muguruza final were 750-1 before the Australian Open began.

They make Muguruza the favourite because she has experience of the biggest occasions, having won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2017.

But this is her first final in Melbourne and she is ranked 32 in the world after her form tailed off alarmingly in the past 18 months.

Unseeded for the first time at a Grand Slam since 2014, Muguruza beat

three top-10 seeds in reaching the final.

She fought back in both sets in her semi-final against fourth-ranked Simona Halep to defeat her fellow former world number one 7-6 (10/8), 7-5.

Muguruza is not one for exuberant celebrations and she gives as little away in her post-match comments.

So it was left to Halep to say that the Spaniard has the quality to be the world's top-ranked player once more — but with

one caveat.

"If she can play every day like this, she can be number one for sure," said the 28-year-old Romanian, also a French Open and Wimbledon champion, following their hard-fought semi-final.

"But it's tough to do that. The consistency on tour — it's the most important thing and the toughest one."



australian open



Garreth Bale in action during Copa del Rey RMFC/Twitter

No exit for Bale

AFP ■ MADRID

Real vs Atletico
Live from 8:30pm IST
FACEBOOK

Zinedine Zidane has said he is "not contemplating" Gareth Bale leaving Real Madrid on Friday before the end of the January transfer window.

Bale came close to joining Chinese Super League side Jiangsu Suning last summer and English newspaper the *Times* reported on Friday the Welshman was in talks to rejoin his former club Tottenham.

But a source at Spurs said they are not in negotiations to sign Bale this month. Another source close to the player insisted earlier this week that "nothing has changed" and he would not be leaving Real Madrid in January.

Asked about the possibility of Bale being sold on Friday, Zidane said in a press conference: "Gareth is with us, I'm counting on him. I do not contemplate this possibility."

Bale was left out of the Copa del Rey squad on Wednesday, having completed only one full training session following an ankle injury.

Zidane would not say if he would return for the city derby against Atletico Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu today.

"I'm not going to tell you who is going to play," Zidane said. "The players all have to be prepared."

There was also a positive update regarding the fitness of Eden Hazard, who has recovered from his foot injury and could feature against Atletico.

"We'll see but he has been training with us all week," Zidane said. "He could be included tomorrow but we will never take any risks."

Hazard has not played since fracturing his foot against Paris Saint-Germain on November 26.

CARRASCO BACK TO ATH

Atletico Madrid have signed Yannick Carrasco from Chinese side Dalian Yifang on loan until the end of season. Carrasco returns to Atletico, where he spent three years before moving out in 2018.

"Our club has reached an agreement with Dalian Yifang for the loan of Yannick Carrasco until the end of the current season," an Atletico statement read.

"The player returns to Atletico, where he spent three seasons and played a total of 124 games, scoring 23 goals," Atletico described Carrasco as "a player who knows our team and has a lot of talent and provides penetration from both sides".

Messi boost for Seiten

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi scored twice as Barcelona hammered Leganes 5-0 to advance to the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey and deliver a much-needed boost for new coach Quique Setien.

Messi's double, as well as goals from Antoine Griezmann, Clement Lenglet and Arthur Melo rounded off an emphatic win at Camp Nou, where Barca successfully bounced back from Saturday's surprise La Liga loss away at Valencia.

Griezmann made his case by opening the scoring after four minutes as Nelson Semedo cut back for the Frenchman to control and poke home his 13th goal of the season.



Another Griezmann strike was ruled out shortly after, only for Lenglet to head in Messi's corner at the near post to put Barcelona two up after 27

minutes.

Messi made it three after springing in behind just before the hour and then Arthur Melo, on for Griezmann, added another, banging in after both Ansu Fati and Messi had been denied.

Leganes were finished but Messi had one more goal left in him as he latched onto Ivan Rakitic's pass and rounded Pichu Cuellar, before finishing for his 19th of the season and third under a relieved Setien.

They will now face Athletic Bilbao in away quarter-final game after Friday's draw, while Real Madrid will host Real Sociedad at Santiago Bernabeu.

Bopanna gets Tata Open wild card

NEW DELHI: Ace India tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his partner Arjun Kadhe has been awarded with the wild card entry in the doubles at the third edition of Tata Open Maharashtra which is scheduled from February 3-9 at Mhalunge Balewadi Stadium in Pune.

The World No 38 Bopanna, who clinched the doubles title in the last edition playing alongside Divij Sharan, will lead Indian challenge in South Asia's only ATP Tour tournament alongside local boy Arjun Kadhe. Sharan, who will partner alongside Artem Sitak, have already made into the main draw with a direct entry.

Kadhe also received wild card entry into the singles main draw while the third wild card has been awarded to young promising Indian player Sasikumara Mukund.

"It's amazing to have Bopanna back in the tournament. He clinched the title in the last edition and we hope he will dish out impressive show with Kadhe this year too," said Prashant Sutar, Tournament Director.

With Kadhe and Mukund's inclusion, five Indian players will now feature in the 28-size singles main draw.

Bruno hails Cristiano's influence in United move

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes completed his move from Sporting Lisbon to Manchester United on Thursday, claiming he was inspired to switch to Old Trafford by compatriot Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 25-year-old has signed a five-and-a-half year contract with an option to extend for a further year.

"My love of Manchester United really started when I used to watch Cristiano Ronaldo play and ever since then I have been a big fan of this great club," Fernandes explained of his Portuguese teammate who played for United from 2003-2009.

"For me, to now play for Manchester United feels incredible.



Bruno Fernandes poses after penning Utd deal

"I have worked hard to get to this moment and I can promise the fans that I will give everything for the badge to help bring us more success and trophies."

'Couple of good shows can put Saina back on track'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal is currently in a tight spot in her bid for a Tokyo Olympics singles berth but a couple of good performances in the coming weeks can put her back in contention, her mentor Parupalli Kashyap said on Friday.

Saina is racing against time to make the cut for her fourth successive Olympics.

According to the BWF Olympics qualification rules, only two players from each singles category can qualify from a country if their rankings lie within the top-16 by April 28.

"It is getting tight now. There are two more weeks before the Spain Masters (February 18-23). It is a crucial time. She has to get her



Saina Nehwal celebrates after win

confidence back. I think she will be okay. A couple of good weeks and she will be back on track. But her body has to support her," Kashyap said about his wife.

The 2012 London Olympic Bronze medalist, has not won a title since the 2019 Indonesia Masters in January and she was able to cross the first-round only six times in the last 14 tournaments that she has played.

The gradual dip in her performance saw her slip to the 18th spot in BWF rankings and a lowly 22nd in the Olympic qualification rankings.

Explaining further, Kashyap, himself a former world No 6 singles player, said: "Saina is currently world No 18 and she has to be inside top 16 by April 28. She has 49000 points and she has to get to around 53000 points by that time, so basically she has to make 4000-5000 points in the next eight tournaments."

"She has to defend points at All England and Asian championship. So she has to basically make four quarters or semi-finals. She has to play better in next few tournaments and she can still make it."

Sathyian hopes to make Olympic cut soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Though the Indian men's and women's table tennis teams missed out on an opportunity to secure qualification for the Tokyo Olympics in the 2020 ITTF World Team Qualification tournament, earlier this month, but Indian TT players still have a chance to book a berth in the singles competition. India's TT star G Sathyian expressed that the top Indian singles players have a great chance of qualifying



for the Olympics.

"We have a very big chance for qualifying for the singles and I will definitely try to make amends there and see how I can

improve my best and how I can maintain my top form. The preparations are going great. We have a lot of tournaments scheduled. I am pretty sure that I will make the cut very soon," said the paddler.

The Indian table tennis contingent performed exceedingly well at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2018 with the women's team clinching Gold at the CWG and the men's team winning Bronze at the Asian Games, among other

medals. Sathyian said that increased exposure for athletes has helped the sport grow in India.

"Table tennis has improved by leaps and bounds in India. The very fact that we were the favourites in such a big tournament like the Olympic qualification talks about how we have grown in the last four years. We have started proving our mettle in the world arena. It's not an easy job for teams to take on India now," said the 27-year-old.

Sai, Srikanth spearhead Indian challenge

Ashmita, Malvika will lead women's squad in Saina, Sindhu's absence

NEW DELHI: Kidambi Srikanth will lead India's full-strength men's team while the upcoming group of shuttlers have been given a chance to showcase their prowess in the women's section of the Asia Team Championships to be played in Manila from February 11-16.

The Indian men's team, which won the Bronze medal in Hyderabad in 2016, will also have B Sai Praneeth along with HS Prannoy, Subhankar Dey and Lakshya Sen in the squad.

With Olympic qualification being the top priority, the event will give India's elite men's players a chance to garner crucial points ahead of the mega quadrennial Games.

In the doubles events, the fast improving pair of Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun would be looking to impress everyone in the tournament and also compliment Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in the team championships.

In the women's team event,

rising youngsters will be fielded as the senior players are concentrating on their Olympic preparations.

SAG Gold medalist Ashmita Chaliha, the promising Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap and Gayatri Gopichand will make the singles unit.

Senior national champions Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam along with the experienced K Maneesha and Rutaparna Panda make up the doubles combinations. PNS

SINGLES



Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju along with the official mascot of the 36th National Games of India, Rubigula, Flame-Throated Bulbul during its launch in Panaji on Friday

NGIDI, SHAMSI PASS FITNESS TESTS

DUBAI: South Africa pacer Lungi Ngidi, spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and all-rounder Jon-Jon Smuts are back in contention for the ODI series against England, which begins on February 4. All three players have passed their fitness tests at the CSA's strength and conditioning camp. Sisanda Magala, who was also at the camp and named in the ODI squad, has not yet met the fitness requirements and will continue to work with fitness trainer Tumi Masekela, targeting the three-match T20I series that takes place after the ODIs.

LARA TO PLAY IN BUSHFIRE RELIEF MATCH

SYDNEY: West Indies legend Brian Lara joined the star-studded list of players who have confirmed their participation in the charity match organised to raise funds for Australia's bushfire victims. The legendary left-hander joined the likes of Yuvraj Singh & Wasim Akram on playing rosters, cricket.Com.Au reported.

DORTMUND CONFIRMS ALCACER EXIT

DORTMUND: Paco Alcacer became the victim of Erling Braut Haaland's spectacular start at Borussia Dortmund as the Spain striker left to join Villarreal. The 26-year-old Alcacer reportedly cost the Spanish league side 30 million euros (\$33 million), including bonus payments, after signing a deal until 2025 to return to Spain after only 18 months in Germany. "We would like to thank Paco Alcacer for his performance in the Dortmund jersey and wish him good health and maximum sporting success in the future," said Dortmund's sports director Michael Zorc.

ASHU WILL LEAD DELHI U-17 SIDE

NEW DELHI: Ashu will lead the Delhi Under-17 (boys) team in the Dr BC Roy National Championship to be held in Shillong. Goalkeeper Shubham Biswas has been named his. DSA president Shaji Prabhakaran wished the boys good luck for the upcoming tournament. While handing over the team kits to young team members Shaji said "You are lucky 20 to qualify from the 400 boys who participated in the trials and now the onus is on you to come with flying colours and bring good name for Delhi."

LYON SET SHOWDOWN WITH MARSEILLE

NICE: Lyon will face in-form Marseille in the French Cup quarter-finals after a last game penalty snatched a 2-1 win for them at Nice on Thursday. Moussa Dembele opened the scoring for the away side. Little else happened until the final minutes, when first Kasper Dolberg backheeled straight to Lyon goalkeeper Anton Tatarusanu from a few yards out. Adam Ounas then flashed home a leveller for the hosts in the 89th minute, but just seconds later Lyon were given a penalty for Dante's reckless tackle on substitute Karl Toko Ekambi, with Houssem Aouar tucking home the winning spot-kick.

ARSENAL SIGN SAINTS DEFENDER SOARES

LONDON: Arsenal announced the signing of Portugal defender Cedric Soares on loan from Southampton until the end of the season. Arsenal technical director Edu said on the club website: "Cedric is a defender with good experience of the Premier League, and of course at international level. He is another strong addition to our defensive unit who will provide our squad with quality." In other movements Magpies signed England left-back Danny Rose from Tottenham while Utd's Marcos Rojo has rejoined his home town club Estudiantes on loan.

SAI GIVES RANI OUT-OF-TURN PROMOTION

NEW DELHI: Indian women hockey team captain Rani Rampal, who has been named the World Games Athlete of the Year, handed an out-of-turn promotion by the Sports Authority of India to honour her achievement. Rani, who joined SAI as an assistant coach in 2015, has been promoted to the post of coach (Level-10), with immediate effect. Speaking about the initiative of SAI to reward Rani on her achievement, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "Ensuring that our athletes have a sound financial standing is of immense importance. This is our way of appreciating Rani for all that she has contributed to the country," Rijiju said. AGENCIES

'STAY CALM TILL THE END'

Kohli says two Super Over finishes taught him to stay calm and bounce back when chance comes

We will go for 5-0 whitewash: Manish

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Crediting India's second successive Super Over win to the team's never-say-die attitude, middle order batsman Manish Pandey said they will push for an unprecedented 5-0 series whitewash in the fifth T20.

The two sides meet for the final match at Mt Maunganui tomorrow.

"It has been our motto, not only for these two matches, that till the time the last ball is bowled, we won't give up any match. If you play with that intent you will get matches like these where you might get a Super Over, and you win from there," Pandey said at the post-match conference.

"And now we have an opportunity to make it 5-0 and it will be really amazing to do that. Come the fifth match, we will look to go 5-0 up, that is our plan. Nobody has done it before and especially India has not done it before. So, I think it will be a great start to do that."

Asked if the players believed they could pull off a Super Over win yet again as they did on Friday, Pandey said, "In the middle, it looked like we were a little easy on ourselves. But since it had happened the last game, we thought we had to bowl good balls and it is possible we push it to a Super Over. And then, as the balls went by and we reached the last two balls, we were certain that this would go to Super Over."

"We were ready for it in the back of our mind. We have very good bowlers and Shardul (Thakur) bowled a very good last over. For his effort, he deserved it that the game went into a Super Over," said Pandey who made 50 not out off 36 balls.



India captain Virat Kohli takes a catch to dismiss Martin Guptill

TIED MATCHES INVOLVED NZ IN T20s

Opponent	Venue	Date	Winner
W Indies	Auckland	16-02-2006	New Zealand**
W Indies	Auckland	26-12-2008	West Indies
Australia	Christchurch	28-02-2010	New Zealand
Sri Lanka	Pallekele	27-09-2012	Sri Lanka
W Indies	Pallekele	01-10-2012	West Indies
England	Auckland	10-11-2019	England
India	Hamilton	29-01-2020	India
India	Wellington	31-01-2020	India

**New Zealand's win over West Indies at Auckland on February 16, 2006 came in bowl-out.

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India captain Virat Kohli on Friday said he has learnt an important lesson in the back-to-back Super Over finishes against New Zealand: To "stay calm till the end" and bounce back when the opportunity arises.

A nervous New Zealand threw it away yet again as a perseverant India prevailed in the Super Over for the second successive time to take a 4-0 lead in the five-match T20 series.

"There's something new I've learnt in the last couple of games: when the opposition is playing well, you stay calm till the end and try to come back," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Needing just 11 runs off the last two overs with seven wickets in hand, New Zealand dug a hole for themselves yet again, taking the game to a Super Over two nights after doing the same in Hamilton.

New Zealand managed 13 runs in six balls and India got there effortlessly.

The India skipper said having come out victorious in two consecutive Super Overs for the first time proves the character of the team.

"We couldn't have asked for more exciting games, we've never played Super Overs before and

now we've won two. It shows the character of the team," Kohli said.

Although Sanju Samson didn't make any significant contribution in the match, Kohli said he initially thought of sending the Kerala batsman in the Super Over along side K L Rahul but eventually changed his mind.

"Initially we thought of opening with Samson and KL in the Super Over, but then KL told me I should bat because of the experience and the options I'll bring," he said.

"His (Rahul's) two strikes

were crucial and then you knock the ball into the gap and take your team over the line. Sanju was fearless at the top of the order. He tried to take the momentum away, he should back himself."

Kohli also lavished praise on young pacer Navdeep Saini, who went wicketless on Friday.

"Saini was impressive with his pace again. We were very proud with the way we went about it," he said.

New Zealand skipper Tim Southee, who stood in for injured regular captain Kane Williamson,

said they presented India opportunities and the visitors grabbed them with both hands.

"It's very tough especially in the positions we put ourselves into. We gave them (India) a chance and they took them with both hands," he said.

"We have a young bowling attack and, it is tough, when you haven't won and you play against a quality opposition in India, give them a sniff and make it tough for yourselves."

Man-of-the-match Shardul Thakur, who finished with figures

India always find a way



Michel Santer celebrates taking a catch to dismiss Sanju Samson

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand threw it away from a winning position in the last two T20s but opener Colin Munro instead gave credit to the visitors, saying they "always" find a way to bounce back.

"That's cricket isn't it? We put ourselves in positions to win both of those games I thought. But India, with the roll they're on at the moment and the cricket that they're playing, they always just find a way. And then Super Over is a bit of luck

each way. It can go either way I reckon," he said.

"We're all sitting in the sheds now and talking about it and hurting that we have let two games like that slip. And, I put my hand up too. We talk about running quickly between the wickets and then I was dawdling with that second one, and Kohli picks up and does some magical work and that's it."

"There are a few guys that are hurting. But we are tight in our group and we will bounce back, come Sunday hopefully," he added.

MOST RUNS AGAINST INDIA IN T20I

Batsman	M	Runs	AVG	HS	S/R	100/50
Colin Munro (NZ)	11	411	41.10	109*	146.78	1/3
Aaron Finch (AUS)	13	405	31.15	89	137.28	-/2
Glenn Maxwell (AUS)	13	353	35.30	113*	145.86	1/1
Kane Williamson (NZ)	11	325	29.54	95	135.98	-/2
Evin Lewis (WI)	9	322	46.00	125*	173.11	2/-

FAISEL FEATURES

of 2 for 33 and also bowled the crucial last over in which New Zealand needed just seven runs, said such nail-biting finishes augurs well for India ahead of this

year's ICC T20 World Cup. "I'm feeling good, we play for such nail-biting finishes, we couldn't have asked for anything more in these two games," he said.

RP, Madan, Sulakshana named in CAC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricketers Rudra Pratap Singh, Madan Lal and Sulakshana Naik were on Friday appointed members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) by the BCCI.

The CAC's immediate task will be to pick replacements for outgoing selectors MSK Prasad and Gagan Khoda.

"The term of appointment will be for one year," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said

in a statement.

Initially, Gautam Gambhir was to be one of the CAC members but was not eventually considered as he is a serving Member of Parliament, making way for Singh.

The 34-year-old from Uttar Pradesh is the youngest CAC member. Lal is 68 and Naik is 41.

CAC is a high-profile body but its job is limited. However, its seniormost member Lal is looking forward to the challenge.

"Responsibility is a responsibility. Name of the game is to take the responsibility and do the job honestly," Lal said, adding that he has no information yet on whether BCCI is doing away with the zonal policy for picking selectors or not.

"I have no idea if the zonal system will be followed or you could pick the selections from any region. Today, I have got official communication on the appointment and in the coming days, we will get to know more," he added.

Cleaver, Chapman put NZ A in driver's seat

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Dane Cleaver smashed an unbeaten century as New Zealand A put India A in a tight spot by amassing 385 for five in their first innings on the second day of the first unofficial Test.

After Will Young (54) completed his half-century, the hosts suffered a mini-collapse, losing three wickets cheaply but Cleaver (111 off 194 balls) and Mark Chapman (85 off 187 balls) resurrected the innings, adding an unbeaten 209 runs for the sixth

wicket.

Cleaver sent the ball across the fence 16 times, while Chapman smashed eight boundaries in his innings.

At stumps, the duo was at the crease with New Zealand taking an overall lead of 169 runs.

On day one, India A were all out for 216 in their first innings. For India A, Sandeep Warrier claimed two wickets, while Mohammed Siraj (1/104), Ishan Porel (1/61), Shabbaz Nadeem (1/67) accounted for one wicket each.



Mohammed Shami in a file photo

Shami is world's best pacer: Akhtar

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah might be considered one of the best in the world at present, but former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar believes that it is Mohammed Shami who is best fast bowler in the world at present. Akhtar not only praised the Indian pacer for his brilliant show in the third T20I against New Zealand, but also said that Shami uses his experience really well in tough situations.

"Shami is a very clever bowler. He is the find of India and he is the best fast bowler in the world. Whatever situation you put him in, he always excels, whether it's a world cup or a T20 in New Zealand, he's a very smart fast bowler. When he got to know that yorkers won't work, he immediately switched to length balls and bouncers," Akhtar said on his YouTube channel.

"When Taylor hit Shami for a six in the first ball, I thought the match was over but that's where the experience of Shami came into play. He realized there was little bit of dew which will help the ball skid if he hits the length."

New Zealand needed 9 runs off the last six balls when Kohli handed the ball to Shami and even though Taylor started the over with a six, the pacer kept cool and came back to dismiss him off the last ball to tie the game.

"Taylor hit me a lot through the midwicket region in my last match but unfortunately he dragged the same shot onto his stumps on the last ball. But credit to Shami," Akhtar pointed.

Earlier Rohit Sharma also credited Shami for bringing the team back into the game after a masterclass from Kane Williamson had almost seen the Kiwis stroll home. "I think Shami's last over was crucial, and actually that got us the victory. Not my two sixes. It was Shami's over where we defended nine runs. It's not easy with the dew," Rohit had said.



Harmanpreet Kaur in action

Twitter

Harman's six win 1st T20

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur struck an unbeaten 42 following a fine bowling performance to set up India's thrilling five-wicket win over England in the first match of the women's triangular T20 series on Friday.

Indian spinners — Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/19), Deepti Sharma (2/30) and left armer Radha Yadav (1/33) — restricted England to 147 for seven in stipulated 20 overs, while right-arm medium pacer Shikha Pandey (2/33) accounted for two at the Manuka Oval.

Harmanpreet took the run chase deep after the Indian top order, including the 15-year-old Shafali Verma (30), Smriti Mandhana (15) and Jemimah Rodrigues (26) — squandered good starts.

Veda Krishnamurthy (7) and Taniya Bhatia (11) also failed to stay on the crease as

England bowlers struck at regular intervals.

With six needed off the last over, Harmanpreet, whose innings was studded with five boundaries until then, hit a towering six to take India to 150 for five and end the match in style with three balls to spare.

Earlier, put in to bat, England suffered a top order batting collapse as openers Amy Jones (1) and Danni Wyatt (4) were dismissed cheaply.

Natalie Sciver (20) and Fran Wilson (7) soon followed, leaving England reeling at 59 for four in 10 overs.

Skipper Heather Knight then took charge, hitting a brisk 44-ball 67. Her innings was laced with eight boundaries and two sixes.

Wicketkeeper Tammy Beaumont supported her captain with a 27-ball 37. The duo helped England post a fighting total.

Ind-Pak clash in U-19 semis

PTI ■ BENONI

A half-century from opener Muhammad Huraire on debut and a fine bowling performance powered Pakistan to a six-wicket win over Afghanistan in the ICC U-19 World Cup on Friday, setting up an exciting semifinal against arch-rivals India.

Afghanistan fought hard after posting 189 but just did not have enough runs on the board. Huraire, playing his first game of the tournament, struck a match-winning knock in the fourth quarterfinal.

Qasim Akram (25 not out off 41 balls) and Mohammad Haris (29 not out off 43) saw the team through in just 41.1 overs.



Pakistan's players celebrate after the dismissal of Afghanistan's batsman

With the momentum having swung her way, Tai did not make any mistake in the decider to open up a big lead of 6-2, riding on her finesse. Under pressure, Sindhu made unforced errors which did not help her cause further.

Having put Sindhu on the backfoot, Tai kept going for her smashes to lead 13-9. With Sindhu's smash landing wide, the highly anticipated match ended in an 11-15, 15-13, 15-9 victory for Tai, sealing the tie for the Raptors.

Elsewhere in the trump match for home team Verma beats Brice Leverdez 15-12, 10-15, 15-6 for his first win of the fifth season.

PNS

Tahir Hussain (1/28 in 10 overs), Fahad Munir (2/29 in 7) and Mohammad Amir Khan (3/58 in 10) were the pick of the Pakistan bowlers.

Defending champions India and Pakistan play their semifinal in Potchefstroom on February 4. India had beaten Australia in their quarterfinal match.

Talking about the team's performance, Pakistan captain Rohail Nazir said: "We dropped 2-3 early catches and had we held on, we could have restricted them to a lesser total. The spinners bowled really well in the middle overs and bowled them out for 190. The wicket was turning a bit and our plan was to rotate strike. The open-

ing partnership was good and we played sensibly in the middle overs."

On the India game, he added: "It is another game. India is a good side and we need to play good cricket. The crowd really motivated us, appreciated us and I hope they turn up for the semifinal and cheer for us."

Afghanistan captain Farhan Zakhil said 189 was defendable.

"The wicket was good and our batsmen did not take responsibility. They bowled well and created the chances. 190 was a par score for our bowlers. We expected our fast bowlers to provide early wickets and they were not able to do that," said Zakhil.

Tai beats Sindhu, open Raptors account

NEW DELHI:

World No 2 Tai Tzu Ying edged world champion PV Sindhu in the most-awaited clash to take Bengaluru Raptors to victory over Hyderabad Hunters in the showdown between the last two years' champions at the PBL match held at the GMC Balayogi Sats Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday. This was the first triumph of the season for the defending champions Raptors after suffering three losses on the trot.

Tai came out as the stronger of the two, making a fast start to go up to 3-0. It, however, did not take the Rio Olympic Silver medalist long to level matters. Finding her trademark



Tai Tzu Ying returns shot against PV Sindhu during PBL clash in Hyderabad

smashes, she made it 3-3 before moving ahead to 8-5 as the Chinese Taipei ace seemed to be struggling to figure out Sindhu.

Sindhu looked to be in control to inch her way ahead to 10-7. The Raptors ace then tried accelerating her game and used her

skilful deception at the net. That was all she could manage to do against a determined Sindhu who never faltered.

Running Tai around the court by rotating the direction of the shuttle, the Indian raced ahead to 12-9 and soon bagged the