

**OPINION 6**  
A NEW AIR  
QUALITY AGENDA

**WORLD 11**  
IRAN'S PRESIDENT SAYS 'NO  
LIMIT' TO NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT

**VIVACITY 13**  
MAINTAINING HEALTHY  
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IS VITAL

BHOPAL, FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹1.50



**VIRAT KOHLI  
TO BE BACK  
AT NO 3  
16 SPORT**

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

## India to invite Pak for SCO meet MEA decries China after UNSC rejects Beijing bid to raise Kashmir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India-Pak relation may witness some thaw after a prolonged hiatus when New Delhi will be inviting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan later this year to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of Governments meeting. India will invite all eight members and four observer states of the SCO for the regional summit to be held in Delhi.

The important announcement on Thursday came hours after Pakistan's effort to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) through China failed on Wednesday as most members of the UNSC said it was not the place to discuss the issue.

This was China's third initiative to hold a closed-door meeting to discuss Jammu & Kashmir at the UNSC. The Government has condemned the move by Pakistan, calling its efforts a "misuse of UNSC".

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said here, "India will be hosting the heads of Government summit later this year. As per established practice and procedure, all eight members and four observer states and other international dialogue partners will be invited."

The SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc to which India and Pakistan were admitted in 2017. The group was founded in 2001 by



Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan had attended the SCO summit in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek last June where Modi had said countries sponsoring, aiding and supporting terrorism must be held accountable. He had urged strengthening co-operation in the fight against terrorism and favoured a global conference to combat it.

Meanwhile, India took strong exception to China helping Pakistan in trying to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNSC saying Beijing should seriously reflect on the global consensus and refrain from such actions in the future.

Pakistan has repeatedly tried to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNSC with China's help, but it failed again to find any support. The latest attempt failed as other countries of the 15-member council felt Kashmir is a bilateral matter

between India and Pakistan. The overwhelming majority of the UNSC was of view that it was not the right forum for such issues. Raveesh Kumar said at a briefing when asked about the developments in the UNSC.

An attempt was made by Pakistan to misuse the UNSC, he said, adding Islamabad had a choice to avoid such a global embarrassment in the future. Pakistan's attempt to peddle baseless allegations and show an alarming scenario failed as

it lacked credibility, he said. Noting that the meeting concluded without any outcome, Kumar said, "China should seriously reflect on this global consensus, draw proper lessons and refrain from taking such action in future," while replying to a question on why India has not reacted strongly to Beijing raising the Kashmir issue at the UNSC. "I suggest that this question should be posed to the Chinese side as well," he said.

The court was hearing a plea by one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya case, Mukesh, seeking postponement of the date of his execution on the ground that his mercy petition is pending with the President. In a related development, senior MMA officials said the L-G's recommendation to reject the mercy petition has been received. "The petition is being examined and an appropriate

## Court seeks status of Nirbhaya convicts' scheduled execution

**L-G recommends MMA to reject mercy plea**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to stay the death warrants of the Nirbhaya rapists-killers, a city court on Thursday directed Tihar Jail authorities to file a proper report by Friday about the status of the scheduled execution of convicts.

Taking cognisance of the issue, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Bajaj recommended the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to reject the mercy petition of one of the convicts, Mukesh Kumar, who filed it a few days ago.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Satish Kumar Arora, who has issued death warrants against convicts Mukesh, Vinay Sharma, Pawan Gupta and Akshay Thakur, passed the directions after the jail authorities said they have written to the Delhi Government on the issue of scheduled execution on January 22 in view of pending mercy plea.

The court was hearing a plea by one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya case, Mukesh, seeking postponement of the date of his execution on the ground that his mercy petition is pending with the President.

In a related development, senior MMA officials said the L-G's recommendation to reject the mercy petition has been received. "The petition is being examined and an appropriate



decision will be taken soon," they added.

The Delhi Government on Wednesday recommended rejection of the mercy plea filed by Singh in the 2012 gangrape and murder case and forwarded it to the L-G.

Meanwhile on Thursday, all the four death-row convicts were shifted to Tihar prison complex's jail number 3 where their hanging is set to take place, a jail official said. Nirbhaya's father on Thursday said, "We have not lost hope. There is no law for the victim's family but there are legal remedies available to the convicts, which is why the problems are arising," he said. However, he added, "Justice is not far and their (convicts) hanging is not far.

## AAP Govt behind delay: Javadekar

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday blamed the AAP Government's "negligence" for the "delay" in the hanging of Nirbhaya gangrape case convicts. Senior party leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters that had the AAP Government given notices to all convicts within a week of the Supreme Court order, they would have been hanged by now and the nation would have got justice.

## CAPSULE

### TRUMP IMPEACHMENT CASE SENT TO SENATE

Washington: The US House of Representatives passed a resolution and submitted the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate for a historic trial to remove him from office, a move described by the unfazed President as "another con job" by the Democrats.

### JNU AGAIN EXTENDS SEM REGISTRATION DATE

New Delhi: Amid registration boycott by a section of students, the JNU said the deadline to register for the next semester has been again extended, this time till January 17.

### DHONI NOT GIVEN BCCI CENTRAL CONTRACT

New Delhi: Mahendra Singh Dhoni was on Thursday dropped from the BCCI's list of centrally contracted players, raising fresh doubts on the future of the former India captain.

### CDS: INDIA HAS CAMPS TO TACKLE RADICALISATION

New Delhi: In the first such disclosure, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat on Thursday said de-radicalisation camps are operating in the country as it was necessary to isolate people who are completely radicalised.

## 5 JeM ultras nabbed, major attack averted

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Police on Thursday foiled a major attack plan ahead of Republic Day by busting a terror module of Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), responsible for series of grenade attacks in the recent months in Srinagar. Five operatives, associated with the JeM terror group, have been arrested by the police. A huge cache of incriminating material and explosive substances, including gelatine sticks, explosives, detonators, arms, explosive body vests, batteries and nitric acid, were recovered following searches based on their disclosures.

VK Birdi, DIG, Central Kashmir Range, told the media in Srinagar that the five men, who were working towards executing sensational incidents like terror attacks and causing IED explosions, were nabbed in two phases. Giving details of the



Police present JeM terrorists who were arrested after grenade attacks, during a Press conference in Srinagar on Thursday.

arrests, Birdi said a grenade explosion on January 8 near Habak crossing near Hazratbal area of the city led to minor injuries to a few civilians.

Police launched investigations into the incident and nabbed two suspects — Ajaz Ahmad Sheikh, a driver by profession, and Umar Hameed Sheikh, a street vendor, both residents of Hazratbal.

## Venal J&K DSP aided terrorists to fly high

**UT Police strips Davinder Singh of gallantry award**

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Interrogation of suspended Jammu & Kashmir Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh has revealed that he used to facilitate air travel of several terrorists out of the Valley in lieu of money.

The probe so far has also revealed that the disgraced cop used two email accounts and saved messages in the "draft" and deleted them after the recipient accessed his accounts and read them. This has led to suspicion that Singh might be compromised by hostile intelligence agencies and this aspect is also being probed in detail, sources privy to the joint interrogation said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu & Kashmir administration has stripped Singh of his Sher-e-Kashmir gallantry medal in view of his "disloyalty" and conduct bringing disrepute to the police force.

Singh was booked by the Jammu & Kashmir Police at Wapoh Police Station in Kulgam when he was ferrying



two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists — Syed Naveed, alias Naveed Babu, and Altaf — in his private vehicle.

The arrested DSP has been lodged at a camp of the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Srinagar for joint interrogation by the agencies.

After his arrest, the police had recovered one AK-47 assault rifle and some grenades from the residence of Singh in Srinagar.

Before the arrest from the Srinagar-Jammu Highway, the Singh was on the way to Chandigarh along with Naveed Babu and Altaf. Preliminary probe has revealed that Singh had negotiated an amount of ₹12 lakh from the nabbed terrorists to safely transport them to Chandigarh. Agencies are also suspect-

ing that the nabbed terrorists could be involved in some insidious activities for Khalistani groups under the patronage of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence which has shifted its strategy to use some Sikhs from Jammu region for its nefarious agenda to foment trouble in India, sources said.

### Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)

Deemed to be University  
(Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Govt. of India Recognizes KIIT as an  
**Institution of Eminence (IoE)**

Academic Programme: Bachelor's Degree | Master's Degree | Ph.D.

Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Telecommunication, Computer Science, Information Technology, Electronics and Electrical, Electronics & Instrumentation, Mechanical (Automobile), Aerospace, Mechatronics, Electronics & Computer Science, Computer Science & Communication, Chemical Technology, Computer Science & Systems), Computer Application | Architecture | Science | Law | Management | Rural Management | Biotechnology | Chemical Technology | Public Health | Fashion Technology | Film & Media Sciences | Mass Communication | Yoga | Nursing Sciences | Humanities | Commerce

## KIITEE - 2020

14th - 23rd April 2020

**APPLY ONLINE NOW**

through KIIT websites  
[www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in](http://www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in)  
[www.kiit.ac.in](http://www.kiit.ac.in)

No Application / Examination Fee Computer Based Online Test  
For detail information please go through University websites.  
Director, Admissions

Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po-KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India.  
Ph: 0674 - 2742103, 2741747, 2741389, 778889911, Fax: 0674 - 2741465,  
Toll Free No.: 18003457132, Email: admission@kiit.ac.in  
Websites: www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in & www.kiit.ac.in

*Continuous Learning University of Compassion & Humanity*

KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

## Heavy rainfall witnessed in a few regions of MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Heavy rainfall has been witnessed in a few regions of the State in the past 24 hours. A dense fog envelops Bhopal on Thursday morning.

Intense cold conditions with dark cloud cover and foggy conditions were witnessed in the State capital; cloud cover remained throughout the day on Thursday.

Visibility was witnessed at increase level on Thursday as compared to Wednesday but cold conditions were at extreme level. The visibility remained in the range of 50-200 metres giving commuters a hard time in travelling in the State Capital.

In the past 24 hours under the changed weather condi-



A dense fog envelops Bhopal on Thursday morning.

tions Shivpuri recorded 5 cm of rainfall. Gwalior and Gohad recorded 4 cm of rainfall, Guna, Datia, Pichhore and

Agar recorded 3 cm of rainfall. Met official said that the cold weather conditions would prevail in the next 24 hours

and night temperature would dip by 3-4 degree celsius after the cloudy conditions would clear while the day temperature

would increase slightly.

Light showers for brief periods were witnessed at Gwalior, Chambhal, Bhopal, Sagar and Ujjain divisions in the past 24 hours.

The forecast claims that Gwalior, Chambhal, Rewa, Sagar, Bhopal and Ujjain divisions are likely to witness thundery activities and light showers in the next 24 hours. The State Capital witnessed extreme cold conditions after difference in the day and night temperature decreased and recorded at 19.9 and 14.8 degree celsius respectively.

The warning of thunder lightning has been issued for Gwalior, Chambhal and Sagar divisions and Chhindwara, Seoni, Rewa and Satna districts. Warning of foggy conditions would be witnessed in Gwalior, Chambhal, Sagar Bhopal, Ujjain and Rewa divisions.

# Policy push for environment in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Amid global efforts to arrest the scourge of climate change, Chief Minister Kamal Nath is leaving no stone unturned to reduce the carbon footprint in Madhya Pradesh.

Integrating policy with a vision for the future, the state government, under Kamal Nath, has launched a raft of schemes and measures to maintain and nurture the fragile ecological balance in this biodiverse region.

Leading from the front the state government has banned single use plastics at public functions and ceremonies, and set a target to totally phase out this disposable packaging material by the year 2022.

Single use plastics are known to cause huge damage to the environment as they break down into microplastics and take thousands of years to decompose. Besides contaminating soil and water, the possible plastics further impact animal and avian life.

In a bid to curtail pollution caused by industries using furnace oil, the new policy makes it mandatory for such units to have an effective control over sulphur dioxide emissions before earning requisite permissions for use of the fuel.

Sulphur dioxide is a major air and water pollutant known to pose health risks to all forms of life. In humans, the pollutant causes various respiratory disorders.

Assessment of water quality of River Narmada is currently underway. Water from the river is being analysed along a 50-point index charted for the purpose.

The State Government is also analysing water quality of rivers along the inter-State borders and water intake points.

Putting in place a robust action plan for 22 polluted river stretches in the State, the Kamal Nath Government has constituted a river rejuvenation committee to oversee the restoration of water quality in these areas.

Implementation, steering and monitoring committees have been set up to ensure an improvement in ambient air



- Single use plastic phase out by 2022
- Air, water quality data available online
- Ambient air quality data on Mobile App
- Air quality assessment, emission inventory and appointment study for Bhopal
- Central Server Application to monitor industrial pollution
- Assessment of water quality of River Narmada
- Bio-monitoring of River Chambal
- Technology aided monitoring of hazardous waste
- Detailed environmental study of industrial area, Dewas
- District Environmental Action Plans of all the 52 Districts.

quality in the six non-attainment cities in the state.

Bio-monitoring of River Chambal is also being conducted simultaneously; the exercise aims to explore the various causes leading to the contamination of water in the river.

The unrelenting efforts recently came in for national acclaim when the Environment Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO) of the State Department of Environment was awarded the first prize of the National Water Mission for excellence in conducting the Climate Change

Vulnerability Assessment Study in the state. EPCO was further adjudged the winner for 'Leadership in Urban Climate Action' category under the Earth Care Award for conservation of Traditional water structures in Indore City.

Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) have been established in five major cities and several districts in the state. 52 district headquarters have also been provided with apparatus to map ambient air quality.

In a bid to heighten awareness and transparency, the state government provides accurate air, water and industrial pollution statistics to citizens through its website and a mobile application developed for the purpose.

Bringing in innovation, arrangements have been made for disposal of recyclable plastic waste in cement kilns. The move will result in cost saving benefits as it helps save huge amounts of coal.

The State Government has also rolled out new provisions for monitoring the tracking and disposal of industrial waste, hazardous waste and e-waste.

A well-equipped microbiology laboratory has been established in the State Capital to study the efficacy of various pollution control schemes.

Speaking of the developments, activists say robust

and timely pollution control measures are imperative to not just human health but also the large forest cover in the state which is home to an astounding array of flora and fauna, animal and avian life.

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) in its recently published India State of Forest Report (ISFR) recorded an increase in the total forest cover in Madhya Pradesh.

The current forest expansion stands at 77,482.49 sq km or 25.14 percent of the total land area in the state while the previous report had measured it at 77,414 sq km or 25.11 percent. As per the report Madhya Pradesh has the largest area-wise forest cover in the country.

Enthusiastic by the results, environmentalists say that the increase in forest cover is a result of timely intervention and sustained efforts.

They underline the need for a fluid and comprehensive environment policy which keeps up with the change in climate.

As per the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Madhya Pradesh is among the leading states in the world to revise the State Action Plan on Climate Change.

Lauding the vision of Chief Minister Kamal Nath, the activists say that the inclusive policy and schemes adopted by the government about how to excel in the global economy and also said that the world economy is based on the

# SAKSHAM-2020 inaugurated with elan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsava (SAKSHAM 2020) was formally inaugurated at Bhopal by Pradyuman Singh Tomar, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, V Satish Kumar, State-level co-coordinator for Oil Industry in Madhya Pradesh. Indian Oil welcomed all dignitaries, Officers, Dealers, distributors, transporters and students present in the programme.

Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsava campaign will be observed between January 16 and February 15, 2020 across India by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Oil Marketing companies.

In his address, Pradyuman Singh Tomar welcomed the efforts of oil industry in spreading awareness among consumers, necessary support will be provided for wider publicity of conservation message in State of Madhya Pradesh.

He has also emphasised the importance of energy conservation in aspects such as to increase the longevity of our available resources.

He further stressed upon imbibing good habits so that conservation becomes natural habit in day to day activities like driving, cooking, electric appliances.

V Satish Kumar, briefed the various activities to be conducted during this one month period of SAKSHAM 2020 and developments in the field of energy in our State and India. The government has initiated various awareness and training



Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Pradyuman Singh Tomar, releasing balloons to inaugurate Oil and Natural Gas conservation (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsava) 'Saksham', an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt of India, at Saranvay Bhawan in Bhopal on Thursday

programmes on Energy Efficient equipments to improve ability of youths, housewives, farmers and others in the field of energy conservation.

Reduction in usage of fossil fuels and to promote the usage to clean fuel in one of the prime focus of this programme. Approx. 84% of our crude oil is being imported from gulf countries.

High dependency on import coupled with fluctuation in exchange rate is eroding our foreign currency, which is challenge for our economy. The wastage of petroleum products is also harmful for

clean environment and human health. He appealed to all citizens including ladies and kids, to make oil and gas conservation as mega campaign and to imbibe the conservation in their daily life.

Besides the Petroleum fuel conservation, he emphasised on the conservation of water and other energy resources so that we can have longer availability of these precious resources. Keeping in view, the importance of Environment, this year's tagline for SAKSHAM campaign is 'Indhan Adhik Na Khatayen, Aao Paryavaran Bachayen'.

The Minister administered pledge to all dignitaries and participants on Oil and Gas Conservation.

This will help to intensify the campaign for making masses aware about the need, issues and solutions for conservation & effective utilisation of petroleum products leading to health & environment protection.

Senior officers of all oil marketing companies were also present during inauguration function and discussed the plans for various activities under SAKSHAM 2020, to be carried out in state of Madhya Pradesh.

# International seminar held at MPU

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An international seminar was organised at Madhyanchal Professional Institute on Thursday by the Faculty of Management and Commerce Department.

In the seminar, the staff members from all departments of the university participated. During the seminar, expert Akhil Agarwal talked about how to excel in the global economy and also said that the world economy is based on the

entire world and the economy of any country depends on all the citizens.

He said that, so if you grow then the organisation or the institution where you are working will grow, and if the organisation grows, the country will grow.

Later, the staff asked the questions to the expert and he answered all those questions very well.

Madhyanchal Profession University's Gyanendra Singh also explained a lot of things about the world economy,

IN THE SEMINAR, THE STAFF MEMBERS FROM ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATED

University Registrar Shailesh Jain welcomed everyone and explained how the economy fluctuates, and the exploration of natural resources has

made the economy.

He also stressed on how to balance the economy, we all should know about it and we all should contribute to it. All the staff described this seminar as important.

Lastly Prof. CJ Verma, Director Pharmacy, thanked everyone.

As the chief guest in this seminar, Dinesh Patel, Director, Director Gyanendra Singh, Advisor, Shailesh Jain Registrar, Sunil Agarwal and expert Akhil Agarwal was present.

# PGCIL, RUMSL sign Project Management agreement

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL) signed Project Management (PMC) agreement on Friday here at the State Mantralaya. The agreement was signed by Rajeev Ranjan Meena, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), RUMSL & Managing Director (MD), MPVN on behalf of RUMSL & T.C. Sharma, Executive Director (ED) PGCIL on behalf of PGCIL.

RUMSL is a JV company of MP Urja Vikas Nigam, GoMP and Solar Energy Corporation India. GoL. RUMSL successfully executed 250 MW and 750 MW solar project in district Mandausar and Rewa respectively. RUMSL has been authorized by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to develop 1500 MW Agar Solar Park, 500 MW Neemuch Solar Park, and 450 MW Shajapur Solar Park. RUMSL will develop internal evacuation infrastructure for the solar parks for power evacuation. Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), India's largest transmission utility, will provide their PMC support to RUMSL for the successful execution of the solar parks.

The event was graced by auspicious presence of Harsh Yadav, Minister for New and Renewable Energy Department, GoMP. Manu Srivastava, Principal Secretary of New and Renewable Energy Department, GoMP informed that signing of the PMC agreement for 1,500 MW upcoming solar parks in Agar, Shajapur and Neemuch is as well.



Power Grid Corporation of India and Rewa Ultra Solar Limited officials in presence of Minister for Renewable Energy, Harsh Yadav, sign an agreement in Bhopal on Thursday for the development of 1,500 MW solar park at Agar-Malwa, Shajapur and Neemuch

**The event was graced by auspicious presence of Harsh Yadav, Minister for New and Renewable Energy Department, GoMP**

essential step towards fulfilling Chief Minister's mission to make Madhya Pradesh a leader amongst the RE rich state in nation and to conserve environment.

Minister of New and Renewable Energy, GoMP Harsh

Yadav congratulated the officers of RUMSL for achieving this milestone and showed confidence that RUMSL will create history in the Agar Shajapur Neemuch project as well. Meena assured that with

the joint efforts of RUMSL & PGCIL the project will be completed within the expected timelines.

World Bank is providing a loan of US\$100 million through IREDA for financing infrastructure of Solar Parks in India. The first solar parks in the country to be supported under the World Bank Funding Scheme have been 750 MW Rewa Ultra-Mega Solar Park and 250 MW Mandausar Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh. The World Bank has given their principal approval for financing the three solar parks in the State.

The solar parks of 1,500 MW capacity are in the advanced stage of planning and the competitive bidding will be conducted soon. Additionally, feasibility studies are being done for Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park (UMREPP), including flood irrigation solar parks, with total capacity of 2,000 MW to be set up in the State.

# 7-yr-old student strangled to death in hostel

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A seven-year-old student of Government Tribal school at Patel Nagar was strangled to death on Wednesday. A complainant police said that a porter's report confirmed that the boy was strangled.

Police said that the deceased, identified as Suraj Khare, was found in an unoccupied stair near bathroom and was rushed to IP hospital where he was declared dead.

Initially, it was said that the student died after he fell in the bathroom but when doctors grew suspicious after they failed to find any visible injury marks over the body and nothing came out through his mouth, it was found to be a case of strangulation that was later confirmed in the post mortem report.

CSP Govindpura, Amit Kumar, said that post mortem report has revealed strangulation and at the moment, it is not possible to reveal regarding the suspect as further investigation is being started.

The body was that of a class I student and he used to live in the hostel. After he went unconscious, he was taken to hospital by warden of the hostel. The statements of the warden, staff and other hostel student would be recorded, said police.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the Cr.P.C.

# Two-day students' conference underway at ICAI

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The central India chartered accountant students association of Bhopal branch of institute of chartered accountants of India is organising two days students' conference under the aegis of Board of Studies of ICAI New Delhi.

The theme of the two days students conference is Path for Success — Learn, Adapt and Accelerate. The participants in this conference around 500-600 CA students were present and also the Past President of Institute Of Chartered Accountants Of

India CA Manoj Fadnis, CA Amarjeet Chora were presents and addressed the students in various curriculum.

Also in the programme, the chairman of Board of Studies, regional council and central council members of Institute Of Chartered Accountants Of India will also participate and address to the students in various technical session like in 'Auditing Standards' by CA Amarjeet Chhokra, Direct Taxes by CA Girish Yadav, Indirect Taxes by CA Yash Dadda and also motivational session by CA Yagnesh Desai and by IAS Sudhir Kocchar.

Also along with sessions from experienced Jury In this conference also provides a platform to the students for Paper Presentation which are coming across the country like Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore etc. Like 'Key difference between accounting Standards and Indian Accounting standards in Auditing and accounting SA-700 and some practical topics like 'Issues of fake billan GST'. Tax structure for startups under direct and indirect Taxes, block Chain and cyber security in information technology.

# MP State Boxing Academy players perform brilliantly

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh State Boxing Academy players Anurag Pawar, Himanshu Shrivastava and Mahi Lama exhibited a brilliant performance at Khelo India Youth Games.

The players have won in the quarter-finals match played in Boxing's Under-17s under the Khelo India Youth Games on Guwahati on Thursday.

In the pre-quarter final matches of boxing, Anurag Pawar defeated the player of Damandivas by 5-0 in the 46 kg weight category. While Himanshu Shrivastava, performed brilliantly in the 57 kg category, defeating the Uttarakhhand player 5-0.

Similarly, Academy player Mahi Lama defeated Assam's player by 5-0 in the 66 kg category to make it to the quarter-finals.

IN THE PRE-QUARTER FINAL MATCHES OF BOXING, ANURAG PAWAR DEFEATED THE PLAYER OF DAMANDIVAS BY 5-0 IN THE 46 KG WEIGHT CATEGORY

The Khelo India Youth Games will be played on Friday in the Junior Skeet and Shooting Event.

It is to be noted that to encourage the players of Madhya Pradesh in the Khelo India Youth Games held in Guwahati, Director Sports and Youth Welfare SL Thousen has left for Guwahati on Thursday. Sports Director Thousen has gone to Guwahati on the instructions of the State Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Jitu Patwari

where he will encourage the players of Madhya Pradesh.

The sportspersons of the state have won 27 medals including 10 gold, 8 silver and 9 bronze to Madhya Pradesh so far in the Khelo India Youth Games. Sports Minister Jitu Patwari has appreciated the performance of the players for this achievement.

He has expressed hope that the players of Madhya Pradesh will bring laurels to the State by winning more medals. He said that everyone is proud of the State players.

# Pan masala shop at Shahjehanabad Gate burgled

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Goods worth ₹50,000 were burgled from a pan masala shop at Shahjehanabad Gate under Shahjehanabad police station area on Thursday.

It was reported that the victim Arun Panthi found that lock of the door of his shop was broken and goods were found burgled.

A complaint was lodged with the Shahjehanabad police station in which he said and he had locked his shop after closing in the night and when he returned in the morning to open it, he found the lock broken and on entering the shop, goods were found missing.

After the preliminary investigation, the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC.

The nearby CCTV camera footages would be checked, he shop was not installed with CCTV camera, said police. The valuable items worth lakhs of rupees were burgled from Ram Nagar under Shahjehanabad police station area on Thursday.

Police said that the victim Mohammad Mazhar Khan has gone to Dabra and his neighbour informed his brother-in-law Abdul Rashid Khan that goods are lying outside the house.

On the receipt of the information Rashid went to check the house and found that goods are lying on the floor and doors were open and later lodged a complaint with the Shahjehanabad police.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation, police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC. Police said that the loss could not be ascertained and value could be provided after the return of the victim.

# MCTE earns another moment of glory



**EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION  
ARMY DAY 2020**

**PNS ■ MHOW**

Minister Narayana Mehta by Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC at Army House on Army Day. Prime Minister along with other dignitaries complimented the team led by Lt Col Anant Bhatt of MCTE for professional acumen in leveraging technology to enhance Combat effectiveness. The officer was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the Prime Minister. Lt Col Anant Bhatt, M Tech from

ITIL, Kharagpur is an expert in Artificial Intelligence. In addition 'Portable Remote IED Detonation Equipment (PRIDE)' developed by Prof CN Khairnar along with TIRIL was also demonstrated during Army Technology Seminar (ARTECH)- 2019 held at Delhi on December 23, 2019. The two innovations developed at MCTE have aroused interest among the visitors and military professionals and has immense utility for Indian Army.

ITIL, Kharagpur is an expert in Artificial Intelligence. In addition 'Portable Remote IED Detonation Equipment (PRIDE)' developed by Prof CN Khairnar along with TIRIL was also demonstrated during Army Technology Seminar (ARTECH)- 2019 held at Delhi on December 23, 2019. The two innovations developed at MCTE have aroused interest among the visitors and military professionals and has immense utility for Indian Army.

# Guv urges Law Makers to maintain parliamentary decorum

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

Governor Lalji Tandon said that it is moral responsibility of all the members of the House to follow parliamentary decorum. He was addressing the 7th conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). He said that irrespective of any party, every member of the house is a public representative. The 3-day conference was inaugurated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha Om Birla. The Deputy Speaker of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh was also present at the conference. The Governor, Tandon said that there is a provision as

**The 3-day conference was inaugurated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha Om Birla**

regard to speaking and expressing view in the house, which is very important to follow. He said that every member of the house is responsible to follow the parliamentary decorum as much as the presiding officer. Tandon said that opposition has been given full freedom to speak in the house and that is the core value of democracy. He said that there should be a debate, but the parliamentary decorum should also be maintained.

It may be mentioned that all the Speakers and Chairmen of Vidhan Sabhas and Vidhan Parishads of the country are participating in the 3-Day Conference.

The 6th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held in February 2018 in Bihar. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was formed as Empire Parliamentary Association in the year 1911 with an objective to exchange parliamentary views and information between the commonwealth member countries. In the year 1948, the name of the association was changed to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, NP Prajapati, along with Chief Minister Kamal Nath and other Ministers, during a business discussion meeting before the two-day special session of the State Assembly called for the ratification of the 126th Amendment Bill regarding extension of reservation for SC, ST, in Bhopal on Thursday



A four-year old Lion 'Sahya' in an enclosure at the quarantine at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on Thursday. Two Big Cats including male and a female brought from Kanran Pandari Zoological Garden, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh to Van Vihar National Park by the Madhya Pradesh forest officials

# Fifteen Hookah bars raided by Crime Branch

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

Fifteen Hookah bars were raided by crime branch Bhopal on Wednesday and action was taken against five hookah bars which were found serving tobacco based products to the children; hookah bars were operated in the state capital. The crime branch Bhopal police were receiving reports of the liquor and hookah being served at the restaurant and hookah bar. After several complaints in the night on Wednesday conducted raids at 11 places and during the raid at five places it was found that operated served tobacco products to the minors and allowed minors in their hookah bars. Under the special campaign against violators of serving liquor and tobacco products without procuring authorization and allowing minors to have tobacco products different teams were formed. The action was taken against

hookah bar owners who allow minors at the bars targeting them of making addict, said police. For long the restaurant was serving liquor and hookah. The places which were raided were Black Mamba Pub, Ali Baba restaurant, Dana Pani restaurant, K-2 pub, My Classroom, Moksh, Leela Foods Hideout, Tik Tok, Atmosphere, Drunch, TDS, Pitchers, Drinks, LPK restaurant and the pitchers pub. In the raid action under Excise act was done against drunch, Dana Pani, and Ali Baba where liquor was served at five places it was found that operated served tobacco products to the minors and allowed minors in their hookah bars. Under the special campaign against violators of serving liquor and tobacco products without procuring authorization and allowing minors to have tobacco products different teams were formed. The action was taken against

# IIM Indore, TikTok to jointly lead India wide conversation

**PNS ■ INDORE**

IIM Indore and TikTok will jointly lead an India wide conversation and dialogue series together with the faculty and students on responsible leadership and how to make policy writing better for people. The focus of the partnership will be on creating high quality first of a kind education module for top B school students, mid-career senior management professionals, government officers, smart city CEOs, bureaucrats, family owned businesses and entrepreneurs to prepare them for management challenges of the future and digital disruption.

IIM Indore and TikTok plan to host joint trainings & workshops on sharing good practices on using the Internet safely and productively along with hackathons for government departments, law enforcements agencies, and government schemes executing partners. In a one of its kind partnership to promote better governance solutions for citizens, capacity building of government departments, digital wellbeing, spread awareness on the impact of short form video story telling in marketing & business management, negotiation, enhancing job creation, and killing the Indian Institute of Management Indore has come together with TikTok for a long term sustainable impact led partnership. While signing the MOU with TikTok, Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, said, "We're very excited and



**IIM Indore and TikTok plan to host joint trainings & workshops on sharing good practices on using the Internet safely and productively along with hackathons for government departments, law enforcements agencies, and government scheme executing partners**

delighted to partner with TikTok to develop new modules of short video content storytelling and implement them in communication, negotiation, marketing and strategy programs, both in our flagship programs as well as executive programs. This partnership is in line with IIM Indore's quest to be a contextually relevant, world-class, socially conscious institute. Together, we want to harness the power of this revolutionary new age platform TikTok, and use it for doing good to the community at large to create an India that is equal, prosperous and happy. This will be further strengthened by the launch of several high level policy engagements and e-services delivery and problem solving workshops for key decision makers helping them harness the power of the Internet better. We hope to leverage this

partnership to give the economy also a shot in the arm through exploring new skills and empowering the youth." Speaking on the occasion, Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Head, TikTok For Good, said, "We are proud to partner with a top Management school like IIM Indore to further the causes of encouraging cutting edge quality education for all, ushering in a new future of work, enhancing skills, building capacity of management professionals, decision makers and policy makers to tell better stories and driving job creation, delivering better governance, decision making, and creating new opportunities of growth for India's booming local economy. The internet is the single most powerful tool which has changed the way we work, live, and play. It is a source of new knowledge and is filled with possibilities.

# Spl lecture on research in Brajbrasha held

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

A special lecture on research in AIN Brajbrasha was organized by an Italian researcher at Sanchi Buddhist-Indian University of Knowledge Studies.

Rosina Pastore is a researcher in the Indian Philosophy Department of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and serves as a graduate assistant at the same university. Rosina is currently in the Indian Philosophy Department of Visva Bhanati Shanti Niketan for a year to complete her PhD, which the Hindi department of Shanti Niketan is extending its full support.

Rosina Pastore focused her lecture on the many forms and sources of Prabodhchandra through 'Brajwasiadas' 'Brajbrasha' to professors and students of all departments of Sanchi University, especially students of Hindi Department. Rosina Pastore is trying to find the aspect of philosophy in Prabodhchandra written in Sanskrit.

In this lecture organised by the Hindi department of the university, Rosina Pastore told

## IN BRIEF

### ECO-TOURISM BOARD STARTS ONLINE BOOKING

Bhopal: The Eco-Tourism Board has started online booking facility for the beautiful tourist site Parsapani situated in Buffer zone of Satpura Tiger Reserve. Being located in the core area, limited number of tourists is able to reach Medha. In such a situation, they have a great option in the Buffer zone of Satpura Tiger Reserve, as the Eco Jungle Camp of Parsapani. Parsapani is full of biodiversity including tigers, leopard and cheetal. Tourists can book online on mpeco-tourism.org, mponline.gov. There was a village in Parsapani Tiger Reserve earlier. Grassland was developed here after displacement of village about 4-5 years back. The number of herbivores is increasing here as there is abundance of fodder. Carnivores like Tiger, leopard etc. are also turning towards Parsapani these days due to availability of food. The Eco Tourism Board is also undertaking activities like bird watching, trekking, gypsy safari, late exit safari, village tour, cultural programmes etc. to make the journey of tourists exciting. Nestled in the dense forest, availability of local food and easy sighting of wildlife enthrall tourists. Parsapani is located 60 km from Pipariya.

### REPAIR OF AMBEDKAR SMARAK, MHOW, SOON

Bhopal: The administrator of Ambedkar Memorial society Indore ADM Kailash Wankhede on Thursday visited Ambedkar Smarak Mhow with the officers of all the different offices of Government including PWD, PHM, MPEB and Janpad Panchayat, Mhow. ADM Kailash Wankhede told The Pioneer that now the beautification and repair of Ambedkar Smarak Mhow will begin soon. The facility for the weekend stay and light at Ambedkar Smarak Mhow will be reviewed and enhanced. Now the complete Ambedkar Smarak will get 24 hours electricity supply.

For this for the first time, electricity from solar panel and solar light will be used at Ambedkar Smarak Mhow which will not only save electricity expenditure but surplus light will be available for beautification of Ambedkar Smarak Mhow in night also enough light will be available around the Ambedkar Smarak Mhow parking area. Tetslilar Mhow Dharendra Parashar was also present.

### MUSEUM POPULAR LECTURE STARTS TODAY

Bhopal: Indra Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya is organising the next chapter of its popular series, Museum Popular Lecture on Friday. EO Tiller, Archeologist, Switzerland will speak on 'Padma Vs Wakanar and Rock Paintings of Central India'. The lecture will be organised at Rock Art Conference Hall from 3.30 pm. The programme will be chaired by SB Oja, Joint Director General (Retd), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), New Delhi.

### CAMPIONITE BRING LAURELS TO INSTITUTION

Bhopal: Campionite from Secondary section Master Vinamra Mandal SJ brought laurels to the institution by giving his extraordinary performance in Invictus Foundation Olympiad organised by Invictus last month and bags first position in Bhopal city. Apart from Vinamra, 34 more students were participated in this Olympiad, and sixteen students' bag medals. By this extraordinary performance performed by these students, Campion school stood on second position. In this Olympiad, campionites bags medals and hold Certificate of Merit. City Topper Master Vinamra Mandal bag Cheque of Rs 2500 along with Certificate of Merit and medal individually in their age category. All the students gave their extra-ordinary performance in this exam under the Guidance of the Senior most Teacher & Computer Lecturer Mahendra Kothari. Hundreds of students from twenty eight CBSE & Private Schools were participated in this Olympiad. Campion School Principal Fr Athnas Lakra SJ, vice Principal Fr Anirudh Toppo SJ, congratulated to Mahendra Kothari and all the sixteen students of Invictus Foundation, city & State proud and give their warm wishes for upcoming future performances.

# Rosina Pastore focused her lecture on the many forms and sources of Prabodhchandra through 'Brajwasiadas' 'Brajbrasha' to professors and students of all departments of Sanchi University, especially students of Hindi Department

Braj language because Braj was the emphasis of Hindi at that time. Rosina Pastore told that Prabhodhchandra became the Braj language before Sanskrit and after it became Hindi language. Rahul Siddharth, Department Head of Hindi Department of Sanchi University, says that Prabhodhchandra means awakening and this enlightenment brings harmony in society, harmony comes. Sanchi University Principal OP Budhioha presented the book Monuments of Sanchi Rosina Pastore focusing on Sanchi Stupa and directed her for presenting her lecture in Hindi as well as the philosophy.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I. Pooja Lahoti, W/o Shrikant Lahoti, addressee of House No-33, Gullinik-2, Lajpata, Bhopal, (MP), hereby solemnly declare that before marriage my name was Pooja Ghatake. D/o Shri Ghanshyam Ghatake. In my School documents my date of birth is 13-10-1973 and I am a teacher by profession. After marriage my name has been changed as Pooja Lahoti (W/o of Shrikant Lahoti and I am known with this name only. This name is mentioned in my Aadhar card No-4741 6725 0736.

# Cong offers 30 paise cashback on saving 1litre water if voted to power

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Congress on Thursday said that it will give '30 paise cashback' for each litre of water saved by Delhi residents and 20,000 litres of water a month free after coming to power in the February 8 Assembly elections. The Congress President Subash Chopra said that those households who save water from the present 20,000-litre

free water per family will be benefited from this scheme. Chopra said that the cash-back scheme will be introduced as part of the Congress' 'Paani Bachao-Dilli Bachao' campaign. He said that the Kejriwal Government introduced free water as a vote bank politics. The Congress will keep the free water scheme but it will also keep in mind the likelihood of a future "water war"



Destitute women under the banner of Gas Peshi Nirashrit Pension Bhogi Sangharsh Morcha demonstrate in front of the residence of Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Pradyumn Singh Tomar protesting against alleged mismanagement in Public Distribution System, in Bhopal on Thursday

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda**

Habibganj Branch, M. P. Nagar, Zone-II, Bhopal

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice date mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

Whereas, the said borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned in respective columns. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, Habibganj Branch, for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.

Name of Account / Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date Possession Date	Amount outstanding as per Notice
Borrower : Mr Vishesh Sharma S/o B.G.Sharma & Mrs Nidhi Sharma W/o Vishesh Sharma F-176 Minal Residency, J.K.Road Bhopal Pin 462023	Equitable Mortgage of land and building - house, located at plot no D-136 Revenue Survey No. 201/1 (Part) New Minal Residency J.K.Road Bhopal Boundaries: East -25 Feet wide Road, West - House No D -143, North - House No D -137, South - House No D -135	12.09.2019 14.01.2020	as on 11.09.2019 ₹ 1300186/- + interest & other charges
Borrower : Mr. Vijay Singh R-20, street No-3, Shiva Kunj E-8 Aera Colony Bhopal (MP) -462016	Equitable Mortgage of all that Parts & Parcel Residential Three storied building situated at plot no.23 zone-II, M.P. Nagar Ward no.44 Bhopal (M.P.) in the name of Mr. Vijay Singh S/o Mr. M.P. Singh. Boundaries: East: Plot no. 33, South: 40 Feet Wide Road, North: Plot no. 22, West: Four Feet No. 24	17.09.2019 14.01.2020	as on 16.09.2019 ₹ 5281186.20 + interest & other charges
e Dena M P Nagar	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Jr. MGS, S-3, 2 nd Floor, Nikhata Homes, Plot no. 127A, Sneh Nagar, Babadla Khar, Bhopal within the registered Tehsil Hazrat and District, Bhopal Boundaries: North : Road, South : Lobby and Stairs, East: Flat no S-02, West : Flat No S-04	04.11.2019 14.01.2020	as on 31.10.2019 ₹ 532896.66 + interest & other charges

Date : 14-01-2020, Place : Bhopal Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



A traffic police punishes commuters to make them write essay why they do not wear helmet, as they were caught by traffic police violating rules, under 31st Road Safety Week in Bhopal on Thursday

## AAP, SAD-BJP stage walkout during Governor address

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The two-day Punjab Vidhan Sabha special session on Thursday started on a stormy note with the Opposition parties — Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) combine, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staging separate walkouts during the Governor VP Singh Badnore's address highlighting Congress Government's plans and promises.

While AAP MLAs, sans three rebels, chose to boycott the Governor's address on the issue of power purchase agreements (PPAs) with private thermal plants resulting in costly power in the State, the SAD-BJP members staged a walkout after protesting in the House holding rattles and placards in their hand highlighting government's failure to fulfill its pre-poll promises.

Soon as the Governor started his address, the SAD-BJP MLAs started raising slogans, waving placards, and playing with the noise, fulfilling the promises made ahead 2017 elections by the Congress party.

Alkali MLAs were heard

**WHILE AAP MLAS, SANS THREE REBELS, CHOSE TO BOYCOTT THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS ON THE ISSUE OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS (PPAS) WITH PRIVATE THERMAL PLANTS RESULTING IN COSTLY POWER IN THE STATE, THE SAD-BJP MEMBERS STAGED A WALKOUT AFTER PROTESTING IN THE HOUSE HOLDING RATTLES AND PLACARDS IN THEIR HAND HIGHLIGHTING GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS PRE-POLL PROMISES**

asking the Governor what good his past addresses had done for the people of Punjab.

They said that the rattles symbolized the false promises made by the Congress Government led by Capt Amarinder Singh for playing well as the trust of the people of the State.

AAP MLAs, who were quietly listening to the Governor's address, decided to walk out

when Badnore started speaking about the Government's achievements in the power sector.

Later, AAP MLA and the Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said that they staged a walkout in protest against the denial of permission to move the private member bill in the Assembly, seeking termination of the power purchase agreement (PPAs), leading to jack up the electricity tariff in the

State.

SAD legislature party leader Sharnit Singh Dhiloni (SAD-BJP MLAs) had made an attempt to expose the Congress Government by ringing rattles in the Vidhan Sabha to wake it from its slumber and force it to implement the promises made to the people.

Also condemning the "unholy collusion between the Baby Congress-AAP and the Asli Congress" for denying the people their due, Dhiloni said that with Leader of Opposition Harpal Cheema only interested in saving his chair and four AAP legislators — Sukhpal Khaira, Master Baldev Singh, Nirmal Manshahia and Amarjit Sandoo only interested in saving themselves from disqualification, the people's voice for fulfillment of the promises made to them was going unheard.

Even though this is the fourth Governor Address, none of the promises made to the people has been fulfilled by now.

Farm suicides are at an all time high in Punjab because the Government has failed to implement the complete farm loan waiver.

## PUNJAB ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION Govt made all efforts to fulfil promises: Pun Guv

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Virtually coming to the rescue of the Congress-led Punjab Government facing the allegations of not fulfilling its pre-poll promises, Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore on said that the State Government has made every possible effort to fulfill its commitments, despite constraint of resources and an "empty treasury" inherited by it.

"The government has completed almost three years since it assumed office in March 2017. During this period, it has made every possible effort to fulfill its commitments, despite constraint of resources and an empty treasury inherited by it," said Badnore while addressing the Vidhan Sabha on the first day of the two-day special Assembly session.

The statement comes at a time when the opposition parties — including the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Bharatiya Janta Party — have all along been attacking the Congress Government for its failure to fulfill all promises it made with the people in run up to 2017 elections, including complete loan waiver, farm loan waiver, 10% bonus to youngsters, bringing down power tariff, unemployed allowance to unemployed youth, enhancing old age pensions and Shagan amount, among others.

During the Governor's about 30-minute address, the opposition MLAs — from SAD-BJP combine and the AAP — staged separate walkouts alleging that Congress Government had not fulfilled its promises.

The session has been specially addressed, the opposition 126th Constitutional amendment to extend reservation for those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for another 10 years.

Reflecting the State Government's initiatives, Badnore said that it has re-established the rule of law, revived Punjab's economy and industry, maintained peace and amity at all costs, and made strenuous efforts to protect territory and water rights of the State.

The Punjab Government also "retained, restored and protected the rights of women,

Dalits and other minorities and weaker sections of the State, provided for the measures to raise farmers' income and create more jobs in the State and provided relief to the farmers," he said.

He added that the Punjab Government has waived crop loans of ₹4,736 crore of 5.83 lakh small and marginal farmers, who were indebted to various cooperative and commercial banks under the state's Farmers Debt Waiver scheme.

"It will continue in its next phase to achieve the targeted coverage," he said adding, "Further, it (state government) is also working on a scheme of debt waiver for landless farm labourers who have taken loans from primary agricultural service societies."

At the same time, he congratulated the Government for successfully organizing a series of events to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev saying that a "major event is being planned with the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor."

On the law and order, Badnore said that there has been a "perceptible decrease in crime" with the neutralization of 12 A-category gangsters and arrested 1931 members of different criminal gangs operating in the state. Besides these, the Punjab Police has busted 31 terrorist modules and arrested 151 terrorists, he added.

Badnore said that the Government is fully alert to ensure right-based action to contain drug abuse in the State and added that the Special Task Force (STF) set up in 2017 has proved to be very effective in comprehensively tackling the drug menace in the State.

Touching upon the industry, he said that the Government has received investment proposals of ₹57,735 crore on ground with potential to create 1.89 lakh jobs in the State.

He said the Government proposes to introduce a new legislation 'Right to Business Act' to enhance ease of doing business for MSMEs in the state, he said.

With Punjab predominantly being an agricultural economy, the Government has been giving greater thrust on measures that help increase farmers' income.



"Despite many challenges arising because of poor evacuation of food stocks from the State by the FCI, the Government has ensured timely free procurement of food grains for the last six crop seasons consecutively.

The farmers have received an additional remuneration of ₹44,000 crore during the last six crop seasons (under the Government)," he said.

"Saving water and crop diversification remains a priority of the Government and it has also requested the Centre to initiate and approve a national project to canalize state's three rivers: Ravi, Beas and Sutlej," he added.

Touching upon the steps being taken by State Government on stubble burning issue, he said that the Government is constantly looking at using more and more paddy stubble for economic use to tackle the problem.

"Presently, 10 biomass power projects of 73.50 MWs are in operation and two paddy straw based biomass power projects of 36 MW have been commissioned to utilize the paddy stubble. These plants are utilizing approximately 1.10 million tons of paddy straw per annum," he said.

Adding, he said that private investment is being facilitated for setting up Bio-CNG/ Bio-ethanol projects based on paddy stubble, besides submitting a proposal to the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for grant of 50% subsidy for setting up straw based Biomass power projects at the rate of Rs five crore per MW for 300 MW capacity projects.

He added that the Government also intends to provide 14,953 free EWS houses to homeless SC/BC families under the Punjab Shehri Awas Yojana and the PM Awas Yojana for which deputy commissioners have identified over 6,000 acres of land.

Saying that the "august house" is a true reflection on our civil democratic politics, the Governor appreciated the MLAs for always upholding these values as enshrined in our Constitution and never shirking in fulfilling their constitutional duties and obligations despite different political affiliations.

Concluding his speech, he said, "I am sure the deliberations in this House will further strengthen the government's resolve to take Punjab to new heights of growth and prosperity, demystifying the forces, if any who believe in divisive politics through radical thoughts and processes."

**WALKOUT'S EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE: CAPT**

Terminating the Opposition walkout during the Governor's Address as extremely unfortunate, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday lamented that such behaviour in the House had become a way of life.

"The walkout is expected," he said while talking on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and SAD over their decision to disturb and interrupt the Governor's address. He was speaking on the vital religious subject of the 550th prakash purb celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev.

## HIGH POWER TARIFF Govt to bring out white paper on PPAs signed by Akalis

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Day after the Opposition lapped the ante against the Congress-led Punjab Government on the high power tariff coupled with the power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed with private thermal plants, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday announced that the Government will bring out a "white paper" in the special session of the State Assembly.

"We will bring the white paper to expose the fraud committed by the Akalis with regard to the controversial power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the private players," he said while talking with the media after the Governor VP Singh Badnore's address to the Assembly on the first day

of the two-day special session.

The Chief Minister said that the "white paper" will reveal "all the documents signed by the previous SAD-BJP government in the State, as well as the power plants set up by them, which had caused undue burden on the state."

"The Akalis are slippery characters," said Capt Amarinder, adding that after messing with the State's economy through various destructive measures, including the PPAs, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) was trying to use the issue against his government to promote their vested political interests.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the Congress Government had won the case on the issue in the lower court but the Supreme Court decisions went against them. "The

State Government is fighting the case now in the Apex Court," he added.

He himself had sat on the dharna against India Bulls plant when in Opposition, recalled Capt Amarinder.

"The then Akali Government had got the Gidderbaha NTPC power project cancelled to sign a MoU with India Bulls for setting up a plant, going against the prevailing practice of inviting global tenders for power projects and also forcibly evicting farmers from their land in Gobindpura for the controversial project," he said.

The Chief Minister asserted that his government was committed to protect the interests of Punjab and its people, and will ensure that nothing detrimental to them is done.

## Employment avenues priority in Budget: Manohar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said priority would be given to those areas which increase employment avenues in this year's Budget.

Speaking at the pre-Budget consultation meeting with the stake holders of the manufacturing sector in Faridabad on Wednesday evening, Khattar said the industrial sector plays a vital role in increasing employment and therefore, the industries giving more employment to the State youth would be incentivized by the Government.

According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of metro from Faridabad to Gurugram has been completed, adding that Orbital Rail Corridor would be developed from Kundli to Pritihla along the KMP expressway. Besides, road connectivity, Haryana rail connectivity could be ensured with Himachal, Punjab and other northern States without touching Delhi.

He said that there is also a plan to develop new cities along with the population to eliminate slums.

A National highway is also being developed from Meerut to Sarai Kale Khan to Alwar.

Khattar said due to the difficult conditions of acquisition,

changes would be witnessed in terms of infrastructure development in the State," he added.

The Chief Minister said that his plan is to bring out e-buses in the state soon, out of which about 100 e-buses would be made available to Faridabad. These buses would provide the facility of city bus service.

Various stake holders related to the industry shared their views and presented suggestions on future needs and infrastructural development.

They appreciated taking their suggestions in the pre-budget consultation saying that this is the first time that the Chief Minister himself is taking suggestions of different stakeholders.

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar, Transport Minister Mool Chandra, MLAs, Secretary of Transport, Rajesh Nagar, Nayan Pal Rawat, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Rajesh Khullar, among others attended the meeting.

**'Industrial sector plays a vital role in increasing employment and therefore, the industries giving more employment to the State youth would be incentivised by the Govt**

## Road safety policy formulated in Haryana to reduce accidents

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A road safety policy has been formulated in Haryana to reduce road accidents by 2025, Union Minister of Haryana, Mool Chand Sharma said on Thursday.

Speaking at 18th meeting of National Road Safety Council and 39th meeting of Traffic Development Council in New Delhi, he added that transport department has been working on Haryana Vision Zero Project to reduce road mishaps.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari presided over the meeting. Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways General (Retd) VK Singh along with transport ministers of Assam, Goa, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan were also present in the meeting.

Sharma said road safety associates have been appointed in all districts across the State to analyze the reasons behind the road mishaps in order to make road safety measures effective.

He added that the investigation of road accidents has been carried out in a scientific manner.

He said that the road accidents have reduced in 2019 as compared to 2018, adding that as per the directions of the Supreme Court, a lead agency in the transport department has been constituted by the state government for road safety.

The Minister said 'Haryana Road Safety Fund' has been formed in order to spend 50 percent of the road traffic violation fee for road safety concerning works.

He said that a safe school vehicle policy has been formulated in the state to ensure the safety of school-going children across the state.

## No incidence of locust attack in Punjab: Agriculture dept

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Agriculture Department on Thursday categorically said as per its survey, no case of locust entering the State had been reported so far.

At the same time, the State Agriculture Secretary Kahan Singh Pannu advised the farmers not to be panicky as the officials of Department are in constant touch with the agris experts of Rajasthan and the Central Government, who are monitoring the situation day in and night out in Rajasthan.

Secretary informed that there was absolutely no danger regarding locust attack. "However, the Department has already pressed into service several monitoring and survey teams to keep a close tab over the situation and constantly surveying the border districts of Bathinda, Sri Muktsar Sahib and Fazilka," he said.

Notably, locust pest, popularly known as 'Hiddi Dali', is a group of locusts, which devours the vegetation wherever it settles.

The locust attack had been reported since past several days in parts of Rajasthan which has emanated from the desert area in Pakistan. However, the pest attack has been controlled in Rajasthan by way of vigorous efforts of State Governments and the Central Government.

## 420 tested positive for HIV in 9 months last year: SACS

**25 pregnant women were tested positive for HIV, as per the data by SACS**

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As many as 420 people were tested HIV positive from April to December 2019 in the city.

Of these, 117 were Chandigarh residents. And, a total of 25 pregnant women were tested positive for HIV, as per the data shared by State AIDS Control Society (SACS), Chandigarh.

As on December 2019, there were 1359 PLHIV (people living with HIV) registered for care in the city. Out of these, the number of PLHIV alive and on treatment (ART) stood at 6435 in the city. This

also included 850 city residents. Of total people on treatment for HIV care here in till November last year, 35 in 2018, 148 in 2017, 101 in 2016 and 167 in 2015 in the city.

The data further revealed that 1218 people including 177 Chandigarh residents had registered for HIV care here in 2018. From April to November 2019, 626 persons including 116 city residents had registered at HIV care here.

The prevalence of HIV has shown a steady decline in the city. The HIV prevalence was 0.98 percent in 2015-16, 0.78 percent in 2016-17, 0.76 percent in 2017-18, 0.72 percent in 2018-19 and 0.49 percent up to December 2019 (2019-20).

The HIV prevalence was 7.12 percent in 2008. From April - December 2019, atleast 85481 people were tested for HIV in Chandigarh. During early infant diagnosis of

HIV, two were tested positive last year, the data revealed.

According to the HIV estimations 2017, the estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in India was 21.40 lakh. The adult (15-49 age group) HIV prevalence at national level has also witnessed steady decline from estimated level of 0.38 percent in 2001-03 to 0.22 percent in 2017.

Notably, Chandigarh SACS has adopted differentiated prevention service delivery model among core population to eliminate HIV/AIDS. The population which is linked with NGOs for more than five years has not reported any STIs in past three years, and has attained low risk and vulnerability score.

The NGOs here working with SACS enroll new HRGs (high risk individuals) in their line list with focus on uncov-

ered areas to bring up HIV positive HRGs in the fold of targeted intervention for effective service delivery.

**Two-day 'AIDSCON - 9' to begin on January 17**

Dr Naresh Goel, Deputy Director, General (IEC), National AIDS Control Organization, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Thursday said that the Government has set a target to eliminate AIDS as a public health problem by 2030.

The Government is moving towards its aim of zero new infections among children by scaling up PPTCT (Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS) regime. A target has been fixed to eliminate transmission from mother to child of HIV and Sphylis by 2020, he said. We are working towards

BJP top leaders, rallies to galvanise support for CAA

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

With the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) made effective from January 10 and the Opposition set to harden its stance against it, the ruling Modi Government is scaling up its efforts to galvanise counter-support for the law

from this Saturday by organising major public rallies and deploying top central leaders and Union Ministers across the country.

The first of such public rallies, described as "carpet bombing" by senior party leaders, would be organised in Uttar Pradesh from January 18 to

January 23.

In the light of Congress-led opposition's attempts to put Modi Government on the mat and the rising protests around the campuses and on other forums, the BJP has decided to raise the decibel of its offensive substantially, beyond collecting "missed call support" on the citizenship issue.

Party President Amit Shah, Working President J P Nadda, Union Minister Smriti Irani and BJP Vice President and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chautala are organising public rallies to garner mass support for citizenship law vis-à-vis Congress alleged attempt to create a domestic and international opinion against it. These leaders would visit politically key states of Uttar Pradesh for four-days from this week onwards.



An internal survey of the party maintained that the BJP has ground support of 80 per cent people in several states who are largely "silent" and the party needs to work on them. The protest is sponsored by the Congress and Left which has no other issue to gain its

Monday.

Another senior BJP leader pointed to DMK's absence from the Congress meet claimed that in states like Tamil Nadu CAA was not a local issue and referred to party's "success" in local elections in the state.

Jain, who is overseeing BJP's campaign for CAA, said a majority of institutions and university campuses have not witnessed disturbances or anti-CAA protests. He said the party has received support of about two crore people in its mass contact programme in different states. "First we need to get to the nerve of who is radicalising people. You can start isolating these people gradually and then start a

stepping back on the CAA and it would be their plan for coming years.

Without giving the numbers of persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, to be given Indian citizenship in India, he said most of them were already in India and alleged that agitation against CAA is part of "opposition conspiracy". He said citizenship would be accorded to with a cut-off date of December 31, 2014.

Persecuted minorities from these three countries who move to India beyond the cut-off date will have to spend six years before being eligible for the citizenship. In his public rallies in Bihar, Shah has accused opposition parties of "misleading minorities" on the CAA and discounted rumours of discord within NDA on the issue.

All States, except WB, to participate in meet on Census, NPR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Except West Bengal, all States are expected to attend the Union Home Ministry-convened meeting on Friday to discuss the modalities for the 2020 Census and the National Population Register (NPR).

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai will chair the meeting which will be attended by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and Chief Secretaries and Census Directors of all states.

The meeting will discuss the modalities for the house-listing phase of the census and the NPR, to be carried out from April 1 to September 30, a Home Ministry official said. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already announced that representatives from her state will not attend the meeting. A few state governments, including West Bengal and Kerala, have declared that they will not participate in the NPR exercise now as it is a prelude to a country-wide National Register of Citizens (NRC). Officials said the objective of the NPR is to create a com-

prehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The database would contain demographic as well as biometric particulars, they said. Home Ministry officials said most states have notified provisions related to the NPR, which is a register of usual residents of the country. It is being prepared at the local (village/sub-town) sub-district, district, state and national levels under provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. The rules have a provision for fine of up to Rs 1,000 on those violating it.

The data for NPR was last collected in 2010 along with the house-listing phase of the Census 2011. Updating of this data was done in 2015 by conducting door to door survey. While updating the register in 2015, the government had asked for details like Aadhaar and mobile numbers. This time, the information related to their driving licence and voter ID card may also be gathered, the officials said, adding that PAN card details will not be collected as part of this exercise.

Rawat for hardline approach to tackle terrorism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat on Thursday called for global action against States sponsoring terrorism and said there is a need to take a hardline approach in dealing with this scourge. He also said children in the age group of 10-12 were getting radicalised in Kashmir and called for steps to wean them away by isolating them and put them in de-radicalisation camps.

Making these comments here during the ongoing Raisina Dialogue, he also said security forces cannot be blamed for injuries caused due to pellet guns and the radicalised stone pelters are "more dangerous" than the pellet guns. "The pellet guns are

non-lethal weapons which are now used very rarely and only aimed below the legs," he said.

Defending the security forces for using pellet guns for crowd control, the newly appointed CDS said the non-lethal weapon is "sparingly used" in Kashmir and even then they are aimed at the legs. He said those throwing stones face action. "Stones can cause death. Now we cannot be throwing stones back at them. Pellet guns are non-lethal weapons and are fired at the legs," he said.

Explaining the most likely cause of injuries suffered in the face, Rawat clarified that most of the eye injuries are caused because those pelting stones bend to the ground to pick up stones and because pellet guns are fired at the legs they get hit them in the eyes.

Touching upon the issue of radicalisation, Rawat said children as young as 10-12 years are being radicalised in Kashmir and there is need to isolate those completely radicalised and put them in de-radicalisation camps.

He said radicalization can be countered by looking at where it is happening and who are behind it. "What we saw in Kashmir, we saw radicalization happening. Today we are seeing radicalization being undertaken even amongst young people. Girls and boys as young as 10-12 are now being radicalized. These people can still isolate from radicalization in a gradual way, but there are people who have been completely radicalised. These people need to be taken out separately and possibility taken into some deradicalization camps," he



said. We have deradicalization camps going on in our country, he added.

He also said radicalization is happening in schools, universities, religious places and sites and then there are people spreading this. "First we need to get to the nerve of who is radicalising people. You can start isolating these people gradually and then start a

counter radicalization programme by identifying people who have been radicalised, to what degree..."

On combating terrorism, the CDS said there is a need to take the bull by its horn and strike at the root cause and called for a hardline approach in dealing with terrorism, the way the US went after terror groups after the 9/11 terror attacks.

Prepare roadmap on road safety: Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Centre has asked the State Governments to prepare a roadmap to develop and reorient road infrastructure within their administrative limits so that fatalities and accidents on road can be curbed.

Peeved by the number of road accidents across the country, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has called upon Transport Ministers from all States to prepare the roadmap without bothering about expenses. Gadkari also warned that officials behind faulty engineering and road designs will not be spared as road accidents are causing a loss of 3 per cent of the GDP of the country every year. More people in India die annually in road accidents than those killed in militant operations or extremism which is unfortunate, the minister said addressing the 18th Meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and 39th Meeting of Transport Development Council (TDC).



The Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari at the 18th meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and 39th meeting of Transport Development Council (TDC), in New Delhi on Thursday.

the larger public. Work on improving road engineering will be undertaken with available resources worth Rs 14,000 crore," said Gadkari.

The Minister said that black spots are being identified and repaired at a fast pace. District-level committees have been formed to examine and suggest such spots which need immediate attention, he added. He stressed on including NGOs and engineering students in conducting road audits.

Transport ministers and senior officials from various states participated in the meeting and discussed different road safety aspects, including the MV

(Amendment) Act 2019; tourist vehicles authorisation and permit rules 2019; bus port guidelines; digitisation of transport and abolition of border check posts and inter-state transfer of vehicle registration and driving licenses among others.

The Minister also exuded confidence that the number of accidents will decline sharply on immediate attention, he added. He stressed on including NGOs and engineering students in conducting road audits.

"Road accidents cause a loss of 3 per cent to the GDP. I

am hopeful that the accidents should decline by 50 per cent in five years on the back of stringent traffic rules after the implementation of Motor Vehicles Act. At the same time officials behind faulty road engineering and DPRs (detailed project report) will not be spared," the minister said.

The issues regarding harmonisation of road law across States - One Nation One Tax, vehicle scrapping policy, guidelines for setting up, authorisation and operation of vehicle scrapping facility and implementation of vehicle tracking platform under Nirbhaya framework were also discussed.

IRISING GULF TENSION

Jaishankar holds talks with Iranian counterpart

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of tension between Iran and the US, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on Thursday held extensive talks here on the situation in the Gulf region. India reiterated Indian interests in the region and support for efforts to maintain peace, security and stability there.

Zarif, who is here to attend the Raisina Dialogue, on Wednesday said, Iran was interested in diplomacy but not in negotiating with the US and said killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani showed ignorance and arrogance of the US. Asserting this, he had also said 430 cities in India witnessed the protests against the killing. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval besides Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and

apprised them of the situation in the Gulf region. The Russian Minister is also attending the Raisina Dialogue.

In the parleys with Jaishankar on Thursday here, the Iranian Minister apprised him of the overall situation and Tehran's position on it in the meetings held over breakfast, officials said.



In a statement, the External Affairs Ministry said the two sides exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the recent developments in the region.

It said the two sides also deliberated on the Iran nuclear deal of 2015, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The US had pulled

out of the JCPOA in 2018.

The Ministry said Jaishankar reiterated Indian interests in the region and support for efforts to maintain peace, security and stability there. The issue of development of the Chabahar port also figured in talks between Zarif and Jaishankar.

"Both leaders recalled positive outcomes of the External Affairs Minister's recent visit to Tehran for the 19th Joint Commission Meeting, especially for strengthening bilateral trade and promoting connectivity initiative through Chabahar port," the Ministry said.

Jaishankar on Wednesday here had referred to tensions between the US and Iran and said they are two individualistic countries and what finally happens will depend on the players involved. He made this observation while addressing the ongoing Raisina Dialogue. Zarif had said on Wednesday India can play a role in de-escalating tensions in the Gulf region as it is an important regional player.

COP 26 IN GLASGOW

India's approach positive about climate change, says Javadekar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is positive and constructive in its approach when it comes to climate change and will make all efforts to make the 26th UN Climate Change conference, slated for year-end a success, said Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday.

Speaking shortly after holding a meeting with UK's former Energy Minister Claire O'Neill, who is also the President of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 26, to be held in Glasgow later this year, Javadekar said several issues were discussed which will be the focal point in the conference. "COP 26 on climate change will take place in



Glasgow this year. The COP 26 President Claire O' Niel met today. We had a very healthy discussion. India is always positive and constructive in its approach. We will make all efforts to make this COP fruitful. "I suggested to the COP 26

President to make issues specific marathon discussions a focal point in COP 26 so that the world sees concrete outcomes coming out of COP 26. India put forth matters related to the market mechanism and carbon credits, climate finance, technology transfer and we discussed ways and means to make COP 26 a success," Javadekar said.

According to sources, in the closed door meeting held between both the countries, several issues were raised including climate finance and providing technology to developing nations at an affordable cost.

He had said that developed world had promised USD 1 trillion support in the last 10 years for climate change and not even 2 per cent has materialised.

WHO endorses India's TB test TrueNat for more accuracy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a matter of pride for Indian Scientists, the WHO Global TB Programme has included an indigenously developed TrueNat tuberculosis technology, developed by them, to detect TB and multi-drug resistant TB in view of its high diagnostic accuracy. TrueNat gives results within an hour while the conventional TB tests take at least 24 to 48 hours.

According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Balram Bhargava, the endorsement of the technology by WHO would enable low and middle-income countries to procure TrueNat for tuberculosis and Rifampicin resistance, thus supporting elimination of the disease in developing countries.

The TrueNat TB test, is already part of the National TB Elimination Programme in India. "It is highly cost-effective compared to GeneXpert and

The endorsement of the technology by WHO would enable low and middle-income countries to procure TrueNat for tuberculosis and Rifampicin resistance, thus supporting elimination of the disease in developing countries

It is highly cost-effective compared to GeneXpert and can be used in peripheral



can be used in peripheral centres without an air conditioned laboratory as it runs on battery which can be solar powered

centres without an air conditioned laboratory as it runs on battery which can be solar powered

Based on the interim analysis of data, WHO included TrueNat as test to diagnose TB, replacing sputum smear microscopy, and to sequentially detect rifampicin resistance in view of its high diagnostic accuracy



Supported by the Department of Health Research (DHR), Union Ministry of Health and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), various indigenous technologies developed by Indian scientists and companies for detection of multi-drug resistant (MDR)/extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB were reviewed, said the official.

follow-up, the TrueNat MTB & Rif assay was found to be on par with the internationally recognised molecular assay Gene Xpert in terms of sensitivity and specificity and detection of rifampicin resistance. The Government wants to risk-qualify process, ICMR funded Indian centres of the FIND-coordinated multi-centre, prospective field evaluation study in four countries - India, Ethiopia, Peru and Papua New Guinea.

Based on the interim analysis of data, WHO included TrueNat as test to diagnose TB, replacing sputum smear microscopy, and to sequentially detect rifampicin resistance in view of its high diagnostic accuracy

Nearly 100 crore people are suffering from TB globally. India accounts for around 27 per cent of these cases, according to a WHO report. The Government wants to risk-qualify process, ICMR funded Indian centres of the FIND-coordinated multi-centre, prospective field evaluation study in four countries - India, Ethiopia, Peru and Papua New Guinea.

After a stringent review, a series of validation, subsequent feasibility studies and continu-

INSHORT

FARM SECTOR MAY GROW AT 3.1%: NITI AAYOG

New Delhi: NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said on Thursday that farm sector growth is likely to be higher than 3 per cent in the current fiscal compared with 2.9 per cent in 2018-19. More competition and private investment is the need of the hour, he said, adding that the role of private sector in Indian agriculture sector has to come in a big way. "The private sector growth for the current fiscal is expected to remain higher at 3.1 per cent," Chand said.

EC FREEZES KC(M)'S 'TWO LEAVES' SYMBOL

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) has temporarily frozen the 'two leaves' symbol of the Kerala Congress (Marx) as it is inquiring into the dispute between two factions claiming ownership of the party. "Based on the representation received from one of the factions of KC(M) led by Jose K of which was registered with the other faction led by P Joseph may misuse the symbol for the ensuing polls, the EC has decided to freeze the symbol till January 20 when the next hearing is scheduled," an EC official said.

MANDATORY HALLMARKING FOR GOLD FROM JAN 2021

New Delhi: The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has notified the mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts, which will come into force from January 15, 2021. Till then, jewellers have been given time for implementation of this notification, violation of which would be punishable under the provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016. As per the notification, only a registered jeweller will be allowed to sell the hallmark gold articles through certified sales outlets.

GLOBALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DISCUSSED

New Delhi: To deliberate upon some of the challenges and opportunities faced by the universities in the subcontinent, Times Higher Education (THE) India Universities Forum in partnership with Amity University witnessed a host of regional and international educators from higher education, industry and Government on Thursday to discuss about the globalization of higher education in India and its future. Phil Baty, THE - Chief Knowledge Officer, Digit Sharma, Chairman, Platform for Policy-makers, young minds and community, said Arun Srivastava, Secretary, AEC and Head, Institutional Collaboration & Programs Division (ICPD), Nuclear Control and Planning Wing (NCPW), DAE, addressing a curtain-raiser press conference here. Vignay Samagam exhibition is showcasing India's contribution to international collaborations on fundamental science and research, and providing a common interactive platform for mega-science projects, industry, academia and institutions.

VIGNAY SAMAGAM WILL BE HELD HERE FROM JAN 21

New Delhi: With an aim to showcase the mega-science projects undertaken by Indian scientists here as well as abroad, a three-month long exhibition, Vignay Samagam will be held here from January 21, 2020 at the National Science Centre (NSC), Pragati Maidan. It is a science communication platform for policymakers, young minds and community, said Arun Srivastava, Secretary, AEC and Head, Institutional Collaboration & Programs Division (ICPD), Nuclear Control and Planning Wing (NCPW), DAE, addressing a curtain-raiser press conference here. Vignay Samagam exhibition is showcasing India's contribution to international collaborations on fundamental science and research, and providing a common interactive platform for mega-science projects, industry, academia and institutions.

## Death of justice

As the hanging of Nirbhaya's rapists gets stalled, we must ask if we can get real about women's safety or just float a bogey



All concerns and campaigns for women's safety sound vacuous and patronising when the commitment to it, by virtue of honouring and implementing the law, falters. We lose faith in a system that is exploited routinely and remains imprisoned in a maze of technicalities to deny closure. Even if it is as gruesome and indelible a case as that of the rape of Nirbhaya, which has taken seven long years to be taken to its logical end and is still stopping short of answering to our national conscience. Worse, the system is oblivious

and impervious to what this travesty means to women in general and to Nirbhaya's family and friends in particular. Now, the hanging of the four rapists, convicted for one of the most heinous of crimes in India, has been stalled due to procedural drags, simply because all the convicts need to be given time to file mercy pleas and each of them would have to be heard following due processes. This should have been initiated earlier given the Supreme Court's ruling and clarity on the death sentence in a case considered "rarest of rare." So a case which ushered in special laws, a fast-track mechanism and well-intended course correction is now being denied the same privileges. Yes, due processes of law have been followed but the undue stress caused by delays in punishing the offenders is the reason that people talk about overriding the system with vigilantism. In the end, women lose confidence in society at large, whose mindset is set by precedents and examples, and predators are emboldened simply because they think they can get by. Considered a cut-and-dry case, the Nirbhaya verdict should not have been long in coming but it took four-and-a-half years for the trial court, the High Court and the Supreme Court to pass their judgments, with the lawyers of the convicts using every trick in the book to delay the inevitable. As per the law, once the apex court handed out the death sentence on May 5, 2017, the four convicts should have filed a review petition within 30 days, but the men exploited a legal provision for condonation of the delay if the convict gives a convincing reason. Hence all four filed their review petitions at different times after long, deliberate delays, in their bid to thwart the justice system. Under prison rules, if death sentence has been handed out to more than one person in a case and if even one of them moves a mercy plea, the execution of the others, too, has to be postponed till the plea is decided. Hence, as one of the four convicts, Mukesh Kumar, has a mercy petition pending before the President, all cannot be hanged. What is appalling is that these oversights have been made by responsible arms of the administration, in this case the Delhi Government and prison authorities. The Delhi High Court, therefore, slammed the Delhi Government for sitting on the case for a year and not issuing a notice on the mercy plea to convicts. The court also castigated the Delhi prison authorities for not informing the convicts that they could move mercy pleas before the President. This is not the first time that the convicts have exploited loopholes to thwart justice. Right from false alib, to buying time by getting pages and pages of trial court proceedings translated from English to Hindi, they have done it all.

No wonder then that in a country where the conviction rates for rapes are as low as 32.2 per cent, despite laws dealing with sexual assault being made stringent in the aftermath of the incident, crimes against women have been on the rise. They have spiralled from 329,243 cases in 2015 to 338,954 in 2016 and 359,849 in 2017. From 2013 onwards, over 30,000 women/girls have been raped. That there is no seriousness about building in deterrence is revealed by a dismal 11 per cent utilisation of the Nirbhaya Fund allocated to States/Union Territories for ensuring the safety and security of women/girls. Any reform — police, judicial, infrastructural — will have no meaning till we reform the attitude towards law enforcement, implement it instead of negating it. Of course, there is the monster of politicisation even in tragedy. The BJP promptly blamed the AAP Government for delaying notices to convicts considering the Supreme Court rejected the appeal against their death sentence in 2017. AAP claimed that while the Delhi Government's recommendation was swift, the Centre had been in hibernation mode. While the point-scoring over who pushed Nirbhaya's rights rages on, what both forget is that each had agency and powers to do what could have been done in days, not years. Both, as representatives of people, look embarrased by the criminals who help them keep their talk points rolling. After all, there is no political capital to be made out of Nirbhaya's deathly silence.

## Putin's Russia

The resignation of the Russian Cabinet has paved the way for his plans to stay on in power beyond 2024



Vladimir Putin has now become the longest serving Russian leader since Joseph Stalin. No matter what opinion one may have of the current Russian leader with regard to the way he has ridden roughshod over any and all opposition, *prima facie* he is a lot nicer than Stalin, a man revered by the Communists in India, who was also one of the greatest mass murderers in history. Unlike Stalin, Putin also has to worry about a small thing called a Constitution. But after a shock decision by the Russian Cabinet to resign on Wednesday, it is clear that Putin will remain in charge well beyond 2024 when his second eight-year stint as Russian President will come to a close. And to do so, he will need to reform the Constitution. It's worth noting that his Cabinet resigned not in a manner of protest but to make his life easier. After all, his long-time aide, former President and newly-resigned Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, was not expected to do anything but that. How Putin will structure his continued reign remains to be seen. Will he become the head of the State Council or amend the Constitution to ensure he remains President indefinitely?

However, unlike Chinese President Xi Jinping, who, too, made a power grab and changed the rules in the People's Republic of China, Putin's task is far tougher. First, unlike China, Russia is at least a quasi-democracy. The past three years have seen constant protests against Putin as Western sanctions against Russia have begun to bite. His claims that he is hearing the clamour for reforms within the country and that is what is prompting these "reforms" is, therefore, debatable. But more Putin also means that he will remain a major figure on the global stage. His intervention in Syria and Iran are of grave concern to the US and other Western nations. At the same time, he has made it very clear that he wants to see a revival of Russia's international power, wants it to be a nation with the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world and one that continues to develop new weapons technology. Russia punches well above its economic heft in the world. With Putin in charge, it possibly punches a weight category even higher. While many in Washington DC, London and other Western capitals would be glad to see the back of the man, these new reforms mean that he is not going away anytime soon unless the Russians want him to.

# A new air quality agenda

An efficient traffic signal management can not only help maintain the flow of traffic but also drastically reduce air pollution levels and save fuel



KK PAUL

Air pollution in our country, particularly in some of the urban centres, has become a major public health issue. Depending on the weather and climatic conditions, there are several contributory factors that add to the pollution levels but vehicular emissions in metropolitan cities have emerged as a major source. According to official estimates, the number of vehicles in the national capital surged to over 1.20 crore, including over 80 lakh two-wheeler vehicles. The number of vehicles per thousand population, too, increased considerably — from 317 in 2006 to over 550 in 2016 — leading to visible congestion on the roads.

That vehicular emissions contain carcinogenic material needs no emphasis. But what has not got enough light is that the inhalation of toxic airborne particles emitted by diesel and petrol vehicles can weaken bones and speed up the ageing process. This finding, based on a fairly large sample size taken from the vicinity of Hyderabad, quantifies on the basis of X-Rays and other studies and determines the extent of osteoporosis, ie, the weakening of bones, in all age groups.

Besides, the World Health Organisation (WHO), too, concluded that each year, thousands of children succumb to acute infections in their lower respiratory system caused by polluted air. Health hazards from air pollution due to vehicular emissions are, thus, manifold. Traffic police personnel and professional drivers, who face maximum air and noise pollution exposure on the roads, have to bear the brunt of this situation.

Last autumn saw Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) showing beyond 1000, making it one of the most polluted cities in the world. Stubble burning by farmers in some of the States adjoining Delhi, combined with vehicular emissions, were major contributors to the deteriorating quality of air. In the following months, the situation somewhat improved but with people becoming used to witnessing "hazardous" levels of air pollution, even the current "severe" category appears to be taken in stride without much hue and cry.

With the capital witnessing hazardous air quality, schemes like Odd-Even were introduced to limit the number of four-wheelers on the roads. This scheme did show a dip in pollution levels, however small it might have been. Despite it being known that emissions from two-wheelers, which include benzene, are far more hazardous, the Odd-Even scheme could not be more applicable to these smaller or other vehicles. As a result, a more significant dent in pollution levels could not be achieved. After April 1, when the Bharat-VI norms come into play, the level of auto emissions is bound to show a downward trend.

But the geometry of roads in Delhi has mostly evolved as a result of unplanned



organic growth and the lack of norms surrounding urban planning. This has resulted in a very large number of intersections where vehicles have to necessarily give way and accommodate other traffic streams. This has led to a situation where the number of signalised intersections is quite high and drivers have to stop their vehicles every now and then. Waiting time at a traffic signal depends on the timing of the microprocessor, which should ideally be determined after a careful study of traffic load and pattern on a particular arm of the road on an hourly basis. However, this is always not the case.

As vehicles have to often wait at signalised intersections in an idle running mode, they emit very large amounts of pollutants. It is well-known that an idle engine is far more polluting than when a vehicle is in motion. Similarly, slower moving vehicles on the streets, largely two-wheelers, are more polluting than those at a higher speed.

The accumulated traffic at intersections awaiting a green signal is a major source of pollution. This can be handled through appropriate signal management. It is known that traffic signals contribute

“ROAD-BY-ROAD CLEARANCES NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE WAITING TIME AT INTERSECTIONS BUT ALSO LEAD TO MORE EMISSIONS AS A LARGE NUMBER OF VEHICLES AT ANY GIVEN TIME HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEIR TURN. THE DELAY IN JOURNEY TIME IS BUILT IN AND IS CURRENTLY BEING EXPERIENCED BY ALL ROAD USERS”

towards orderly and well-regulated movement of traffic, besides increasing the traffic handling capacity of the intersection. Under favourable conditions, they can be coordinated to provide for continuous or near continuous movement of traffic at a given speed. Such coordinated signals lead to reduced fuel consumption and bring down emissions by minimising stops and consequent delays. They can bring down the journey time, too.

In this context, it can be observed that in Delhi there are quite a large number of busy intersections where the pattern of signals has undergone a change over the last few years. The flow pattern at these intersections allows the traffic to move forward only from one carriageway, while all others are static. Such road-by-road clearances not only enhance the waiting time at intersections but also lead to more emissions as at any given time, a large number of vehicles have to wait for their turn to make the move. The delay in journey time is built in and is currently being experienced by all road users.

On the other hand, the flow pattern, which enables a straight-straight movement and

which is simultaneously followed by right-right, can definitely reduce the waiting period at intersections and may even reduce the journey time. It can also impact air pollution in a positive manner. Most Delhiites would recall that such a system was indeed being followed until a few years ago.

It has also been observed that on account of a perception-reaction time loss, some time at the beginning of each green period remains under-utilised, leading to building up of congestion over a period of time. The use of reverse timers at all points can help overcome this and ensure maximum flow of traffic with complete utilisation of the green phase. This would mean a reduction in journey time as well as air pollution levels.

Given the severity of the air pollution problem in Delhi, measures that can lead to a reduction in the levels of pollution must be attempted. An appropriate scheme to manage traffic signals can make a significant contribution not only to the flow of traffic but also bring down the levels of pollution.

(The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Uttarakhnad Governor)

## SOUNDBITE

As long as there are States which sponsor terrorism, we will have to live with the menace. We need to take the bull by the horns and strike at the root cause.

Chief of Defence Staff  
—Gen Bipin Rawat



I feel that only when you're successful, then only people have an agenda against you, otherwise nobody bothers about you.

Actor  
—Kangana Ranaut



India has been a tremendous contributor to Afghanistan, but the impact that Pakistan can make in Afghanistan is a lot greater than any other country.

Former Afghan President  
—Hamid Karzai



In a world that is seeking to break free from mindless hate, violence, conflict and terrorism, the Indian way of life offers a ray of hope.

Prime Minister  
—Narendra Modi



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Focus on the economy

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "SC to the rescue" (January 16). Protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) have continued for over a month now and there appears to be no end in sight to the confrontation. While the Union Government refuses to budge, various segments of the country are not willing to give up. To top it all, now Chief Ministers of various States are knocking the doors of the Supreme Court to oppose the Government's move.

The time for the Union Government to act is now. If confrontations reach magnanimous proportions, it may be too late for it to make any meaningful contribution towards its resolution. As it is, much damage to the country's image has already been done. Of much larger concern for the Government should be the state of the economy. Demand has evaporated from almost all sectors of the economy, unemployment figures continue to break multi-year lows and the banking sector refuses to show any sign of revival. More than the CAA, the Government's focus

### When movements are politicised

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen has called for unity among Opposition parties to support the ongoing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and force the Government to roll back the law. Though most Opposition parties did not attend the meeting called by the Congress to discuss the political situation in the country in the wake of violence in the Jawahar Nehru University (JNU) campus and protests over the CAA, the fact is that only a united front can provide the organisational backbone to the movement and make a difference.

Protests against the CAA must be complemented by a strong political pushback through a combined and strong Opposition. The refrain by the media that "a people's movement" has been hijacked by certain political parties and leaders is but an attempt to delegitimise the protests led by the students, civil society activists and women. Congress leaders like Shashi Tharoor, Mani Shankar Aiyar and student leader Kanhaiya Kumar must not be criticised for being on the "protest stage" simply because they stand opposed to the Hindutva brigade. They are not piggybacking on the protest but just extending their support to the protesting students. May be it is a dictate of "patri-



G David Milton  
Maruthanadoc

dom is part of the freedom of expression and cannot be curbed".

Rightly so, freedom of information is an extension of freedom of speech and, thus, a fundamental human right. The top court's order has raised question marks over the validity of the curbs imposed by the Government in Jammu & Kashmir since August last year. Although the Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 and 35(A) are landmark, the curbs on internet access and landline services appeared to be too strident.

Devendra Khurana  
Bhopal

### Flagging issues

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "SC to the rescue" (January 16). The Delhi High Court has given a strong and factual statement, rebuking the police for its failure in handling protests and presenting the required evidence. This calls for a re-look at the way public services departments work.

Shubham  
Via email

### Better late than never

which must be used to re-vigorate the Indian economy and provide the much-needed stimulus. Harminder Singh Gumbhir  
Uttar Pradesh

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "SC's conscience call" (January 11). Once again, it was the Supreme Court which had to

come to the rescue of democracy. Though delayed, it is laudable that the top court came down heavily on the Union Government. It minced no words in stressing that "Internet free-

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A crippled campaign

Accessible India intended to take measures to secure the right to an accessible environment for people with disabilities. But it failed



ARMAN ALI

The enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 has ensured the domestic transition of the social model adopted under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted in 2006 and ratified by the Government in 2007. The principles stated to be implemented for empowerment of persons with disabilities (PWD) are respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices and independence of persons. The Act lays stress on non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, respect for difference and acceptance of disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, equality of opportunity, accessibility, equality between men and women, respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities. The principle reflects a paradigm shift in thinking about disability from a social welfare concern to a human rights issue. However, the rights-based vision of the Act has not been translated into reality as yet. This is because of the lack of the Government's efforts to ensure that measures are taken for which it has been made responsible under the Act. Accessible India has been one of the most visible campaigns of the Narendra Modi Government which intends to take measures securing the right to an accessible environment for PWDs in the country. Launched before the enactment of the 2016 Act, it seeks to ensure a Built Environment Accessibility, Transportation System Accessibility and Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility in India, the three of its basic components. It is a matter of great misfortune that India's biggest campaign has failed miserably in its effort. The failure can be basically attributed to the ingenuity shown in its vision, as ambiguous and over-ambitious targets were made without any measure of accountability. The campaign thus serves more in rhetoric than in action.

**Ambitious and over-ambitious targets:** The campaign under Built Environment Accessibility targeted 50 most important buildings in Tier-1 cities and 25 most important Government buildings in Tier-2 cities, to be made fully accessible within a period of six months by July 2016. The revised guidelines have extended the deadline to March 2020. The numbers and time period were too ambitious for the reach of the Department of Persons with Disability. The deadlines were missed and extended consecutively and targets under it are yet not achieved even as three years have passed since the campaign was launched. Moreover, there was no study done on the number of Government websites or the quantum of public documents, which makes it impossible to assess the Government on the targets it envisaged as they were mostly made in percentage terms i.e. to make 50 per cent of all Government websites and public documents accessible by March 2019. Such ambiguous targets make it easier to extend the deadline as it becomes impossible to measure the true progress of the work done.

**Lack of accountability framework:** The department has only released partial information in terms of the total number of buildings and websites that were made accessible but greater details about these buildings have not been provided. This information is not only necessary for awareness but also necessary for accountability purposes. No verification study has been conducted or is currently under process by technically qualified Government or non-government agencies to assess the progress made in built environment or information and communications technology in terms of accessibility. With respect to public buildings under the State Government, the department issues utilisation funds under the campaign. Data can be easily found on the huge amount of funds disbursed under the scheme. However, no accountability is ensured on the State Government as no post-verification study is done to check the proper use of funds. No training or workshop has been conducted to train engineers in the task of retrofitting. Untrained professionals are unable to understand the reports provided to them post accessibility audit.

**Social audit:** The campaign did include a component of 'social audit' to ensure implementation in the form of a website, a mobile-based application where one could report inaccessible buildings and action could be taken on it. However, the objective completely failed because of sluggish implementation of this measure as both the website and the application have been unmanned and thereby lying dormant since 2016.

The failure of the campaign to properly formulate its target and include accountability in its practice has reduced it to a utopian status without any real ground-level impact. This failure is for the lack of technical experts on the subject of accessibility involved in the formulation process. There is a sincere need for the Department for Persons with Disability to diverge from this erring process and hire a permanent officer trained in universal design and accessibility so that proper measures can be taken to address the issues of PWDs.

(The writer is Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People)

IN THE BJP-LED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POVERTY, ANARCHY, VIOLENCE AND TENSION HAVE EXCEEDED THAT DURING THE CONGRESS REGIME.

—BSP CHIEF MAYAWATI



MISUSE OF POWER HAS BEEN DONE BY THE BSP, AND THE BSP-SUPPORTED CONGRESS GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS AT THE CENTRE.

—BJP LEADER AND UTTAR PRADESH MINISTER SHRIKANT SHARMA

Budget a litmus test

Sitharaman would be presenting her second Budget at a time when the middle class and the industry's expectations from it would be high given the economic turmoil in the country



ABHISHEK RAJU

The economic turmoil that India is currently going through is broad-based. The performance of Modi 2.0 has been below par on various fiscal indicators. Rising unemployment, industry-specific pangs, reduced demand, falling industrial output, higher inflation and lower-than-expected tax collections are a few areas of concern. As Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman gears up to present the Union Budget 2020 in February 1, it is expected that she would try her best to accelerate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth which is estimated at five per cent for 2019-20, the lowest of the decade. Sitharaman would be presenting her second Union Budget at a time when the industry's expectations from it would be somewhat high considering the slowdown in various sectors, though the Government took necessary steps last year to shore up the economy through stimulus packages, including the slashing of the corporate tax. However, the Government's move to slash corporate tax has raised the hopes and expectations of the salaried class for a similar relief in income tax. While the middle class wants the Modi Government to provide income tax relief, the FM has very little fiscal room to dole out such largesse and this makes the Union Budget 2020 very interesting. The general expectations for the Union Budget 2020 are as follows.

**Reduction in individual income tax rates:** In the interim Budget, presented in February 2019, income tax relief was provided that primarily benefited individuals with an annual income below ₹5 lakh. In another step for the salaried class, the standard deduction of ₹40,000, which was introduced in the Union Budget 2018, was raised by ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 per year. But last year we had the economy slowed down brought on by the business in demand. Therefore, to create demand the Government may reduce income tax rates and may create some more sub-slabs in the current slabs. For example, the current tax rate is 20 per cent for a slab of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh. This could be reduced to 10 per cent and a further new slab, say for example ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh, could be created with a 20 per cent tax rate.

**Increase in deduction under Section 80C:** At present, the deduction under Section 80C is available up to ₹1,50,000 and eligible investments include life insurance policies, Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), five-year notified tax-saving bank deposits, three-year Equity Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) mutual funds, repayment of housing loan, tuition fee and many more. One can put the entire ₹1,50,000 in one investment or in more than one instrument. Practically, the overall limit of ₹1,50,000 does not offer any major benefit in real terms, as various investments are clubbed under a single provision.

With an increase in the inflation rate, the need for an increase in the threshold limit of the Section 80C deduction, too. It is recommended that this deduction should be increased to a minimum of ₹2 lakh or even ₹2.5 lakh. Thus, if the threshold limit of Section 80C is increased by the FM in the Budget, this will not only boost investments, but also provide a majority of taxpayers the much-needed relief.

**Infrastructure Bonds:** The Government is tight on funds and needs money to finance the country's infrastructure, so it may consider rein-



THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO SLASH CORPORATE TAX HAS RAISED THE HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE SALARIED CLASS FOR A SIMILAR RELIEF IN INCOME TAX. WHILE THE MIDDLE CLASS WANTS THE MODI GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE INCOME TAX RELIEF, THE FM HAS VERY LITTLE FISCAL ROOM TO DOLE OUT SUCH LARGESSE AND THIS MAKES THE UNION BUDGET 2020 VERY INTERESTING

roduction of Infrastructure Bonds. These bonds were good for people who need a fixed income. This investment was over and above the investment limit under Section 80C. They offered a decent rate of interest and tax benefits. The maturity of these bonds is often between 10 to 15 years with an option to buy back after a lock-in of five years.

**Debt-linked saving schemes:** The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) like last year requested for introduction of debt-linked tax saving schemes or DLSS similar to Equity Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS). The basic argument for introduction of DLSS is that many conservative people do not invest in ELSS to claim tax deductions under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act because they are scared of putting money in stocks. The industry believes that these people would happily invest in a debt scheme like DLSS to save taxes under Section 80C. The mandatory lock-in period in these schemes can be five years. The demand has been catered to core sector project financing.

**Direct Tax Amnesty Scheme:** The Government, which is hard-pressed for revenue, may come up with a Direct Tax Amnesty Scheme (DTAS) in this Budget. Last year they announced Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019 for Indirect Taxes through which the Government collected more than ₹35,000 crore. Direct tax collection is facing a severe shortfall in the current fiscal year. After refunds, it saw a growth rate of 0.7 per cent till December 15, 2019 against the Budget target of 17.3 per cent. Advance collection in after the third instalment stood at ₹2.51 trillion, compared with ₹2.47 trillion in the corresponding period last year, posing a 1.6 per cent growth. DTAS may allow assesses to declare

the additional income of the previous five-six years without penalty or prosecution. The proposal, being examined, will allow assesses to revise declared income with no fear of past cases being opened up, or prosecution. It will help improve compliance, besides raising in revenues for the Government. People who want to declare more income from the previous year do not do so because the moment they do, they are taken up for scrutiny, investigation and prosecution and penalties are imposed upon them. This scheme will also help in prevention of litigation. In August last year, the Government increased thresholds for tax litigation, below which the I-T Department was directed not to file appeals and withdrawal cases that related to the ones under them. The limits were revised from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh for appeals before the tribunal, from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore for appeals before High Courts and from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore for appeals before the Supreme Court. A large number of pending appeals have been withdrawn/dissmissed following the order.

**Setting up of a Development Finance Institution:** The Government may announce the setting up of a Development Finance Institution (DFI) in this Budget. This could be created to cater to core sector project financing. India is going through the rarest of rare economic conditions where economists — who often call for fiscal prudence over anything else during the Budget season — have become more realistic, conceding that there is a need to breach the fiscal deficit target. The DFI could be one of the triggers where the FM would take a decision, even breaching the fiscal deficit target. To improve sentiments and growth, India is in dire need of infrastr-

structure spending. But for the Government, which is in the process of generating revenues through disinvestment of various PSUs including Air India, BPL, CONCOR, the SCL and so on, any commitment to such projects would be considered to be a judicious act.

**Infrastructure push:** The Government may announce a massive push for all forms of physical connectivity through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, industrial corridors, dedicated freight corridors, Jal Marg Vikas and UDAN schemes. Major commitment for ambitious projects like Bharatmala and Sagarmala is also expected. The Bharatmala project would help develop national road corridors and highways, while Sagarmala would enhance port connectivity, modernisation and port-linked industrialisation.

**Micro irrigation funds:** In 2017, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund with NABARD under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. The objective of the fund was to achieve the goal of 'per drop more crop'. A whopping ₹5,000 crore was sanctioned for this in 2018. Considering climate change, which has led to drought in some areas and floods in others, a new corpus would be allocated to this scheme in the forthcoming Budget.

This year's Union Budget comes with more expectations than ever because of socio-economic conditions. For the first time the FM has the leeway to breach fiscal deficit and come up with real reforms, both for taxation and the economy, but the challenge is whether the Government is ready for such action.

(The writer is an author and GST and economics specialist)

The joys and perils of the gig economy

The nature and quality of jobs generated for women in the freelance workforce need to be examined so that appropriate policy suggestions can be put forward for policymakers to make informed decisions

BALWANT MEHTA SIMI MEHTA ARJUN KUMAR

The participation of women in the workforce in India is one of the lowest in the world at around 21 per cent compared to the global average of 48 per cent. And it has been declining steadily over the last two decades mostly on account of the agricultural sector. Some of the key reasons for low work participation of women in the country are a disproportionate burden of care-giving and domestic duties, rising income of households, absence of suitable jobs, patriarchal social norms and poor working conditions. In fact, women's participation in care-giving and domestic duties in the country is highest among all the nations across the world.

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) of women declined more in rural areas, while it was almost stable or marginally up in urban areas in the last few years. Over the years, the rural and urban gap in the LFPR of women narrowed and then converged in 2018. Agriculture distress, low payment in unorganised sector jobs and rising participation of women in

higher education are leading to increasing migration to urban areas in pursuit of better jobs and opportunities. These trends could have significant implications in the long run. The increasing participation of women in the gig economy will not only empower them financially but also alter the economic growth of the country. As reported by the McKinsey Global Institute, if India increased the workforce participation rate of women by ten percentage points by 2025, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could rise by as much as 16 per cent as compared to the business-as-usual scenario. A recent report on the Future of Work Anywhere-Gig Worker by Noble House revealed that men and women have almost a 50:50 participation in the gig economy against the traditional workforce where the ratio is about 70:30.

About 86 per cent of women gig workers in India believe that this kind of arrangement gives them an opportunity to earn equal to their male counterparts. The 2019 Employment Outlook Report reflects that women are seeing more in front-line roles. It is easy to see why, given the lower attrition rates, better ratings for delivery women and improved productivity at

warehouses. This has led to greater demand for women at delivery hubs and fulfilment centres. Another study done by BetterPlace (2019) under the gig economy, the demand for workers among e-commerce companies such as Amazon and Flipkart had begun to hire women in delivery roles have also seen better acceptability by customers. Besides, food-delivery apps such as Swiggy and Zomato have also employed several thousand women employees in cities like Kochi, Jaipur, Pune and other Tier 2 cities.

However, the much-debated issue in the gig economy is the growing concern regarding availability of decent work and violation of fundamental rights of workers. Under the gig economy, the demand for workers and supply of opportunities are matched online or via mobile applications. Though the gig economy provides good job opportunities and allows for flexible working schedules for women, it can also pave the way for severe commoditisation of work that forces people to choose transient work in the absence of better options. They are also vulnerable to attacks and exploitation.

Flexible work and the possibility of combining paid and unpaid work could provide opportunities to women involved in care-giving activities but could also lead to the deterioration of their working conditions. The Fairwork Project Initiative shows that app-based service companies such as Ola, Uber, Uber Eats and Zomato have some of the worst working conditions among Indian start-ups. These companies were ranked on five principles of fairness and score only two-four out of 10. The only positive is that they paid at least a local minimum wage including employment costs incurred by the workers. It is also argued that the new work culture within the gig economy is not activity regulated

and women face the possibility of being disadvantaged all over again. The nature and quality of jobs generated for women under the gig economy need to be examined so that appropriate policy suggestions can be put forward for policymakers to make informed decisions. It would further provide an improved understanding of the realities of flexible work arrangements in both crowd work (digital marketing, online tuitions, content writers, translators, graphic designers, freelance recruiters, software development, accounting, data analytics, legal work, medical transcription, health workers and social work) and on-demand service work (such as personal transport services offered by Uber, Ola, food delivery services provided by Zomato, Swiggy and e-commerce services of Amazon, Naukri.com that require a direct interface between workers and those requesting for gig services) to fill the critical knowledge gap.

(Balwant Mehta is a Fellow at the Institute for Human Development and a Visiting Fellow at the Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI), while Simi Mehta is CEO and Editorial Director and Balwant Kumar is Director at IMPRI)

# Adani Ent, NCCF officials booked for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked Adani Enterprises and former officials of National Cooperative Consumer Forum (NCCF) in a case of cheating, criminal conspiracy and graft in supply of imported coal to Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) in 2010.

Adani Enterprises is alleged to have got undue favours in the supply contract. APGENCO had floated a limited tender enquiry for the supply of six lakh MT of imported coal from sea ports to Narla Tata Rao Thermal Power Plant in Vijaywada and Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant (RTPP) in Kadapa on June 29, 2010, according to the FIR.

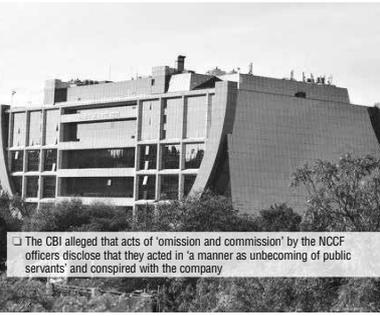
The tender enquiry was forwarded to seven PSUs including National Co-operative Consumer Federation India Ltd (NCCF), a multi-State cooperative under Union Consumer Affairs Ministry having 78 per cent Government stake.

Besides, Adani Enterprises, the CBI booked then NCCF chairman Virender Singh, then Managing Director of NCCF

Adani Enterprises is alleged to have got undue favours in the supply contract

The tender enquiry was forwarded to seven PSUs including National Co-operative Consumer Federation India Ltd (NCCF), a multi-State cooperative under Union Consumer Affairs Ministry having 78 per cent Government stake

The CBI alleged that acts of 'omission and commission' by the NCCF officers disclose that they acted in 'a manner as unbecoming of public servants' and conspired with the company



GP Gupta and his senior adviser SC Singhal for allegedly favouring the Ahmedabad-based company in the tender and violation of guidelines.

The CBI alleged that acts of 'omission and commission' by the NCCF officers disclose that they acted in 'a manner as unbecoming of public servants' and conspired with the company.

The FIR said the officers committed irregularities by

the way of manipulation in the selection of the bidders, thereby giving undue favour to Adani Enterprises Ltd in award of work for supply of imported coal to APGENCO despite its disqualification.

Giving details of alleged criminal conspiracy and corruption, the CBI alleged that NCCF, Hyderabad unit which had received the APGENCO tender enquiry on June 29, 2010 had forwarded it to its head-

quarters in Delhi to Singhal.

The same day the head office selected a single party — Maharishi Brothers Coal Limited (MBCL) — to transport the coal at a margin of 2.25 per cent instead of initiating the process for floating an open tender to call for bids from the competitive bidders citing lack of time as the deadline was July 7, according to the FIR.

Six days later on July 7, APGENCO informed NCCF

Hyderabad that the date of tender has been extended to July 12 following which allocation to MBCL was cancelled and open tender was floated.

Six bidders Adani Enterprises, MBCL, Vyom Trade Links, Swarna Projects Gupta Coal India, and Kyori Oremin responded to NCCF tender on July 10, 2010 whose details and bids were tabulated and sent to the headquarters by Hyderabad unit on the same day, it said.

Gupta Coal had quoted 11.3 per cent NCCF margin while MBCL had kept it at 2.25 per cent but remaining companies had not quoted any NCCF margin, it said.

"Instead of cancelling the bid of Adani Enterprises Ltd. Senior management of NCCF conveyed the offer margin of NCCF to the company through one of its representatives Munish Sehgal who was sitting in the NCCF head office on July 10, 2010 in the evening..." the FIR alleged.

Subsequently, Adani Enterprises Ltd on the same day informed NCCF that they agree to pay minimum margin charge of 2.25 per cent to NCCF.

# Davinder Singh stripped of gallantry award by J&K admin

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh — being interrogated by multiple intelligence agencies to probe his terror links with terror outfits in Kashmir Valley — has now been stripped of his gallantry award by the Jammu & Kashmir administration.

A formal order, dated January 15, 2020, issued by the Home Department stated, "Consequent upon the arrest of Davinder Singh on January 11 while trying to assist terrorists to travel outside J&K and recovery of arms and ammunition in case FIR no 05/2020 u/s 7/25 A. Act, 3/4 E.S. aCT, 18/19/20/38/39 of ULA (P) Act P/S Qazikund, the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Medal for Gallantry, is hereby forfeited."

As per the official order, Singh's act amounted to "disloyalty and conduct that has brought upon the force into disrepute".

Earlier, DGP Dilbagh Singh had also refuted media reports claiming Davinder Singh had been awarded the President's Police Medal for



The newly constructed residential house of J&K police officer Davinder Singh at Indra Nagar in Srinagar on Thursday

Meritorious Service on August 15, 2019.

The J&K Police spokesman also issued a statement in this regard which read, "It is to clarify that DySP Davinder Singh

is not awarded any Gallantry or Meritorious Medal by MHA as has been reported by some media outlets/persons. Only gallantry medal awarded to him during his service is by the erstwhile J&K State on Independence Day 2018".

# Son of former J&K Minister Hilal Rather arrested by ACB

PNS ■ JAMMU

Hilal Rather, son of a former Jammu & Kashmir Finance Minister Abdul Kahim Rather, was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a case related to the alleged misappropriation of crores of rupees from the term loans running into 177 Crores.

The loan was sanctioned by Jammu & Kashmir Bank for his ambitious township project known as 'Paradise Avenue' at Narwal Bala Jammu in the year 2012.

According to the Press statement issued by the ACB, Jammu, "Hilal Rather, who also owns Simula Group of Companies, was being questioned for the last few months by the Bureau in connection with the siphoning off crores of rupees from the loan amount sanctioned by the New University Campus Project J&K Bank for the construction of Flats under the name of 'Paradise Avenue'."

According to the statement issued by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, "Hilal Rather was evaluated for the property raised & others transaction related to siphoning of funds meant for construction".

"Hilal Rather has been taken into custody for further questioning," the ACB



File pic of under construction Paradise Avenue at Narwal Bala in Jammu

statement said.

According to official sources, during the course of investigations in the case it has been revealed that funds diverted have been used to purchase huge properties abroad, holidaying abroad with family and friends and also for other entertainment activities.

"All the loan amounts sanctioned by the former J&K Bank for the construction of Flats under the name of 'Paradise Avenue' have become NPA".

According to ACB statement, "Paradise Avenue, a Partnership Concern of Hilal Rather, Dr Rizwan Raheem

Dar of Sanant Nagar Srinagar, Jammu, and Bhatt Baramulla Kashmir, Daljeet Wadhwa and Deepshikha Janwal of Jammu was sanctioned a term loan of Rs 74.27 crore in the first phase.

According to ACB, without following the credit policy of the bank, which restricts loan to a partnership firm at Rs 40 crore, the loan was approved by the Board of Directors of the J&K Bank when Hilal Rather had already entered into a OTS with the State Financial Corporation in the past. The remaining loan amount were granted by the Board despite the fact that the repayments of the first loan taken was not complete" the ACB statement said.

Unprecedented rain in the national Capital brought the maximum temperature down, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, adding the city recorded a high of 16.4 degrees Celsius, which was three notches below normal, after rains in the afternoon.

The minimum temperature increased to 9.5 degrees Celsius from 6.4 degrees on Wednesday due to a cloud cover. It was two notches above normal, the IMD said. The Saldarjung Observatory, which provides official figures for the city, recorded 4 mm rainfall. The weather stations at Lodi Road, Ridge, Ayanagar and Palam recorded 6.4 mm, 2.8 mm, 1.7 mm and 0.8 mm precipitation.

Most parts of the Kashmir Valley received snowfall overnight. Low visibility and accumulation of snow at the Srinagar airport led to cancellation of 15 flights on Thursday morning, officials said.

Flight operations have been affected at the airport for the past few days. All flights were cancelled on January 12 and 13, but few operated on January 14. However, flight operations did not take place on Wednesday as well due to continued snowfall.

Most plain areas in the valley received moderate to heavy snowfall on Wednesday which continued during the night, officials said. The higher reaches of the Valley, Jammu region and Ladakh Union Territory



A woman sells vegetables on a roadside after heavy snowfall, in Srinagar on Thursday.

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed for last five days due to heavy snowfall that caused shortage of essential stocks

# Cold wave conditions persist in North India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cold wave conditions persisted in northern India as rains soaked several areas in the region and snowfall was recorded in Kashmir and Ladakh. The cold wave conditions will continue till January end except January 21, 22 and 23.

Unprecedented rain in the national Capital brought the maximum temperature down, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, adding the city recorded a high of 16.4 degrees Celsius, which was three notches below normal, after rains in the afternoon.

The minimum temperature increased to 9.5 degrees Celsius from 6.4 degrees on Wednesday due to a cloud cover. It was two notches above normal, the IMD said. The Saldarjung Observatory, which provides official figures for the city, recorded 4 mm rainfall. The weather stations at Lodi Road, Ridge, Ayanagar and Palam recorded 6.4 mm, 2.8 mm, 1.7 mm and 0.8 mm precipitation.

Most parts of the Kashmir Valley received snowfall overnight. Low visibility and accumulation of snow at the Srinagar airport led to cancellation of 15 flights on Thursday morning, officials said.

Flight operations have been affected at the airport for the past few days. All flights were cancelled on January 12 and 13, but few operated on January 14. However, flight operations did not take place on Wednesday as well due to continued snowfall.

Most plain areas in the valley received moderate to heavy snowfall on Wednesday which continued during the night, officials said. The higher reaches of the Valley, Jammu region and Ladakh Union Territory



Vehicles ply on a road amid rain in Lucknow on Thursday

received heavy snowfall.

He said there are chances of light snowfall at isolated to scattered places of J&K over the next 24 hours.

"No major snowfall is expected for the next five days. Another spell of lesser intensity is likely from January 21 to 24," he added.

Cold weather persisted in most parts of Punjab and Haryana and a thick blanket of fog reduced visibility in the morning, affecting normal life.

# In 2 days, IAF rescues 107 people stranded during 'Chadar Trek' in Ladakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IAF helicopters in the last two days have helped rescue 107 people, including foreign nationals, who got stranded during the 'Chadar Trek' in the Union Territory of Ladakh, officials said on Thursday.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) also tweeted about the rescue operation which it carried out with Ladakh's newly-formed civil administration, nearby Army units and local disaster relief teams.

"IAF helicopters successfully airlifted nine foreign nationals (two French & seven Chinese) with other stranded trekkers on Thursday afternoon. An unwell woman passenger from Ladakh was provided required medical care on ground & during flight by IAF medical personnel," the IAF tweeted.

The IAF in a statement said, its helicopters have helped rescue 107 individuals during the last two days.

"The rescued trekkers include one man and one woman from France, and four men and three women from China, who as per information were rescued from Padum. The IAF will continue the ongoing

# Soldier killed, three injured as avalanche hits Army post in Kargil

PTI ■ JAMMU

A soldier was killed and three others were injured when an avalanche hit an Army post in Drass belt of Ladakh's Kargil district on Thursday, officials said.

The avalanche hit the army post in Mushkoh valley in which four soldiers were buried, they said.

One soldier died while three injured were rescued, they added.

rescue operation till the stranded trekkers, guides and porters are evacuated and brought to safety," it said.

The trekkers, including foreign nationals and almost an equal number of local guides and porters, were part of the ongoing 'Chadar Trek', and got stranded when some portions of the frozen Zaskar River melted, the IAF said.

"The melting caused the flow of the water to become too strong, for the trekkers to continue across the river on foot. The stranded trekkers managed to move to Niraq, a small camp site upstream and were waiting to be rescued," it said. The rescue operation by helicopters, a makeshift helipad was prepared along the river bank. Advanced Light Helicopters were immediately pressed into action from Air Force Station Leh, the IAF said.

To provide medical facilities to the stranded trekkers a medical officer and a medical assistant were also flown from Air Force Station Leh to Niraq. The team has set up a medical assistance camp at Niraq and are providing basic medical assistance to the stranded trekkers, it said.

# Verbal spat between Bedi, Narayanasamy reaches next level

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Pongal festivities in the union territory of Puducherry vitiated by Thursday as Chief Minister V Narayanasamy challenged Kiran Bedi, the lieutenant Governor to substantiate her allegations that the former and his family members were engaged in land grabbing.

"I challenge Kiran Bedi. If me or any of my family members are proved guilty in any land grabbing case I'll resign. But will Kiran Bedi quit if its not proved? She is wrongly trying to malign me. She no longer deserves to remain as lieutenant governor," Narayanasamy said while addressing a Press meeting at Puducherry on Thursday.

What upset the Chief Minister was a social media posting by Bedi about a complaint she received from one of the MLAs who had called on her recently.

The legislator told the Lieutenant Governor that he was in possession of documents which proved that the Chief Minister and his family members were engaged in land grabbing.

cerned authorities and file cases against a number of those accused in land grabbing.

The relation between the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister of the union territory is at its lowest ebb as the latter had submitted a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind during his visit to Puducherry asking for recalling Bedi.

Narayanasamy was upset over Kiran Bedi's refusal to the former's proposal to open casinos in the former French colony for boosting the economy of Puducherry. In a statement Narayanasamy alleged that the lieutenant governor was a "woman without conscience" and alleged that she was adopting a revengeful attitude against his Government.

The new year eve saw Bedi dispatching a strongly worded rejoinder to Narayanasamy and she shared the letter with the media.

She said the Chief Minister had been "Calling me and the Constitutional office of the Lt Governor all kinds of derogatory names and heaping unfounded accusations over a considerable period".

# 'Elephant Pongal' in TN celebrated at rejuvenation camp

Coimbatore: Even as 'Mattu Pongal' dedicated to cattle was celebrated across Tamil Nadu as part of the harvest festival of Pongal, elephants too got the taste and feel of the celebrations near here on Thursday.

The 'Elephant Pongal' was celebrated at the rejuvenation camp near Mettupalayam in Coimbatore district, where 28 elephants from temple and mills across the state were being provided the much-needed rest. The animals were given a shower in the river Bhavani and decorated with flowers. Sugar cane, bananas and coconuts and, of course, sweet pongal were offered to the elephants.

PTI

# Bulls awe tamers, Jallikattu events in TN continue to be crowd-pullers

PTI ■ MADURAI

Jallikattu, the popular bull taming sport of Tamil Nadu lived up to its reputation of being a huge crowd-puller as the contest unfolded on Thursday at Palamedu here and Suriyur in Tiruchirappalli district.

As thousands of spectators continued to flock both the events, the tamers were awed by several bulls which were determined to not allow anyone to even come anywhere near them.

Interestingly, at Suriyur, a huge bull not only allowed none to go near it, but also



stood boldly on the sporting arena for a while refusing to move. When a team of men arrived on a mini-truck to drive it away, it kept charging towards the vehicle.

Despite gentle prodding and honking, the animal did not budge and kept staring at tamers several of whom climbed the barricade to avoid the bull's fury.

Eventually, a man well trained in cattle-rearing managed to throw a rope around its neck and led it away.

At Palamedu, which is more popular, announcements of a variety of prizes like gold coins, gift packs, cycles, and

vessels kept the participants on their toes as the dominant animals and emerge victorious.

Bull owners were also anxious that their animals should evade the tamers and run over to the end point so that they could bag prizes.

Perfect nail-biting moments were witnessed when a tamer — who hung over the hump of a fierce bull that proved to be a running machine — slid through its shoulder and fell right in front of its legs.

As luck would have it, the participant escaped unhurt as the animal effortlessly jumped across and sped past.

# Bru tribals to permanently settle in Tripura

## Tripartite agreement signed



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb during signing of an agreement for permanent settlement of Bru tribals in Tripura, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More than 30,000 displaced Bru tribals from Mizoram, who have been living as refugees in Tripura since 1987, will permanently settle in Tripura and a tripartite agreement was signed in this effect on Thursday.

The agreement was signed by representatives of Bru and the central and Mizoram and Governments in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah here at North Block. Under the pact, over 30,000 Bru tribals will live in Tripura permanently, Shah said.

The Bru tribals have been living in Tripura in different relief camps since they fled Mizoram in 1997 following ethnic clashes between Bru and Mizo communities. An agreement signed in July 2018 for repatriation of the Bru tribals to Mizoram did not materialise as the Bru community members refused to go back to Mizoram.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Mizoram CM Zoramthanga, Assam Finance Minister Himanta

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Biswa Sarma and Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalwal were also present in the function. During the meeting, Shah said approximately 30,000 Bru refugees will be settled in Tripura and the Centre has approved Rs 600 crore package for this purpose. He added Bru refugees will get a 40 by 30 feet plot along with a fixed deposit of Rs 4 lakhs, cash assistance of Rs 5000 per month for 2 years and free ration.

## PM MODI HAILS AGREEMENT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the agreement to permanently settle the Bru-Refugees in Tripura on Thursday, saying it will "greatly help" them. He also said the Bru-Refugees will benefit from numerous welfare schemes of the Government. "A special day indeed," Modi wrote on Twitter.

# Nitish will lead NDA in Bihar polls: Shah

## Home Minister seeks people's support to CAA

PTI ■ KHARAUVA (VAISHALI, BIHAR)

Hailing Bihar for giving "the best response" to amend the Citizenship Act, BJP president Amit Shah on Thursday appealed to the people to pledge their support to the new law by giving a missed call on a designated number from their mobile phones.

He urged the crowd attending a pro-CAA rally at Kharauva in Vaishali district,

about 75 km from capital Patna, to give a missed call to the 8866288662, pledging their support to the legislation which has triggered country-wide protests.

Shah also sought to dispel "rumours" of discord within the NDA in the State, asserting that the upcoming assembly polls in Bihar will be contested under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Shah slammed the Opposition for misleading minorities about the Act in pursuance of their "vote bank" politics and engineering victory that had erupted in the aftermath.

Underlining that the law provided for granting citizenship and not snatching it away

from anybody, he said the party was organising rallies across the country with a view to busting the misinformation campaign.

He faltered in support of the CAA, but did not mention NRC or NPR (National Population Register) in his speech. Opposition BJP, Congress and their Grand Alliance partners in Bihar have been campaigning among the people against the CAA, proposed NRC and NPR. Lalu Prasad's RJD has been targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over these issues.

Shah, who presided over the vote in favour of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament to help it become an

Act, has said a country-wide implementation of National Register of Citizens was "needless" and had "no justification".

On NPR, he said in state assembly on Monday last that his Government agreed in principle to it as they did likewise when such an exercise was last conducted 10 years ago.

He, however, had emphasised that the census should be caste-based. Shah sought support of the people to the Modi governments measures like CAA as also abrogation of Article 370 and construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Shah, who presided over the vote in favour of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament to help it become an

Act, has said a country-wide implementation of National Register of Citizens was "needless" and had "no justification".

On NPR, he said in state assembly on Monday last that his Government agreed in principle to it as they did likewise when such an exercise was last conducted 10 years ago.

He, however, had emphasised that the census should be caste-based. Shah sought support of the people to the Modi governments measures like CAA as also abrogation of Article 370 and construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Shah, who presided over the vote in favour of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament to help it become an

# SC clears deck for Goa airport construction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday cleared the decks for construction of an international airport at Mopa in Goa by lifting the suspension on environmental clearance (EC) granted for the project, which would be spread over 2,131 acres.

The top court in March last had suspended the EC granted for the greenfield airport and directed the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to revisit the decision in light of its impact on the ecology there. For construction of a new airport was buttressed as the passenger traffic at Goa was expected to rise in the upcoming financial years -- 12 million passengers by 2021 to 17.9 million by 2025 -- and the existing airport at Dabolim is a defence estate which is closed to area traffic between 8.30 am and 1.30 pm daily.

Though Goa is one of the most sought after international tourist destinations in India, international charter flights are not granted parking facilities at night at Dabolim airport due to capacity constraints.

While lifting suspension on EC, bench of justices DY Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta noted assurance tendered on behalf of concessionaire GMR Go International Airport Limited that it will adopt "zero carbon programme" both in the construction and operational phases of the airport.

"We accept undertaking of concessionaire and issue a direction for compliance," the bench said, adding, "The suspension on the EC shall accordingly stand lifted."

The top court appointed the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to oversee compliance with the directions issued by it in the matter and said the "project proponent shall bear the costs, expenses and fees of NEERI".

# Raj panchayat: Months after getting citizenship, Pakistan migrant set to fight polls

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Nita Kanwar, who migrated to Jodhpur from Sindh in Pakistan nearly a decade back, chasing her dream of a good education and a marriage partner, is now all set to test the electoral waters.

The 36-year-old, who became an Indian citizen only last September, is contesting for the post of the sarpanch from Natwara gram panchayat in Rajasthan's Tonk district.

The elections are on Friday. Her candidature comes in the backdrop of the row over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The amendment makes it easier to get citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who entered India before 2015 following religious persecution in three neighbouring countries.

"I know only that CAA is good for those who want a better education and life in India," Nita Kanwar said.

She said she is a Sodha Rajput whose members "cannot marry within their own

36-year-old is contesting for the post of the sarpanch from Natwara gram panchayat in Rajasthan's Tonk district

caste". That is one reason for many members of the community to migrate to India, mostly Jodhpur.

"I had migrated in 2001 for college education and later on found a perfect match," Kanwar said. She said she had to fight for three years to receive Indian citizenship and it was last September when the Tonk district administration handed over the papers.

"Now, I am contesting for sarpanch from Natwara, a general reserved for women candidates. I will work for promoting gender equality, women empowerment and development of villages," she said.

Nita Kanwar migrated in 2001 and got her BA degree from Sophia College in Jaipur in 2005 and married Punya Pratap Karan in 2011.

She had migrated with her sister Anjana Sodha, who is also married and settled in Jodhpur.

# RAUT'S INDIRA GANDHI-KARIM LALA REMARK ROW Balasaheb had lot of respect for Indiraji: Aditya gets into damage control mode

## Raut says his remarks 'twisted' out of context, he always had respect for Indira, Nehru, Rajiv

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As the Shiv Sena's relations under strain over its spokesperson Sanjay Raut's claim that late Indira Gandhi used to meet Underworld Don Karim Lala, its leader Aditya Thackeray on Thursday went into a damage control mode saying that his grandfather and party's founder-chief Bal Thackeray had a lot of respect for the late Prime Minister, while Raut himself clarified that his statement had been "twisted" and "misinterpreted" by a section of the media.

Hours after Raut clarified that he always had huge respect for the Gandhi-Nehru family, especially late Mrs Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi, Aditya said. "Raut has already clarified that whatever he said was in a different context. Late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray had a lot of respect for Indira Gandhi. Hence, no

Shiv Sainik will speak ill about late Mrs Gandhi. Raut's intentions are clear."

Earlier, talking to media persons, Raut issued a detailed clarification on the controversy over the remarks made at a public interview of him held in Pune on Wednesday, wherein he had reportedly said that late Mrs Indira Gandhi used to meet Karim Lala at the latter's residence at Pydhonie in south Mumbai.

"The kind of respect I have shown towards Gandhi-Nehru family repeatedly since Indira Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi even while in the Opposition, no one has done that. You may have heard or read me earlier in 'Saamana'. Whenever there used to be a meeting with Indira Gandhi, I defended her stand. Please tell this to those who are putting out tweets on my yesterday on Indira Gandhi's respect," Raut said.

He said, "Now to what I said at the interview in Pune. At that time, the issue of Mumbai in those days was being discussed. I was explaining the audience as to what kind of atmosphere that prepared in Mumbai (in sixties and seventies). At that time a lot of politicians used to go and meet Karim Lala at his residence. There are a lot of photographs at his residence. The environment was totally different at that time."

"Karim Lala used to be a leader of Phatan community in the entire world. Haailing originally from Afghanistan, he led an organisation called 'Pakhtun-e-Hind'. He was associated with Khan Abdul, who used to be known as Frontier Gandhi. Leaders used to go and meet him to discuss the Phatan community issues. It was in this capacity of the leader of Phatan community that he met several top leaders including Indira Gandhi," Raut said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
CORRIGENDUM - 3  
Due to poor response the e-NIT No. FINEHED/ITC/2019/2005/2019 dated 09-12-2019 Due on : 24-12-2019 extended upto 02.01.2020 and again upto 10.01.2020 for the Supply of 561 no. Truck Chassis with Cabin for Mechanical Division, Rajouri of Technical Engineering Department, Jammu is hereby further extended upto 17.01.2020 and shall be opened on 18.01.2020. The revised criteria can be seen downloaded from the JK Govt Website www.jk.gov.in and departmental website www.mechdivo.jk.gov.in. All terms and conditions of e-NIT shall remain the same.

# Javadekar: AAP Govt's negligence behind delay in hanging of Nirbhaya convicts

New Delhi: Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday accused the AAP Government for negligence behind inordinate delay in hanging of Nirbhaya gangrape convicts. The Union Minister said it took more than two and a half years for the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation to give notice to convicts after Supreme Court rejected their appeal against the death sentence in 2017.

Union BJP leader and newsmen that had the AAP government give notices to all convicts within a week of the Supreme Court order, they would have been hanged by now and the nation would have got justice.

The Delhi government on Wednesday recommended rejecting the mercy plea filed by Mukesh Singh, one of the four death row convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case, and forwarded it to the LG at "lightning speed", Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

It also informed the high court during a hearing that execution of the convicts will take place on January 22 as a mercy plea has been filed by one of them - Mukesh (32) Vinay Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan Gupta (25) -- were to be hanged on January 22 at 7 am in Tihar jail. A Delhi court had issued their death warrants on January 7.

# BJP accuses Cong of protecting those involved in 1984 anti-Sikh riots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing the SIT report, the BJP on Thursday accused the Congress of protecting those involved in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and alleged it never showed interest in providing justice to the victims with its leaders even "justifying" the violence against the community.

BJP leader and Union minister Prakash Javadekar said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by retired Delhi High Court judge Justice SN Dhingra has brought to fore the truth and said what happened in 1984 was not just riots but "worst kind of genocide" against Sikhs.

The Modi government, he asserted, stands for giving justice to Sikhs and has already told court that it will act on the SIT's recommendations.

Javadekar said Congress leaders like the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi "justified" the violence with their comments. A Congress leader named as accused by victims has become chief minister, he said in an apparent reference to Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath.

BJP leader and Union minister Prakash Javadekar said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by retired Delhi High Court judge Justice SN Dhingra has brought to fore the truth and said what happened in 1984 was not just riots but "worst kind of genocide" against Sikhs.

denied his involvement and had received a clean chit in investigations carried out earlier.

The SIT report shows that the hands of the Congress are with "the exact opposite and protected accused," he said, adding that over 3000 Sikhs were burned alive in a matter of days in the national Capital following the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"The Congress never took any interest in the probe. In fact, it did exact opposite and protected accused," he said, adding that over 3000 Sikhs were burned alive in a matter of days in the national Capital following the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

There should be minimum experience criteria for lawyers to appear before SC: CJJ

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice SA Bobde mooted an idea before the Bar on Thursday that there should be a minimum experience criteria for lawyers to appear before the Supreme Court.

A bench comprising the CJJ and justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant expressed its view on fixing some experience criteria for lawyers to appear before the top court when senior advocate and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Dushyant Dave raised the issue of difficulties being faced by lawyers in getting the matters listed for urgent hearing.

"My lords, the Bar is facing problems in getting the matters listed for urgent hearing before the mentioning officer," Dave told the bench. He said at times lawyers are unable to persuade the mentioning officer about the "grave urgencies" of the matters which needed urgent hearing.

The CJJ, who has been consistently saying that the mentioning officer should be done before the mentioning officer and not before the first court, today said, "We do not want to start the day like this. The idea of urgency in the mind of Bar is different."

# Dilip Ghosh re-elected as Bengal BJP chief

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Under a leader like Dilip Da who is famous for his no-nonsense words. He always speaks the truth and talks like a brave person. This is the reason why the people of Bengal feel that it is only the BJP which can deliver them freedom from the hands of the Trinamool Congress. And we hope we will do that next year only," State BJP leader Raju Banerjee said.

Ghosh on Thursday said "There are a few people who criticize me for my comments. But they must listen to the clear words. Earlier, they (opposition) used to speak and we listened, now they will speak and they will listen".

Another tough-talking leader said, "Bengal Assembly polls will be the most crucial polls for us and with just a year left for it, the party top leadership felt that they need a leader like Dilip Ghosh to lead the state unit."

# FRESH OFFENSIVE AGAINST CAA-FISCAL CRISIS Prakash Ambedkar Aghadi calls 'Maha bandh' on Jan 24

PTI ■ RAJAHMUNDRAM ■ MUMBAI

The Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) on Thursday stepped up its offensive against the Narendra Modi Government over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register for Citizens (NRC) and current economic crisis, by calling a 'Maharashtra bandh' on Thursday.

A month it organised a massive rally of dalits in Mumbai, the VBA prepared itself for one more show down with the BJP-led NDA government. "We are not able to raise adequate revenues because of a faulty GST, demonetisation and an atmosphere of mistrust. The country is heading towards bankrupt-

Aghadi president Prakash Ambedkar said: "As many 35 organisations are supporting our Maharashtra bandh on January 24. We have called the bandh among other things to condemn CAA, NRC and the oppressive ways of the Modi government."

"There is a lot of anger against CAA and NRC among the people in the country. The Government is trying to implement the CAA and other laws through intimidation. On the other hand, the Government has lost control over economy. The Government is not able to raise adequate revenues because of a faulty GST, demonetisation and an atmosphere of mistrust. The country is heading towards bankrupt-

"We are holding the Modi government totally responsible for the situation in the country. We have called this bandh to condemn the Modi Government for its mis-governance. We request all political parties and organisations to join the bandh on January 24," the VBA chief said.

It may be recalled that the VBA had on December 26 organised a massive rally of his Dalits and Adivasis at Dadar in north-central Mumbai to oppose CAA and NRC.

At that rally, Ambedkar had charged that the RSS and BJP-led government had hatched a "conspiracy" to create unrest in the country through CAA and NRC.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION DODA  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
e-NIT No. ENIT/ST/DODA/02 of 2020 dated 11-01-2020  
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Superintending Engineer O & M Circle Kishtwar invites e-Tenders. (In Two Cover System) from reputed A-class electrical contractors / registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Department of Civil Engineering, Jammu and Kashmir. Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of two Nos 33 kv bus bar arrangement at 33111 kv R S Mandali and Dadeth in Kishtwar and Replacement of old 33 kv C and R Panel and 33 kv VCB at 2x10 MW R S Mandali Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir under Jansanghar scheme 2019. S.No. 1, Description of Work :- Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 1, 33 kv Bus bar arrangement at 33111 kv R S Mandali and Dadeth, Kishtwar and 2, Replacement of old 33 kv C and R Panel and 33 kv VCB 2x10 MVA at R S Mandali Kishtwar. Name of the Office :- Superintending Engineer, O & M, Circle Kishtwar Estimated cost (In Rs.) :- 46,50,000.00 Earnest Money (In Rs.) :- 93,000.00 Cost of document (In Rs.) :- 4000.00 Last date of submission of e-bid :- 24.01.2020 upto 4:00 PM. 1. Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document and Scope of the work carefully. Submission of e-bid against the SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedure, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder. 2. The tender document is available on website http://tenders.gov.in. interested bidders may view or download the B document, seek clarification and submit their e-bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below. A. Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document :- The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://tenders.gov.in from 13.01.2020 from 10:00 AM to 15.01.2020 upto 04:00 PM. C. Sale of Bid Document (Ends) :- 23.01.2020 upto 10:00 PM. No. D/14-1322/19 Dated :- 15-01-2020 Sd/- (Er. Jarnail Singh) Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division, Doda

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS					
Sl. No.	Executive No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work & Location	Approx. Cost of work	EMD
1	DEEN (East) BCT	BCT/19-202346 dated: 15.01.2020	Mumbai Division : Need based clerical/technical/ Miscellaneous assistance on day to day basis by outsourcing for 06 months in ADEN-Offices of Engineering department.	₹40,54,348/-	₹1,100/-
2	DEEN (Central) BCT	BCT/19-202947 dated: 15.01.2020	Mumbai Division : Interlocking of 2 LC gates LC No. 14 & 23 in Udhna Jalgason-section)	₹72,75,249.13	₹1,45,500/-
3	DEEN (East) BCT	BCT/19-202348 dated: 15.01.2020	Udhna-Jalgason section : Supply of 50 mm size Manufactured stone ballast as per specification and loading into hopperwagons at Bandana depot. (Qty: 122552Cu.m)	₹5,94,46,727.50	₹6,47,200/-

Date & Time of submission: on 12.02.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 12.02.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of contents of tender document (Non-Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit [www.tenders.gov.in](http://tenders.gov.in) Manual offer will not be considered.

Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRailway) Follow us on [twitter.com/WesternRailway](https://twitter.com/WesternRailway)

# No SC relief for telcos on ₹1.47L cr dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday dismissed reviews of top telecom firms including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea seeking review of its earlier order asking them to pay ₹1.47 lakh crore in past statutory dues by January 23 saying it did not find any 'justifiable reason' to entertain them.

The apex court had on October 24 ruled that the statutory dues need to be calculated by including non-telecom revenues in which the adjusted gross revenues (AGR) of telcos.



Justices Arun Mishra, SA Nazeer and MR Shah during hearing did not find merit in the review plea and dismissed it.

The telecom companies had sought an open court hearing on their review petition but the Supreme Court decided to stick to its convention of doing

an in-chamber hearing. "Applications for hearing in open court/hearing are rejected. The Review Petitions and the connected papers with meticulous care, we do not find any justifiable reason to entertain the review petitions. The Review Petitions are, accordingly, dismissed," the bench said.

The apex court had on October 24 last year upheld the AGR definition formulated by the DoT and termed as "frivolous" the nature of objections raised by telecom service providers.

Bharti Airtel, in its plea, had sought review of the direc-

tions on aspects of levy of interest, penalty and interest on penalty relating to AGR.

Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had told Parliament in November that Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and other telecom companies owe the Government as much as ₹1.47 lakh crore in past statutory dues.

He had added that there is no proposal at present to waive interest and penalties on such dues.

In replies to separate questions in the Lok Sabha, Prasad had said telecom companies owe the government ₹92,642 crore in unpaid licence fee, and another ₹55,054 crore in out-

standing spectrum usage charges.

In an affidavit filed earlier in the top court, the DoT said Airtel owed ₹21,682.13 crore as licence fee to the government and dues from Vodafone totalled ₹19,823.71 crore, while Reliance Communications owed ₹16,456.47 crore. BSNL owed ₹2,098.72 crore, and MTNL ₹2,537.48 crore.

Holding that interest and penalty have rightly been levied on the telecom companies, the apex court had made it clear that there would be no further litigation on this issue and it would fix a time-frame for calculation and payment of dues by the telecom companies.

## Survival of internet firms under threat, duopoly not good for market: ISPAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Internet service providers on Thursday exhorted the government to step in immediately to review the definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) for the survival of the telecom sector as the Supreme Court dismissed a plea by telcos seeking review of its ₹1.47 lakh crore.

"It is going to be a disaster for the telecom industry. Dismissal of review petition will lead to duopoly situation which is not good for consumers. Small ISPs will not be able to survive unless government steps in to review AGR definition," Internet Service Providers Association of India President Rajesh Chharia told PTI.

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the plea of telecom majors, including

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, seeking review of certain directions of the apex court on recovery of past dues amounting to ₹1.47 lakh crore from telecom service providers.

The recovery of past dues by the government was based on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of about ₹2,000 crore.

The apex court on October 24 last year upheld the AGR definition formulated by the DoT and termed as "frivolous" the nature of objections raised by telecom service providers.

A Bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, SA Nazeer and MR Shah did not find merit in the review plea.

Vodafone Idea Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has already announced that the company will shut its business in India if it does not get any

## PMC BANK SCAM: SC stays HC order allowing shifting of HDIL promoters from jail to their residence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday stayed the Bombay High Court order allowing shifting of HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan, accused in the multi-crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) scam, from Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail to their residence.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde took note of the submissions of solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, that he was assailing the high court order to the extent of allowing the release of two promoters from the prison and the order to be stayed.

"Until further orders, there shall be a stay of the directions given by the (Bombay) High Court in paragraph 15 (xv) and (xvi) (which deals with release of accused from prison) of the impugned order dated January 15, 2020," said the Bench, which also comprised Justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

The law officer said the

other aspects of the high court order such as sale of assets of the accused promoters under the supervision of high court appointed committee should be allowed to remain operative and the sole objection was with regard to their release from Arthur Road Jail.

The top court agreed with the submissions of the ED and also issued notice to the respondents of the case and sought their replies within four weeks.

Issue notice returnable in four weeks. Dasti, in addition, is permitted. Let the copy of this order be communicated to the respondents by e-mail through the Registry of this court, the top court said in its order. Earlier during the day and night, the court had agreed to consider the plea of enforcement agencies against the high court order to release them from jail and keeping them in their residence under the constant watch of prison guards.

The bench that the PMC Bank scam involved ₹7,000 crore and the high court had on Wednesday passed a very

"unusual order" while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL).

Mehta told the bench that the father-son are presently lodged in Arthur Road Jail in judicial custody and if they are shifted to their residence as per the high court order, it would be like a bail to them.

The high court had on Wednesday set up a three-member committee for valuating and sale of encumbered assets of Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) to expeditiously recover dues payable by the firm to PMC Bank.

It had directed the superintendent of Arthur Road Jail to shift both the accused to their residence under the supervision of prison guards to ensure their cooperation to the committee.

The high court had passed the order while hearing a PIL seeking direction for expeditious disposal of HDIL assets and properties. The firm, under Economic Offence Wing and the Enforcement Directorate and repaying PMC Bank depositors at the earliest.

## ED summons Air Asia CEO Fernandes, other executives in PMLA case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned senior executives of Air Asia, including its CEO Tony Fernandes, next week for questioning in a money laundering case, officials said on Thursday.

The agency had registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against the airline and its officials in 2018.

The officials said while Fernandes has been summoned here on January 20, a few others from the airline's current and past management have also been asked to depose before it for questioning in the following days.

The executives have also been asked to bring along with them certain case-related documents when they appear before the ED so that the probe into the case can be taken forward, they said.

**The Executive Engineer, Capital Complex Division, PWD(R&B), Agartala, West Tripura invites e-tender against press No. 21/EE/CDD/PWD/2019-20 Dated: 14-01-2020.**

For Proposed Construction of MLA Hostel at Capital Complex, Agartala, West Tripura/SH: Construction of internal road, retaining wall, boundary wall, entrance gate, frisking unit, Security box alongwith allied works at MLA hostel premises under Capital Complex Division during the year 2019-20.

With Estimated cost: ₹4,05,45,869.00, Earnest Money: ₹4,05,459.00 Time of Completion - 6 (six) months. Last Date of bidding for bids: 14-02-2020 upto 15:00Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

**Note:**

**\*NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER\***

Sd/

(Er.P.S.Datta Mukherji)

Executive Engineer

Capital Complex Division, PWD(R&B)

Agartala, West Tripura

ICA/C-2229/2019-20

**SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**

Regd. Office: 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049

CIN-L24302DL1973PLC189662

Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com / Website: [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com)

Tel: +91-11-49435555/00, Fax: +91-11-43850087

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given in pursuance to the Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 and other applicable regulation of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at New Delhi, inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Un-Audited Financial Results for the 3rd quarter/nine months ended on December 31, 2019 of the financial year 2019-20

Further, the Trading Window, under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 as already intimated to stock exchange via our letter dated 01.01.2020, shall remain close from January 01, 2020 till January 29, 2019 (both days inclusive).

The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com) and also available on the website of BSE Ltd [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)

For Sunil Healthcare Limited Santosh Kumar Sharma

Place: New Delhi Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Date: January 16, 2020 F-6817

## Amazon not doing favour to India by investing a billion dollars: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the world's richest person Jeff Bezos announced fresh \$1 billion investment in India, Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said his firm Amazon was not doing a favour to the country by the investments and questioned how the online retailing major could incur such "big losses" but for its predatory pricing.

Goyal, who has not yet given Bezos an audience, said e-commerce companies have to follow Indian rules in letter and spirit and not find loopholes to make a backdoor entry into multi-brand retail segment.

India does not allow foreign investment beyond 49 per cent in multi-brand retailing and has not yet approved any application of overseas retailers. "The Amazon may have paid in a billion dollars but if

they make a loss of a billion dollars every year, then jolly well will have to finance that billion dollar. So, it is not as if they are doing a favour to India when they invest a billion dollars," he said at the Raisina Dialogue here.

The USD 1 billion investment by Amazon.Com to help bring small and medium businesses online is on the top of \$5.5 billion funding it had previously announced.

The minister wondered why an e-commerce market place model, where a firm provides an IT platform for buyers and sellers, incurring huge losses adding that it needs to be looked upon.

"They are investing money over the last few years also in warehousing and certain other activities, which is welcome and good. But if they are bringing in money largely to finance losses and those losses in an e-commerce market place model," Goyal said.

## Phase-1 trade deal with US 'addressed' mutual concerns, 'good' for both sides: China

PTI ■ BEIJING/WASHINGTON

China on Thursday said the phase-1 trade deal with the US "considerably addressed" mutual concerns and is "good" for both the countries, as the world's two largest economies move forward to end their bitter two-year tariff war that has ruptured supply chains, rattled markets and contributed to a global slowdown.

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump and Chinese Vice Premier and top trade negotiator Liu He signed the phase-1 of the trade deal at a special ceremony at the White House, raising hopes of a new era of trade ties between the two nations hit by the tit-for-tat tariff strikes of nearly half-a-trillion dollars worth of products.

Trump, however, refused to roll back the massive tariff imposed on import of Chinese goods, mostly technology products, which he said the tariffs only if the second

phase of the trade deal is signed.

The trade deal, considered as major political and diplomatic victory for President Trump, came on a day when the House voted to sent his impeachment trial to the Senate.

Trump, who has used tariff as a leverage in trade talks with major economic powers of the world, mainly China, asserted that he will continue with his policies on tariffs. He also said that there will be no phase 3.

Briefing the Chinese media after signing the deal, Liu said the phase-1 trade agreement has "considerably addressed the concerns" of both sides.

The deal has both economic and political significance with bearing on world peace and prosperity, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Liu as saying.

The deal has injected positive energy into the stability and development of the world economy, he said.

## BUSINESS CORNER

### SAIL LAUNCHES STORY WRITING COMPETITION

New Delhi: The nation's largest steel producing Public Sector Company Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has launched a story writing competition on the theme of "SAIL creates a meaningful difference in people's lives". As a part of better people engagement initiative, SAIL is organising this country wide competition to motivate people to pen down stories on SAIL's contribution on making a meaningful difference in a person's or generation's or community's lives. To invite participations, SAIL has issued a notice in its website [www.sail.co.in](http://www.sail.co.in) and is also promoting through social media.

### AP MAHESHWARI, IPS, ASSUMED CHARGE AS DG CRPF

New Delhi: AP Maheshwari has Thursday assumed charge of the Director General of CRPF — the lead force for maintenance of internal security of the country. Prior to his charge assumption as DG CRPF, Maheshwari was posted as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs. An IPS officer of 1984 batch, IIP cadre, Maheshwari has a wide ranging experience in senior positions in sister police forces. He has served as DG, Bureau of Police Research and Development and also as Spl. DG (Operations) in the Border Security Force, besides serving as IG (Operations) and IG (Srinagar Sector) in CRPF itself. "It is home coming for me" — quipped Maheshwari to the inquisitive officers while interacting with them at the Directorate. "Holding such a giant force as CRPF is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for me. It's quite an opportunity to serve the country, its people and of course, the members of the Force itself." — said Maheshwari.



### CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF VISITS NCC R DAY CAMP

New Delhi: General MM Vasanth Kumar, SM, VSM, ADC, Chief of Army Staff, visited the NCC Republic Day Camp 2020, at Delhi Cantt on 16 Jan 2020. On arrival, he was received by the DG NCC, Lieutenant General Rajeev Chopra, AVSIR. The versatile NCC cadets presented a spectacular Cultural Program in the NCC auditorium, which included group dances and ballet, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of our Nation. Speaking on the occasion The Chief of Army Staff said that NCC is a premier youth organization, which is single-mindedly engaged in grooming the youth & empowering them to don the mantle of country's leadership, as well as excel in all walks of life. He appreciated the contribution of NCC Cadets towards Nation Building and their indomitable spirit and support during calamities. He also appreciated the efforts in pursuit of social activities. The COAS urged the cadets, to put their heart and mind in everything they undertake and become role model for the youth of our nation.



### DRIVE SMART DRIVE SAFE ORGANISES CAMPAIGN

New Delhi: To Arrest Alarming Road Deaths on Indian Roads, during The Road Safety Week 2020, as announced by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the Nationalwide Citizen's Campaign being organised by NGO Drive Smart Drive Safe had its campaign proceeding with mass pledge of Code of Conduct at Delhi Aerocity at GMR Square on 14th January, where more than 2000 people joined and observed a minute silence in the memory of Road Victims, participated in short walkathon and made Safety Human Chain. NGO, Drive Smart Drive Safe alongwith SIAM & many other like minded organisations has launched the campaign titled #IndiaAgainstRoadCrash #AR2020 during the 31st National Road safety week. The campaign started on 11th January 2020, as part of the Road Safety Week announced by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways from AttarWapah Border where around fifty thousand people took the safety pledge in one go which itself is a record. Never ever has such large number of people have taken a safety pledge collectively. Lacs of people are expected to join the campaign from all over the country in more than 70 Locations.



## India, Bangladesh hold discussions on joint study for proposed free trade pact

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Thursday held discussions on a joint study for the proposed free trade agreement and harmonisation of standards with a view to boost two-way commerce, the government said on Thursday.

The CEPA is a free trade agreement under which two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate imports duties on maximum number of goods traded between them. They also liberalise norms to promote trade in services sector and boost investments.

Forum, sharing of trade data, regional connectivity initiatives, harmonization of standards, upgrading of border trading infrastructure and facilitation of business visas," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

The CEPA is a free trade agreement under which two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate imports duties on maximum number of goods traded between them. They also liberalise norms to promote trade in services sector and boost investments.

## Minister: India not contemplating any import curbs for Malaysia, Turkey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is not contemplating any curbs on imports from Malaysia and Turkey, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

He said that India believes in fair play and equal treatment to all the countries.

"I don't think we have put any curbs on imports from Malaysia, and neither we have put any curbs on Turkey," he said here at the Raisina Dialogue. The Minister said that any import curbs being imposed by India is only to protect interest of the country and it is uniform in nature.

"If some of the restrictions impact Malaysia, I don't think that is the only country that is being impacted. There are other exporters to India who would have the same impact," he added.

## Banks loan growth at 7.5% in fortnight to Jan 2: RBI data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Banks credit grew by 7.5 per cent to ₹100.44 lakh crore while deposits rose by 9.77 per cent to ₹132.10 lakh crore in the fortnight to January 2, according to the Reserve Bank data. In the year-to-date period, banks loans stood at ₹93.37 lakh crore while deposits at ₹120.33 lakh crore.

In the previous fortnight ended December 20, credit had grown by 7.10 per cent to ₹99.47 lakh crore and deposits had increased by 10.09 per cent to ₹130.08 lakh crore.

On a year-on-year basis, banks' credit growth slowed to 7.2 per cent to ₹86.73 lakh crore in November 2019 from 13.8 per cent to ₹80.93 lakh crore in the year ago period.

For the industry, loan growth fell to 2.4 per cent at ₹27.72 lakh crore in November



from 4 per cent in the corresponding month of 2018.

During the month, credit to agriculture and allied activities slowed to 6.5 per cent from 7.7 per cent last year.

Advances to the services sector decelerated sharply to 4.8 per cent from 28.1 per cent last year. Personal loans grew at a marginally lower rate of 16.4 per cent in November 2019 as compared with 17.2 per cent, according to the RBI data.

Rating agency Icria in its recent report had said credit expansion may plummet to a six decade low of 6.5-7 per cent in 2019-20 compared to 13.3 per cent in the previous financial year.

## Mega job mela in Kandhamal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 7,000 rural youth were placed in 71 companies at the two-day Mega Job Mela in Kandhamal Parliamentary Constituency organised at the initiative of Achyuta Samanta, Kandhamal Lok Sabha MP in cooperation with the district administration.

The Mega Job Mela was a resounding success with rural youth, mostly having under matric qualifications, getting jobs with salary ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 in well established companies. The companies will provide other facilities, in addition to salary. Over 14,000 youths from Kandhamal parliamentary constituency participated in the job mela, while 12,000 youths registered their name for placement.

On 9th January 2020, the mega job mela was conducted at Phulbani, the district headquarters of Kandhamal. More than 12,000 youth from Phulbani, Kotgarh,



Tumudibandh, Baliguda, K. Nugaon, Daringbadi, Raikia, Khandagiri, Tikabali, Chakapada, Phiringia, Khajuripada block and Phulbani Municipality area of Kandhamal district, Gania, Daspala and Nugaon block of Nayagarh district, Bhanjanagar and Jagannath Prasad of Ganjam district attended the job mela and out of them 10,000 registered their name for placement. As many as 6,300 youth were selected for placement. Out of them, 5,000 youth were selected on the spot and 1300 were selected for placement after completing training.

On 10th January 2020, the

mega job mela was organized at Boudh where 2,000 youth from Kantaman and Boudh Block registered their name for placement. Total 21 companies participated, selecting 700 youth.

Samanta has been trying his best for last 6 months to bring more companies to the mega job mela to ensure maximum placement. Steps were taken to aware more and more youth of Kandhamal parliamentary constituency to participate in the mega job mela and proper training was given for placement before the job mela. District administration and staff of the MP tried their very best for this.

Trump impeachment: US House sends historic case to Senate



The Senate side of the Capitol is seen in Washington early on Thursday

Washington: The US House of Representatives passed a resolution and submitted the articles of impeachment against Donald Trump to the Senate for a historic trial to remove him from office, a move described by the unfazed President as "another con job" by the Opposition Democrats.

The House, controlled by the Democratic Party on Wednesday voted to send articles of impeachment against President Trump to the Senate, in a major development to remove him from office for his alleged abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

In a 228-193 vote, which was mainly on party lines, the House appointed seven impeachment managers who will argue the Democrats' case for removing Trump from the office of the US President. The managers were named by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"We are here today to cross a very important threshold in American history," Pelosi said, addressing the House before the vote.

"This is what an impeachment is about," she said earlier, announcing the seven-member prosecution team led by Congressman Adam Schiff, chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

"So sad, so tragic for our country, that the actions taken by the president to undermine our national security, to violate his oath of office and to jeopardize the security of our

White House 'violated law' on Ukraine aid: Watchdog

Washington: The White House budget office "violated the law" by freezing military aid to put political pressure on Ukraine, a US congressional watchdog announced on Thursday as Trump's impeachment trial looms.

The damning report said the non-partisan Government Accountability Office says it "issued a legal decision concluding that the Office of Management and Budget violated the law when it withheld approximately \$2.4 million in aid to Ukraine."

Mikhail Mishustin, the chief of Russia's tax service, met with lawmakers from various factions in the State Duma ahead of the confirmation vote in the Kremlin-controlled lower house.

Mishustin vowed to focus on social issues and improve living standards. "We have all the necessary resources to fulfill the goals set by the president," he said.

"The president wants the Cabinet to spearhead economic growth and help create new jobs. Raising real incomes is a priority for the government."

Mishustin would succeed Dmitry Medvedev, a Putin associate who was Russia's prime minister for eight years. Medvedev resigned hours after

elections, has taken us to this place," Pelosi remarked, before using several ceremonial pens to sign the articles.

While Pelosi's press conference was in progress, Trump weighed in on Twitter: "Here we go again, another Con Job by the Do Nothing Democrats."

All of this work was supposed to be done by the House, not the Senate! The 435-member House, where Democrats enjoy a majority, on December 18 charged Trump with "high crimes and misdemeanors" and impeached him for pres-

uring Ukraine to investigate former US Vice President Joe Biden, a potential Democratic rival for the current president in the 2020 elections.

The Senate, controlled by Trump's Republican Party, will decide whether to con-

duct and remove him from office.

TRUMP 'KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING ON' IN UKRAINE: GIULIANI ASSOCIATE

Washington: US President Donald Trump "knew exactly what was going on" with an alleged campaign to pressure Ukrainian officials to investigate political rival Joe Biden, an indicted member in his inner circle told US media.

Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, told MSNBC on Wednesday that "President Trump knew exactly what was

going on."

Giuliani was aware of all my movements. I wouldn't do anything without the consent of Rudy Giuliani or the president."

On Tuesday, Democrats released newly acquired files that show Giuliani working with Parnas early last year to pressure Kiev to investigate Biden.

Chief executive Carrie Lam, a pro-Beijing appointee, made the comments during a fiery session in the city's legislature where she was frequently interrupted by opposition lawmakers -- many of whom were ejected.

Hong Kong has been battered by seven months of pro-democracy protests, which Lam and Beijing have taken a hard line against.

The protests are fuelled by fears that the city is losing freedom under an increasingly authoritarian Beijing. Under a "one country, two system" deal agreed between the city and the mainland, authoritarian China has allowed Hong Kong to keep key liberties and its cap-

Iran's president says 'no limit' to nuclear enrichment

Tehran: Iran's president said on Thursday that there is "no limit" to the country's enrichment of uranium following its decision to abandon its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal in response to the killing of its top general in a US airstrike.

In a speech before the heads of banks, Rouhani said the nuclear program is in a "better situation" than it was before the nuclear agreement with world powers.

President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear agreement in May 2018, in part because it did not address Iran's support for armed groups across the region and its ballistic missile program. The US has since imposed "maximum" sanctions on Iran's economy.

Iran continued to abide by the agreement until last summer, when it began openly breaching some of its limits, saying it would not be bound by the deal

Putin cements power as Russian Duma votes for new PM

Moscow: Russian lawmakers are set to quickly approve the appointment of a new prime minister Thursday, a day after President Vladimir Putin kicked off an unexpected reshuffle of his inner circle that could keep him in power well past the end of his term in 2024.

Mikhail Mishustin, the chief of Russia's tax service, met with lawmakers from various factions in the State Duma ahead of the confirmation vote in the Kremlin-controlled lower house.

Mishustin vowed to focus on social issues and improve living standards. "We have all the necessary resources to fulfill the goals set by the president," he said.

"The president wants the Cabinet to spearhead economic growth and help create new jobs. Raising real incomes is a priority for the government."

HK leader says city could keep freedoms if it 'stays loyal'

Hong Kong: Hong Kong may be allowed to keep its unique freedoms beyond their 2047 expiry date, its leader said on Thursday, but only if inhabitants remain loyal to Beijing's vision of how the city should be run.

Chief executive Carrie Lam, a pro-Beijing appointee, made the comments during a fiery session in the city's legislature where she was frequently interrupted by opposition lawmakers -- many of whom were ejected.

Hong Kong has been battered by seven months of pro-democracy protests, which Lam and Beijing have taken a hard line against.

The protests are fuelled by fears that the city is losing freedom under an increasingly authoritarian Beijing. Under a "one country, two system" deal agreed between the city and the mainland, authoritarian China has allowed Hong Kong to keep key liberties and its cap-

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI COMPANY PETITION NO. CA (AA)-147/NID/2019 OF 2019 CONNECTED WITH IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF DEMERGER BETWEEN MEZBAAN HOTELS PRIVATE LIMITED, A Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at S-137 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017

CS Kumar Aranki Practising Company Secretary Phone No: +91-9898909449 Email: kumaranki@hotmail.com R2B-27, 2nd Floor, Street No.5, Gurudwara Road, Mathura Enclave, New Delhi 110045

NOTICE Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Combined of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 for (i) Tying up of Transmission tariff for 2019-20 tariff block and (ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-20 tariff block for system associated with Enhancement of Transmission Capacity of Some ICT Schemes in Northern Region consisting of Section 01: Asset: 1: 315 MVA, 400/220 KV ICT at Mandola (CO: 1.10.2010) under separate ICT scheme in Northern Region and Asset: 1: 315 MVA 400/220 KV ICT at Ludhiana (CO: 1.12.2011) under separate ICT scheme in Northern Region. Section 02: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 01.09.2012). Asset: 400/220 KV 500 MVA ICT at Manesar SIS along with associated bays (DOCO 01.08.2013). Asset: 1: 125 MVA R/S Raxa at Manesar (DOCO 01.10.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 03: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 04: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 05: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 06: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 07: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 08: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 09: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 10: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 11: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 12: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 13: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 14: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 15: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 16: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 17: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 18: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 19: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 20: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 21: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 22: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 23: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 24: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 25: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 26: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 27: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 28: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 29: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 30: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 31: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 32: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 33: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 34: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 35: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 36: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 37: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 38: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 39: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 40: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 41: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 42: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 43: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 44: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 45: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 46: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 47: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 48: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 49: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 50: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 51: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 52: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 53: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 54: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 55: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 56: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 57: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 58: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 59: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 60: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 61: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 62: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 63: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 64: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 65: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 66: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 67: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 68: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 69: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 70: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 71: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 72: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 73: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 74: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 75: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 76: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 77: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 78: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 79: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 80: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 81: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 82: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 83: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 11.02.2012) and Asset: IV: 220 KV Line (Bays at Fakhraabad-Substation (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under "Transmission system associated with NRSS-2017 in Northern Region. Section 84: Combined Asset consisting of Asset: 400 KV D/C (2x2) Gurugram - Manesar

Rashford limps off injured in United's 1-0 win

# DEVILS CATCH PACK OF WOLVES

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admitted his decision to risk Marcus Rashford as a second half substitute "backfired" despite seeing his side progress to the fourth round of the FA Cup with a 1-0 win over Wolves on Wednesday.

Rashford lasted less than 15 minutes on the field due to a back injury and is now a doubt for the trip to runaway leaders Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday.

The brief cameo from United's top goalscorer coincided with the only goal of the game as Juan Mata's clinical finish ensured United will travel to either Watford or Tranmere on January 26th.

"That backfired, but you've got to go for them," Solskjaer told BT Sport.

"He's got a knock and couldn't run. Let's test him for Sunday and see how he goes.

"He's had a few knocks with his back lately and he got another one." Wolves put United out of the FA Cup last season and were unbeaten in five previous meetings between the sides since returning to the top flight in 2018.

"We are delighted to finally beat Wolves," added Solskjaer. "We have had a few goes."

Nuno Espirito Santo signalled his intent by making just one change from his side's Premier League clash with Newcastle at the weekend as John Ruddy replaced Rui Patrício in goal and Wolves looked like-



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Raul Jimenez is tackled by Manchester United's Harry Maguire, right, during the English FA Cup third round replay soccer match

ly to inflict more pain on the Red Devils in the first half.

Pedro Neto's strike was ruled out after a VAR review for handball against Raul Jimenez before Matt Doherty hit the post for the visitors.

"It's a frustration knowing we performed well, but we did not go to the next round," said Nuno.

At the other end, Ruddy made a fine save to deny Daniel James before the Welsh international then fired just wide of the far post early in the second half.

**RASHFORD LASTED LESS THAN 15 MINUTES ON THE FIELD DUE TO A BACK INJURY AND IS NOW A DOUBT FOR THE TRIP TO RUNAWAY LEADERS LIVERPOOL IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE ON SUNDAY**

Rashford had come off on Saturday after scoring twice in a 4-0 thrashing of Norwich, with Solskjaer admitting the England international is carrying "quite a few knocks."

The Norwegian still ran the risk of introducing his star striker 25 minutes from time and within three minutes United led.

A rare moment of defensive disorganisation from Wolves allowed Anthony Martial to play Mata through on goal and the Spaniard coolly dinked the ball

over the advancing Ruddy.

Rashford then went down holding his back and was replaced by Jesse Lingard.

His absence could be a huge blow to United's fight for a top-four finish in the Premier League and in three cup competitions with Solskjaer's side also still in the League Cup and Europa League.

Cardiff set up a fourth-round visit to Reading by edging a seven-goal thriller against fourth-tier Carlisle United 4-3.

# HD QUALITY

Dybala, Higuain combine in Juventus 4-0 Coppa Italia win



AFP ■ MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo was too ill to play, while Zlatan Ibrahimovic spent the evening resting on the bench, but even without their biggest stars, Juventus and AC Milan cruised into the last eight of the Italian Cup on Wednesday.

Juventus beat visiting Udinese 4-0 in the late game, after Milan had dispatched SPAL 3-0.

In the first game of the evening, 10-man Fiorentina beat Atalanta 2-1.

Ronaldo was sidelined after suffering an attack of sinusitis in the afternoon, but he is not the only ace in the Juventus pack.

After 16 minutes, Paulo Dybala carved through Udinese with a series of quick one-twos, finishing with a couple of exchanges with centre forward Gonzalo Higuain.

"When his Argentine compatriot played a pass one little behind him, Dybala spun and floated the ball onto Higuain's chest and he strode forward and scored."

"That was a goal of rare beauty, to see three or four exchanges like that at high speed. It was worth the price of the ticket," said Juve coach Maurizio Sarri.

"I love to see goals like that with fast passing, but they can only work with players of great technical quality." Ten minutes after the opener, Udinese goalkeeper Nicolas tripped Federico Bernardeschi

and Dybala converted the penalty.

Dybala scored a in the 58th minute, clipping the ball over Nicolas from the right edge of the box. Two minutes later Douglas Costa converted Juve's second penalty after Bram Nuytink handled.

In Milan, Krzysztof Piatek, who is reportedly on the verge of a move to Tottenham Hotspur, outpaced the sluggish SPAL offside trap to give the home team the lead after 20 minutes.

Samuel Castillejo curled a precise left-foot shot inside the far post just before half time.

Fullback Theo Hernandez added a third in the 66th minute, surging upfield and smashing home a left-foot shot from just outside the penalty area.

In Tuscany, Spianard Pol Lirola collected Erik Pulgar's long pass before charging towards goal and slotting home his first Fiorentina goal six minutes from time, winning the tie for the hosts despite German Pizzella's sending off 14 minutes earlier.

Patrick Cutrone also scored his first goal for the club when he put Fiorentina ahead in the 11th minute of his first start since arriving on loan from Wolverhampton Wanderers last week.

The away side scored a deserved leveller when former Fiorentina man Ilicic turned in a superb Ruslan Malinovskyi cross.



Kylian Mbappe, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring goal

# Mbappe returns to haunt Monaco

AFP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe scored twice to take his season tally to 20 as the French World Cup winner shone in Paris Saint-Germain's 4-1 rout of his former club Monaco on Wednesday.

The victory kept PSG eight points clear at the top.

They also registered their 50th goal of the league campaign from 20 matches. Monaco came away from PSG with a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw in the capital last weekend but they posed no similar threat just three days later. Mbappe was on target in the 24th and 90th minutes with Neymar tucking away a penalty in first-half stoppage time.

Pablo Sarabia added another in the 73rd minute, just seconds after coming on as a substitute.

Ibrahima Bakayoko grabbed a late consolation goal for Monaco, beating the impressive Kaylor Navas in goal.

"In every area, we were better than Sunday," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel.

"It's a deserved victory, we had lots of possession." Tuchel fielded his 'Fab Four' attacking stars in Mbappe, Neymar, Mauro Icardi and Angel Di Maria.

It was a decision which paid dividends when Di Maria floated over a cross for Mbappe to score the opener.

Monaco goalkeeper Benjamin Lecomte denied Mbappe on two further occasions in the first half.

Neymar made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in injury-time after Kamil Glik had fouled Layvin Kurzawa.

Sarabia's goal was set-up by fellow substitute Marco Verratti

before Mbappe completed the rout of the club he had joined in 2015.

"With our four attackers, we can carry out our plan," added Tuchel.

"For Icardi, it wasn't a negative game. It's a good mix."

"Kylian and Neymar carry the ball a lot, Mauro is used to working with us, for the team, to open spaces."

"He hasn't scored in two matches, but he works. There are no doubts over him. He added: "The objective was to win the game, take the three points to improve our position."

"We have the best players but I also want to have the point in each match." For Monaco coach Robert Moreno, the defeat was a sobering experience coming after Sunday's encouraging draw in the French capital.

"I am very happy and proud of my team," said Moreno after his first home game in charge saw Monaco's six-match win streak at Stade Louis II end.

"It's a different result to Sunday but tonight we conceded three goals on the counter-attack and a penalty."

"At 3-1, we took risks but had we scored a second then the mental situation would have changed and the last few minutes would have been interesting."

Rennes are third in the table, five points behind Marseille and 13 off PSG after a 1-0 win over Nimes.

Adrien Hunou scored the winner in the 64th minute to ensure a sixth win in the last seven games.

Nimes are second bottom, three points behind Amiens who drew 1-1 at home to Reims.

# Sania in Hobart semis

PTI ■ HOBART

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza's comeback from maternity leave continued to be a success as she entered the women's doubles semifinals of the Hobart International with Ukrainian partner Nadia Kichenok here on Thursday.

Sania and Kichenok defeated the American duo of Vanja King and Christina McHale 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 in a contest that lasted one hour and 24 minutes.

The fifth-seeded Indo-Ukrainian combination will now lock horns with the Slovenian-Czech pair of Tamara Zidansek and Marie Bouzkova.

Zidansek and Bouzkova got the better of Canada's Sharon Fichman and Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko 6-3, 3-6, 10-4 in their last-eight stage clash.

Sania and Kichenok made a strong start and broke their opponents twice to take the lead. They also did well to save four break points in the opening set.

The second set went on serve till the eighth game

**Sania and Kichenok defeated the American duo of Vanja King and Christina McHale 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 in a contest that lasted one hour and 24 minutes. The fifth-seeded Indo-Ukrainian combination will now lock horns with the Slovenian-Czech pair of Tamara Zidansek and Marie Bouzkova**



Sania Mirza in a file picture

before King and McHale broke Sania and Kichenok to draw level in the contest.

However, the third set

was a stroll in the park for Sania and her partner as they dominated their opponents with superior serves.

The 33-year-old Sania is returning to WTA circuit after two years. During her two-year break, she battled injury breakdowns before taking a formal break in April 2018 to give birth to her son Izaan.

She is married to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik.

Before the ongoing event,

Sania last played in China Open in October 2017.

A trailblazer in Indian tennis, Sania is a former world No.1 in doubles and has six Grand Slam titles to her credit.

She retired from the singles competition in 2013 after becoming the most successful Indian woman tennis player. In 2007, she attained a career-high 27th position in the WTA singles chart.

# Shapovalov falls to French qualifier Humbert in Auckland

AFP ■ AUCKLAND

World number 13 Denis Shapovalov crashed out of the ATP Auckland

ly contested clash with Humbert winning 7-5 6-4, clinching the victory with the Canadian's sixth double fault.

"I'm really, really, happy. While Edmund had the better of the fourth serve for much of the match, Inser served his way out of trouble when it mattered and the Briton was unable to convert any of his nine break points.

Both sets went to a tiebreak before the American won 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) and expressed relief at making the final four.

Classic Thursday, beaten in straight sets by French qualifier Ugo Humbert.

There was only one break in each set of the even-

# One step away

Pranjesh enters final round, Nagal crashes out of Australian Open qualifiers

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India's top-ranked singles player Pranjesh Gunneswaran is one win away from sealing a place in the Australian Open main draw after progressing to the final round of the qualifiers but it was curtains for compatriot Sumit Nagal here on Thursday.

Pranjesh, ranked 122 in the world, had to battle it out for one hour and 22 minutes to get past Yannick Hanfmann of Germany 1-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Pranjesh, seeded 17th in the qualifiers, will take on Ernests Gulbis of Latvia in the final round.

Gulbis defeated Argentina's Federico Coria 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 in another second round qualifying match.

Pranjesh defeated local wild card Harry Bourchier 6-2, 6-4 in his opening round.

Earlier in the day, Nagal suffered a straight-set loss in the first round to crash out of the men's singles qualifiers.

Nagal, seeded 21st in the qualifiers, was shown the door by Mohamed Safwat of Egypt 7-6 (2) 6-2 after one hour and 28 minute contest.

Rankumar Ramanathan on Tuesday made an early exit along with lone Indian contender in women's singles qualifier, Aniketa Raina.

# Sindhu out of Indonesia Masters

PTI ■ JAKARTA

World champion shuttler P V Sindhu suffered a quarter-final defeat at the hands of Sayaka Takahashi of Japan in a closely-fought women's singles contest to bring curtains on the Indian challenge in the Indonesia Masters here on Thursday.

Sindhu frittered away a one-game lead to lose 21-16, 16-21, 19-21 in a thrilling quarter-final match that lasted one hour and six minutes.

World number six Sindhu had a 4-2 head-to-head record against the 14th ranked Japanese before Thursday's match.

Takahashi had defeated another top Indian, Saina Nehwal, in the second round.

With the defeat of Sindhu, India's campaign in the BWF Super 500 tournament came to an end.

World championships bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth, Kidambi Srikanth and Sourabh Verma crashed out of the tournament in the second round on Wednesday.

Indians thus continued their poor form after making



P.V. Sindhu in action

early exits in the Malaysia Masters last week. Sindhu and Saina had reached the quarter-finals in Kuala Lumpur but none of the men's singles players could cross the second round.

Sindhu began well, breaking away 11-6 in the first game. The Japanese later caught up with the Indian and took the score line to 11-12. But Sindhu was in no mood to allow her opponent to claw her way back and she was 16-15 up. She took the remaining five points with ease to take the first game.

# De Minaur out of Australian Open with abdominal tear

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Devastated Alex de Minaur with drew from the Australian Open Thursday with an abdominal tear, describing it as "really serious".

The world number 21 and Australia's top player pulled out of the Adelaide International with the same problem and has not been able to recover for his home Grand Slam.

"It's not great. Not

going to lie. Obviously it's a week of the calendar that I really look forward to and put in all the hard work for, so it's pretty devastating to miss out on my home Slam," he said.

"I wanted to go out there and play, even though I've got a four-centimetre grade two tear. So it's not a joke -- it's something really serious."

"Getting out of bed hurts, everyday activity hurts," he added.

De Minaur helped Australia to the semi-finals at the ATP Cup earlier this month, winning two of his four singles matches and pushing world number one Rafael Nadal hard in an engrossing three-setter.

Nicknamed 'Demon', the 20-year-old had a breakout year in 2019, winning titles at Zushi, Atlanta and Sydney, and moved ahead of Nick Kyrgios as Australia's top player.



Alex de Minaur in action

# vivacity

HRITHIK'S  
KNPH MARKS  
20 YEARS

-P14



## MAINTAINING HEALTHY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IS VITAL

The greatest gifts parents give children is nurturing and caring for them as they grow into adults. In doing so, parents teach children to establish healthy relationships within the family unit and beyond, helping children grow into happy, well-adjusted and successful adults, writes TEAM VIVA

Caregiving for a family member can be pleasing and challenging. It presents a unique set of circumstances that both the senior and the caregiver must learn to embrace. The senior who needs care often feels displaced, perhaps inadequate and even resentful that they need care. The family caregiver feels happiness in being able to help as well as sadness in watching a parent's health decline.

The greatest gifts parents give children is nurturing and caring for them as they grow into adults. In doing so, parents teach children to establish healthy relationships within the family unit and beyond, helping children grow into happy, well-adjusted and successful adults.

As life comes full circle, children often have the opportunity to return this gift by caring for their parents as they reach their senior years.

Family caregivers often feel taken for granted, unappreciated, exhausted with accompanying guilt for feeling that way.

Maintaining healthy family relationships is critical during this time. For the senior, having other

family members visit breaks the monotony of what might otherwise be a mundane day. Whether visits last a short period of time or perhaps an entire afternoon, time spent together can mean the world to a senior.

These occasions give the senior something to look forward to which helps increase the senior's sense of purpose and decreases feelings of isolation. Family members who live far away can also contribute by writing letters, sending pictures and by calling the senior often. These times offer the family member and senior a chance to strengthen their own relationship, love and respect for one another.

The dynamics of any family are sometimes complicated. Some family members may be negative or abrasive which can be more harmful than good for the senior and caregiver alike. In trying to build healthy relationships, plan short visits and events that these personalities may find fun and meaningful. Viewing old photographs or playing a simple game of cards might generate happy moods and good memories for all.

A strong family unit and sup-

port system is essential when caring for a senior loved one. The senior and family caregiver both benefit from these relationships.

However, family caregivers also need breaks in order to take care of other aspects of their own lives or simply a mental rest. Help from family members contributes to their wellbeing, too.

If family help is unavailable, the caregiver should seek outside help. In-home health care providers provide respite care for the family caregiver and supplementary social interaction with the senior.

These breaks from each other offer both the senior and family caregiver a chance to rejuvenate and appreciate the role each plays in the other's life. This facilitates a continued healthy relationship.

Establishing and maintaining good work relationships is the key to a positive workplace. Effective businesses encourage the development of positive relationships as well as amongst coworkers. All businesses can foster positive workplace relationships by creating a strong mission statement and an upbeat team-based environ-

**If family help is unavailable, the caregiver should seek outside help. In-home health care providers provide respite care for the family caregiver and supplementary social interaction with the senior**

ment.

Strengthen workplace relationships by setting clear expectations, practicing constant communication and offering timely responses to both positive workplace behaviour and employees' issues or concerns.

Long term relationships require care and work to maintain closeness. Common components found in successful relationships include: communication, respect, trust, sharing, individuality and self-care. In addition, it is helpful to approach the challenges and triumphs of life (and the relationship) as a team. Fighting fairly, supporting one another and not holding grudges all help with this goal.

Communication. Listen to your partner. Avoid blame and judgment. Do not make assumptions. Don't let your emotions dictate your behavior.

A sense of trust is present when each person feels safe to be open, honest and genuine. Respect helps build this through not judging or criticising the other's opinions, feelings and beliefs.

When tough times hit, try to remember you're on the same team. You either both win or both

lose. Support each other and work together. Relationships are not meant to be a tug of war against each other. In fact, you both should be on the same side pulling against the world.

Deal with problems as they arise. Conflict is a natural part of any relationship. Addressing differences one at a time helps avoid bad feelings spoiling a good relationship. Do not hold grudges; work through the matter and let it go.

Share responsibility and decision making. Healthy relationships are an equal partnership. This applies to the work involved as well as the power dynamics between the couple.

Judging your partner undermines a relationship. Address behavior without criticising the person. Know where your partner's vulnerable spots are and never use these during conflicts.

Take care of yourself. It is your responsibility to know what you want and determine how to achieve that. Make any requests of your partner clear and direct. It is not okay to blame someone for your failure to assert yourself.

Successful relationships take work. They don't happen in a vac-

uum. They occur when the couples in them take the risk of sharing what it is that's going on in their hearts and heads.

You can only change yourself, not your partner. If you love someone and think that after a while he or she will alter behaviors you find uncomfortable, think again. If you want changes, put them on the table, so your partner knows what you need. All arguments stem from our own fear or pain. When upset occurs, check out what's going on inside of you rather than get angry with your partner. Truth is that we usually aren't upset for the reasons we think we are.

Understand that men and women are very different. We're not from Mars or Venus; we're not even in the same solar system. Understanding and celebrating our differences will make living together more peaceful, interesting, and fun.

Honor each other in some way every day. Every morning you have the opportunity to make your relationship sweeter and deeper by recommitting to your mate.

Feeling respected and cherished by the one you love makes life much nicer.

## Trend Blazer

### Hrithik's KNPH marks 20 years

Bollywood superstar **HRITHIK ROSHAN** recently posted a few emotional lines on social media to mark the completion of 20 years of his debut film *Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai*.

Sharing a video clip of his two characters, Rohit and Raj from the film, which turned him into a superstar overnight, Hrithik wrote: "I think the two emotions which best describe my journey of the past 20 years since KNPH is simply 'Fear' and 'Fearless', both existing simultaneously and one is never devoid of the other. I feel terribly bad for fear. Cause it tries so hard. Fearless is a smart cookie, it only follows one rule. To keep going..."

Directed by his father Rakesh Roshan the film released on January 14, 2000.



**'A lot of people have achieved so much more than me. I have earned love of friends. I feel that I still have to do**

**a lot of work. I can do a lot of things. I can write much more poetry, lyrics and scripts. I can associate myself with causes in which I believe in. I can speak my mind at different panel discussions, so that I can bring in change in people's mindset.'**  
—Javed Akhtar

Actors **SARA ALI KHAN** and **KARTIK ARYAN** recently shared the first poster of their forthcoming film *Love Aaj Kal*.

Both of them shared the poster at Instagram. Introducing the two main characters — Zoe and Veer — director Imtiaz Ali wrote: "Meet Veer & Zoe, captured in their element. It's in these simple, candid moments that love plays peekaboo, right? #LoveAajKal." The poster shows two different timelines, 2020 and 1990.



### Ruffalo gains 30 pounds in few weeks

Actor **MARK RUFFALO** is playing twins in *I Know This Much Is True* for which he had to take five weeks off to gain 30 pounds.

He's playing identical twins who look completely different, because they've lived different lives for 40 years.

Thomas is schizophrenic and has been on years of medication, while Dominic is not. In order to play the two men, Ruffalo first shot for all his scenes as Dominic for 15 weeks and then he took a few weeks off and gained 30 pounds.

"We didn't want it to be like I run and throw a wig on and do the same scene in the same day, so we took six weeks off to really separate these two guys," Ruffalo said.



Kyala Gill had never so much as kyauch a sewing machine or picked up a crochet hook two weeks ago. Now, she's hooked on crafting for critters 10,000 miles (16,000 km) away, to the point of temporarily putting aside her floor refinishing business in Pittsburgh. "I do hard labour so I'm rough with my hands. Sewing, knitting — that's just completely out of my realm," she said and added, "But to go to work the next day knowing that there are animals and people suffering? I just pretty much wiped my schedule clean and put my projects on hold."

Hoping to help the wildlife harmed by the Australian wildfires, thousands of crafters worldwide are churning out swaddling wraps for bats, hanging enclosures for kangaroos, and cozy pouches for wallabies and other animals. But confusion abounds about whether the items actually are needed or will be used.

The Animal Rescue Craft Guild, based in Australia, and associated groups have told their

## Finding the right value

Thousands of crafters worldwide are creating goods in a bid to help the wildlife caught in the Australian fires. But will they be judiciously used?

members to pause work while they take stock of donated items. And some wildlife organisations say what they need most is money, not handmade goods, which can help pay for cages, medical supplies, specialised animal feed and other critical items, said Megan Davidson, CEO of Wildlife Victoria.

"While we have been overwhelmed by the kindness of people wanting to donate items for wildlife, physical donations of clothes, knitted items and food are very difficult for relief agencies to sort through, distribute and store — especially during peak periods like the current bushfire crisis," she said. "It is so lovely that people want to help. The most practical way to help right now is by a direct donation,"



The unprecedentedly fierce fires in southeast Australia have claimed the lives of at least 28 people since September, destroyed more than 2,600 homes, mostly in New South Wales state. The area burned is larger than the US state of

Indiana. Half of the money will go to front-line responder groups, with the other \$25 million funding an advisory panel to analyse affected areas and plan for long-term habitat restoration.

A donor, Anna Key gathered together a bunch of sewing, knitting and crochet patterns approved by wildlife rescue groups and posted them on social media, due to which multiple Facebook groups popped up to collect donations.

Key, who lives in Yamba in New South Wales, called the response to what she's dubbed the #globalcraftmovement overwhelming but said participants should not be discouraged. "Rescuing our animals is a marathon, not a sprint," she said.

In Lee, New Hampshire, 10-year-old Gibson Griffith organised an event at his church to sew dozens of bed liners for crates and cages. About 15 people donated fabric and more than a dozen showed up to help make the liners.

In Haverhill, Massachusetts,

Kimberly McCullough had cut fabric for about 50 pouches and was about to start sewing when the confusion erupted.

McCullough has reached out to local animal shelters to see if they could use the items. "It really opened my eyes to ways crafters can help other animal rescue organisations," she said. "So, it felt better to realise I cut all this stuff out and maybe it's not going to make it to the shelter, but it might just make it to the Boston Animal Rescue League."

Similarly, Gill has no regrets about her efforts, which included staying up until 2 am one night, getting to the fabric store before it opened the next morning, sewing more than 60 pouches with her partner and learning how to crochet bird nests. They've become online friends with a woman in Australia, who has invited them to stay with her next year. "It's uplifting for her, and it made her feel better to see the humans," she said. "It makes me cry. It really touches me." —AP



Next up, artist Pritham Mehta's medium of art is wood. This is an "unusual and rare" art form in India as the artist believes he hasn't come across anyone else doing it. It's followed in some Western countries. "Painting or colours have no role to play in pyrography since it's the fire flames which do the work here. They are used to create different pieces of art. There's a pen with a tungsten metal tip, which you can connect to a small machine and plug in to get the electric current. It then gets heated up, after which one can start creating artworks. There's also a small temperature control button on the machine," says the artist.

Through pyrography, Mehta creates different works of animals, birds and leaves. The artist also tries his hands on coffee table logs, wall hangings and sandbags. He says the biggest challenge is the fire flames which do the work that appeals him. "I have recently started making portraits of human beings too. We don't use any colour in this but just control the temperature and create images," he adds.

"Talking about the difficulties of such an art form, he tells us that the biggest challenge of painting with fire is 'guiding the flame' and trying to make it leave the kind of trace you want. He adds, "The second biggest challenge is preservation of the work. The soot is very fragile and sensitive to touch. I'm always holding my breath. It's a challenge to work with a piece because anything that touches the surface will leave a trace. So it really demands a lot from you, including both your patience and attention at the same time." Artist Sandeep Chhatrabadi, who is also a part of the exhibition, portrays the *ghats* of Varanasi through water colours and acrylics on canvas, which he sees as "unique, tranquil and full of energy." (The exhibition is on till January 24 at DLF Mall of India.)

Yellow and blue trams amid a viney green background, black and white trees and grey railway lines, a faded red abstract work, the meaning of which one fails to figure out in the first glance, *ghats* of Varanasi and visuals of nature and wildlife... these are some of the landscapes brought to life on various canvases.

The series, *Arth - Tribute to Shades of India*, clearly holds up our cultural mosaic at a time it is most under threat. The exhibition features many traditional and contemporary artists showcasing different artforms made through diverse media. Artist Arpan Bhowmik, who is known for his *Knochronos* Kolkata series, highlights a few aspects of the city he grew up in via *A Journey Through Kolkata*. "Through this, I want to tell people about the nostalgia I feel for Kolkata. Its yellow taxis, trams, hand rickshaws lend a special identity to the city. So my paintings usually have a black and white background, and these elements are coloured so that they remain the focal point," says he. He uses the African canvas for most

## AN ODE TO TRANQUILITY

Art exhibition, *Arth - Tribute to Shades of India*, features various traditional and contemporary artists whose works showcase the *ghats* of Varanasi, bring forth the nostalgia of Kolkata and the rare artform, pyrography. By SAKSHI SHARMA

of his works to use the water colour wash technique. His paintings have a water splash effect which makes the scenery look like a photograph of a city taken right after a rain shower. However, it is an acrylic which he has developed using the same technique in the past 20 years which lends it such a filter. He describes it as a "difficult artform but a serious medium" that lasts for over 100 years. Next in line is Chennai-based con-

temporally Indian artist, A Viswam. Usually based on hues of yellow, burning red, cool green, deep blue and quiet grey, Viswam's paintings are either monochromes or come out in vibrant combinations. He says, "I work on unidentified elements of time and space through different combination of colours. The use of monochrome and colour varies with what I want to display. For instance, if I want to depict a morning

scene, it has to be filled with colours, while for evening, I would use black and white." There's hardly any art exhibition in the South where the national award-winning artist hasn't been invited. But in North, he still has a long way to go to become a recognised name. *Arth* is also an attempt to make people aware about such artists and talent that is present across our country, adds he.

Many years ago, when I used to write extensively on mobile phones, I used to interact a lot with some European phone-makers, particularly the market leader from Finland. They used to pooh-pooh American mobile device makers. After all, European phones were more technologically loaded with million features and what not. Then, almost exactly 13 years ago, Steve Jobs got on stage and introduced the iPhone which changed everything as we know today. But I remember that in my previous organisation, I interviewed the chief executive of that Finnish phone-maker. And while this was before the iPhone came onto the market. After it was showcased, he quite clearly expected it to fall. After all, what about an American company know about making phones? Now, hindsight is always 20/20 that the chief executive was right that the devices that his company made were miles ahead of the first iPhone, technologically. But the iPhone had a completely intuitive touch interface, which became the game-changer and Americans loved it. It is only when you visit the United States, and in my case this yet another visit, that you realise how much larger the American market is. Its sheer size is massive. European phone-makers might have pooh-poohed Apple, but Apple broke the American market and iPhones started appearing on screens. It became the must-have device.

I am bringing this up because during my last trip to the US, I experienced the Tesla Model 3. And despite all the stories I had read about the production diffi-

## The land of tech

Make no mistake, the future of car technology will be driven by the United States. Tesla has made sure of that



culties that Tesla is having and the Twitter tirades of "wannabe" Bond villain and Tesla chief executive Elon Musk, it is only when you experience the Model 3, you realise that some European car-makers have a serious problem. I did not take a car from Tesla, instead I drove and was driven around in my brother-in-law's Model 3 in and around the Seattle Metropolitan Area in the Northwestern US. The excitement that he showed with his car made it obvious that he was a brand evangelist. But after driving around for a while, not just someone like me, who is plugged into the automotive industry, but anybody would understand why the Tesla Model 3 is such a game-changer.

The vehicle is the electric carmaker's "cheap" car, priced at around \$50,000-60,000 (₹36 lakh to ₹45 lakh) on the road. It is a lot more affordable than the Model X Sports Utility Vehicle and the Model S large sedan, both of which cost upwards of \$100,000 (₹75 lakh), and competes against



cars like the BMW 3-series, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and Audi A4 in terms of size, functionality and price. And when you get into a Tesla for the first time, you realise how basic it is inside. This is nowhere near the luxury and the button-heavy nature of the current BMW 3-series. There are a couple of rotary dials on the steering wheel, power window switches and painfully small buttons to open the door and that is it. Oh yeah, there is a giant touchscreen as well, and the most intuitive voice-activated controls on any

car. Sure, other cars have touchscreens as well but Tesla's system is the smoothest and best system I have ever used, and for this I have to praise their software and user experience engineers. The user inter-

face actually feels proper and the voice activation works. Believe me, try and use voice activation on some newly launched cars in India and you will get where I am coming from.

I drove (a bit) but the traffic in the United States is so well-behaved that I let the car drive. Tesla's "Autopilot" genuinely has to be experienced to be believed. I have used automated lane-tracking and radar-assisted cruise control systems on BMWs, Mercedes-Benz, Audis and Volvos in Europe and the Middle-east. Nothing comes close to Tesla's camera-controlled system, which actually "sees" cars in and around you using an array of cameras mounted all over the car including the B-pillar between the front and rear doors. No other commercially available car has a system where the car decides to change to the fastest lane. And acceleration was stunning, even in the single-motor model I drove (there is a four-wheel drive dual-motor model as well).

Yes, range is an issue. Even on the long-range version that I experienced, both, not just with my brother-in-law but also other friends in Seattle. The stated 300 miles (approximately 500 kilo-

meters) of range is a more "real" 180 miles (300 kilometers) on a single charge, much like the electric cars available in India today that claim around 300 kilometers of range but have a more realistic 200 kilometers. But users understand that if you use features such as the autopilot, you drain the battery sooner. However, in the tech-corridor of the United States between San Francisco and Seattle, where Tesla sales have skyrocketed in the past few months (these two cities are the largest markets for Tesla in the world), there are lots of public chargers and superchargers. The latter allow you to charge the car to 75-80 per cent in about 15-20 minutes. All the while, you can be watching your favourite show on Netflix. Sure, you can't do a cross-country drive on a Tesla just yet, but across the world most cars are used for daily commuting. And one will rarely use more than 50 percent of the battery in a single day.

I left Seattle mighty impressed with the Model 3, it might be too much for India and if import duties are not rationalised, it might never come to India, but it shows what the future of vehicles will be. The future will be driven by software and simplicity. While it might be too soon to determine whether battery-electric or hydrogen powered fuel-cells will drive the cars of the future in India, the future is already here in the United States. And more than the Model 3, I also left Seattle with a whole new impression of Elon Musk, he should stay off Twitter possibly, but as a visionary, I don't think anyone else comes close.



Salaam-e-Dilli brings the traditional flavours of Old Delhi to your candle-lit tables at Le Meridien, Gurugram, says SHAMBHAVI SURI

## DELHI-6 ON MY PLATE

Old Delhi has captured the imagination of food lovers for centuries. The best time to experience the wide variety of food that it has to offer is during the winters when the warmth of the sun, peeping from the winding lanes of Delhi-6, reaches you. It is only then one can enjoy a hot and authentic Indian meal, dripping with ghee.

Bringing this experience outside of Delhi-6, Le Meridien, Gurugram, has introduced its first pop-up restaurant, Salaam-e-Dilli. In an open area, its ambience of a lavish but limited seating looks warm and welcoming. The lanterns and candlesticks seem romantic and exclusive, as though making promises to the customers of a memorable evening. And to make the bitter cold weather a tad bit cosy and bearable, tall patio heaters are provided near each table. "The idea of going to Old Delhi during peak winters to enjoy the widespread Mughlai cuisine, so that the food doesn't make one sweat but warm, is what inspired us to have an outdoor restaurant," says chef Talat Mehmood Khan.

With the aroma of the tandoor in the air and the thought of kebabs on my mind, the first two plates arrive. The two kebabs — Chicken *goli* and *Gosht seekh* — are brought in a rustic-coloured plate with different oils laying around it and served with some finely-chopped onion and green coriander chutney. After my first bite of the chicken *goli*, I realise the *kebab* is packed with spices. Well, it would be fair to call the dish a paradise of flavours. Though sharpness of the green chilli is quite evident in the *kebab*, the richness of the *ghee* aptly balances the level of spiciness, leaving behind a subtle heat on the palate. If the spices are too much to handle, a dip in the coriander chutney adds a freshness to the *seekh*, bringing the spice quotient down. While the Chicken *goli* is punched with spices, the *Gosht* (mutton) *seekh kebab* goes milder. It made me won-



der if anyone has ever had a *Gosht seekh* like this one before. The *kebab* melts in your mouth, the spices are well balanced and the fattiness from the mutton and the rich *ghee* that the *kebab* is poured with adds to the flavour. The charred smell from the *tandoor* is well defined, leaving a smoky yet buttery aftertaste, which makes you drool for more. This *kebab* is the definition for soul food.

Next up are Purani Dilli *Murgh tikka* and the *Malai paneer seekh*, served with chopped onions and green coriander chutney. My first thought is that the *tikka* was marinated in a spicy red paste — different from my idea of it as an ardent lover of the dish. This *tikka* has a creamier marinade, which seems like a cross between a chicken *tikka* and a *murghmalai tikka*. As I dig my fork into it, it quickly falls off the bone. However, one bite of it, I realise that it's a creamy heaven. Its aftertaste is buttery and has some garlic flavour in it. It is for *kebabs* like these that food lovers from around the world fall in love with what Old Delhi has to offer. Well, this dish certainly does the place's speciality credo justice. The *Malai paneer seekh*, I feel, came to me as the right way to end the starters. The cheesy texture of the *paneer* and the doughy-ness of the white flour (*maida*) — which has been used as the binder of the *kebab* — cleanses all the spices off my palate.

Now, the main course makes its way. I refuse to agree that there could be a better substitute of *Khameeri rotis* to go with the traditional Mutton *nihari*. The *nihari* is served in a *matka* (earthen pot) and as I lift its lid, the aroma of fried onion and gin-

EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT STOP SAVOURING BIRYANI, TO END THE EVENING ON A SWEET NOTE, DELHI-6'S FAMOUS DESSERT, SHAHI TUKDA IS SERVED. DOING JUSTICE TO ITS NAME, IT IS ROYAL AND DECADENT. TOASTS, DIPPED IN SUGAR SYRUP, ARE LAYERED WITH RABRI AND PISTACHIOS, AND ARE SERVED HOT



ger captivate my senses. The dish is garnished with finely-sliced ginger and green chillies that act as major flavour enhancers. The mutton is so tender, it melts in my mouth at once. The rich flavour of the bone marrow is packed in the gravy of the *nihari*. And the fried onion adds a rustic flavour to it. And as always, the *ghee* reduces the heat of the chillies, leaving a mesmerising flavour on my tastebuds. The dish, cooked to perfection, represents what the culinary wizards of Old Delhi are famous for — bringing the heartiest food that leaves you in awe of it.

A whiff of cardamom comes through and before I realise, the *Gosht biryani* is served. The colour of the rice is saffron and the fragrance of the aromatics in the *biryani* is breathtaking. The mutton, like the previous one, falls off the bone and has the flavour of the spices infused in it. Every grain of this *biryani* has

the flavour of the *khade masala* (a combination of the essential whole Indian spices) — star anise, cinnamon sticks and cardamom — used to prepare the dish. Cooking a *biryani* with such delicacy and perfection is truly an art.

Even though I cannot stop savouring the *biryani*, to end the evening on a sweet note, Delhi-6's famous dessert, *Shahi tukda* is served. Doing justice to its name, it is royal and decadent. Toasts, dipped in sugar syrup, are layered with *rabri* and pistachios, and are served hot. This is an all-time classic and a speciality of Old Delhi. Certainly, the perfect way to end my evening too, making me realise that just as Old Delhi ensures that nobody will go home without a taste on their lips that one would remember for the rest of their life, Salaam-e-Dilli has been quite successful in replicating the experience.



## Bake it till you make it

The perfect baked potato begins with russets

A fluffy baked potato is a glorious thing, but too often you slice into the potato and it is shiny and waxy, not light and creamy in texture.

Baking a potato is the easiest thing in the world, right? Then why are so many potatoes lacking in texture and flavour?

For my latest cookbook, *Steak and Cake*, I tested several popular ways of baking potatoes. I have friends who swear by wrapping the potato in foil before baking. I have always baked the potato without the foil but I tried both ways. I baked them at 350 degrees Fahrenheit and at 400 degrees too. The potatoes took a bit longer to bake at 350 but they were fluffier and had a better crust and interior texture. Generally, when you cook anything at a higher temperature, the outside gets done before the inside. That means you risk an overdone exterior by the time the interior is cooked through. Potatoes are no exception. That's why I prefer a lower temperature. But if you like to bake your potatoes at a higher temp, do so. It is all about what works.

The potato wrapped in foil was waxy and had a hard texture even when fully cooked. The foil also prevents the skin from becoming crispy, which I think is the best part of a baked potato. If you are a fan of twice-baked potatoes, you have to bake them unwrapped or the skin/shell will be too soft to re-stuff. First, for the traditional baked potato that is going to be loaded with toppings, you must buy a Russet potato. Russets have a thicker skin and a beautiful starchy, snowy — almost meaty — interior that soaks up all your butter, cheese and sour cream. I love making smashed potatoes with red new potatoes or baby Yukon gold potatoes, but only a Russet will do for a "baked potato."

After an hour of baking, I stick the end of a paring knife into the potato to gauge its doneness. It generally takes another 20 minutes to be perfect, but it depends on the potato's size.

A little tip for those who like to make twice-baked potatoes: Always bake three potatoes for two finished potatoes, so you can mound the filling over the top. I make them often for dinner parties since they are best made in advance and reheated just before serving. —Ap

## gorge us



Infinity, Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar presents Delhi Darbar Food Festival which brings back the traditional food from Chandni Chowk Ki Galiyaan. The festival offers delicacies like *Changzei murgh*, *Murgh korma*, *Dal gosht*, *Paneer taka-tin*, *Anjeer akhrot ka kofta*, *Murgh ki chaap*, *Palak patta chaat*, *Kalam wada chaat*, *Aloo tikki*, *Matar kulcha*, *Golgappa* and many more. **Time:** 7 pm to 11 pm **Date:** Till January 25 **Price:** ₹1,999 plus taxes (per person) **Venue:** Infinity, Crowne Plaza, Mayur Vihar, Noida.

Enjoy the juiciest strawberries at Foodhall's Strawberry market, conceptualised specially to get your hands on the best of the produce of the season. The objective of the market is to offer guests the best of the seasonal picks of the year in a marketplace format. **Date:** January 18, 19 **Time:** 11 am to 9 pm **Venue:** Foodhall, DLF Promenade.



TK's Oriental Grill at Hyatt Regency marks its silver jubilee by offering an array of Japanese, Thai and Indonesian specialties along with champagne or sake. The restaurant also presents perfect amalgamation of authentic Far East cuisine and culture. **Date:** Every Tuesday **Venue:** TK's Oriental Grill, Hyatt Regency Delhi, Bhikaji Cama Place.



Ardor 2.1 has come up with a delectable Delhi6 Menu that offers dishes like *Japani samosa*, *nagori* along with cocktails like *Halwa aaj manu bhai Chivas pilayega*, *Modi vs Mamma*, *Starbucks VA Sardarbaksh* and India's first winter beer, Delhi 6. **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Price:** ₹245 onwards (plus taxes) **Venue:** Ardor 2.1, Outer Circle, Connaught Place.



Koolchas presents its new winter menu which has been designed keeping the concept of bites-on-the-move in mind. It offers *Vada koolcha* and fusion *koolchas*, which can be accompanied with the beverages like *Coffee wali chai*, a distinct hot tea with the aroma of coffee flavour mixed with spices and herbs. **Price:** ₹510 for two **Venue:** Sushant Lok-1 & Sector 14, Gurugram.



## RECIPES



### CHOCOLATE STORY WITH CHILLI POPCORN

- WHAT YOU NEED
- Chocolate brownie: 200 gm
  - Pop corn: 50 gm
  - Chilli powder: 1/4tsp
  - Chocolate sauce
  - Melted butter: 1 tsp
  - Chocolate ice cream: 2 scoops

- METHOD
- Microwave the pop corn kernels.
  - Add melted butter and chilli powder.
  - Then crush the brownie and drizzle chocolate sauce.
  - And now plate it with chocolate ice cream and sauce.
- Courtesy: Chef Nishant Chhabray at Street Storys.

### BADAMI KESARIYA SABUDANA KHEER

- WHAT YOU NEED
- Boiled soaked *sabudana*: 100 gm
  - Low fat sweetened milk: 220 ml
  - A pinch of saffron
  - Australian almond flakes: 10 gm



- Desiccated coconut: 5 gm
  - Fresh mint leaves: 1 gm
- METHOD
- Boil low fat sweetened milk in a small stock pot and add *sabudana* until it softens and becomes starchy.
  - Add saffron (*kesari*) for flavour and mix.
  - Add Australian almond flakes, desiccated fresh coconut, silver balls and fresh mint on top for garnishing.
  - Serve the kheer in a glass jar as it keeps the flavours intact and reduces the chances of getting spoiled.
  - Serve hot or chilled as per preference.
- Courtesy: Chef Anshu Raj, Caterspoint.



### SPINACH KOFTA CURRY

- WHAT YOU NEED
- For kofta stuffing:
- Oil: 5 ml
  - Black cumin seeds: 1 gm
  - Ginger (chopped): 3 gm
  - Green chilli (chopped): 1 gm
  - Spinach (blanched): 50 gm
  - Dried fenugreek: 1 gm
  - Salt to taste
  - Apricot: 10 gm
  - Almond (chopped): 10 gm
  - Cashew nut (chopped): 7 gm
  - Prunes (chopped): 12 gm
- For kofta:
- Peanuts (roasted): 13 gm

- Sesame seeds (roasted): 10 gm
  - Coriander seeds (roasted): 4 gm
  - Cumin seeds (roasted): 2 gm
  - Kashmiri chilli (roasted): 8 gm
  - Fry cashew nut: 3 gm
  - Fresh coconut (roasted): 12 gm
  - Fried onion: 8 gm
  - Turmeric: 2 gm
  - Ghee: 35 gm
  - Garlic (chopped): 12 gm
  - Ginger (chopped): 9 gm
  - Onion (chopped): 35 gm
- METHOD
- For kofta stuffing:
- Heat oil in a pan, add black cumin seeds and allow them to splutter.

- Now add chopped ginger and chilli. Then add spinach and sauté and cook it for three minutes.
  - Now mix rest of the ingredients and keep it for a while.
- For kofta:
- Make paste of all the ingredients except *ghee*, ginger, garlic and chopped onion.
  - Heat *ghee* in a pan, add chopped garlic and onion and sauté till onion turn light brown.
  - Now add chopped ginger, the paste of roasted spices and cook on slow heat.
  - Now add 500 ml of water and allow it to simmer for 25 minutes.
  - Now add *Koftas* in the sauce and serve hot.
- Courtesy: Chef Aditya Jha at InQ.

# KOHLI TO BE BACK AT NO 3

In current situation, you should be ready to bat anywhere: Iyer

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Skipper Virat Kohli is set to be back at his regular number three position after the strategy of coming two-down boomeranged in the lung-opener as India take on a resolute Australia in the must-win second ODI here on Friday.

India go into the game 0-1 down after Australia registered a 10-wicket win in the lung-opener at Mumbai, courtesy David Warner and Aaron Finch, who hit unbeaten hundreds.

In a bid to field all three in-form players — Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and KL Rahul —, Kohli dropped himself down the order but the plan backfired spectacularly as he was unable to convert his start.

Opener Dhawan later said he was ready to bat at number three if asked to by the team management, but since Kohli has been successful at that position, the skipper would be more than willing to walk in one-down.

Kohli batting at three also provides stability to the middle-order.

With a concussed Rishabh Pant out of the second game, Rahul is a certainty as he will keep wickets.

So, like in the last game, Rohit and Dhawan, who made a dogged 74 off 91 balls in Wankhede, could open, and there could be a toss-up between Rahul and young Shreyas Iyer at number four. Iyer had a rare failure on Tuesday.

Pant's absence could pave the way for the inclusion of Karnataka batsman Manish Pandey, who made optimum use of the opportunity that he got in the third T20 against Sri Lanka in Pune.

It would also be interesting to see which among the experienced Kedar



India's captain Virat Kohli bats during a practice session

Jadhav and rookie Shivam Dube makes the squad.

Rohit, who had a phenomenal 2019, failed in the first game, but given the form he is in, the opener is expected to bounce back strongly here.

Ditto for Kohli, who is just one hundred short of equalling cricket

son Sachin Tendulkar's record of most hundreds on home soil for India.

The bowlers led by Jasprit Bumrah had a forgettable outing at the Wankhede and they would be more than eager to make a strong comeback and prove their mettle.

Bumrah, since his comeback,

has not been as effective as earlier and he would like to change the perception.

It would be interesting to see whether India play Delhi speedster Navdeep Saini or persist with Shardul Thakur, who gave away 43 runs in Mumbai.

Ravindra Jadeja looks a certainty and so the choice would be between chinaman Kuldeep Yadav, who conceded 55 runs in the first ODI and Yuzvendra Chahal as the lead spinner.

On the other hand, a high on confidence Australia will be looking to seal the issue to register back to back series wins in India, a rare feat for any visiting team. The Finch-Warner combination will look forward to carry the momentum.

Their middle-order comprising the experienced Steve Smith, in-form Marcus Labuschagne, Ashton Turner and Alex Carey looks more or less settled.

All of them fire in unison, along with the openers, then it will hard for the opposition bowlers.

However, it will be quite a test of their mettle to register back to back series wins in India, a rare feat for any visiting team. The Finch-Warner combination will look forward to carry the momentum.

Their middle-order comprising the experienced Steve Smith, in-form Marcus Labuschagne, Ashton Turner and Alex Carey looks more or less settled.

Australian bowlers also showed at the Wankhede, why they are considered among the best.

Led by pace spearhead Mitchell Starc, they bundled out India for a sub-par 255 and Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins would be raring to go once again.

Spinners Adam Zampa and Ashton Agar, not only contained the bats, but provided crucial breakthroughs and are expected to play a similar role again in the middle order.

The track here is expected to be

## Bhuvneshwar undergoes sports hernia surgery in London, rehab in NCA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Injury-plagued Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has undergone a sports hernia surgery in London and will begin his rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) after returning to the country, the BCCI said on Thursday.

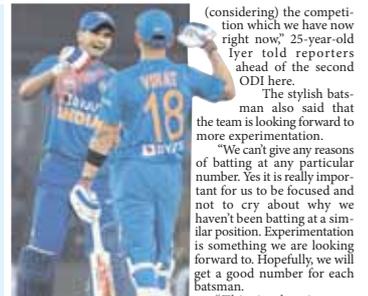
The Board did not specify any timeline for his recovery but it is learnt that he will return to action during the Indian Premier League (IPL), which is scheduled to start on January 29. Bhuvneshwar plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the T20 event.

"Fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar travelled to London on 9th January and underwent a successful sports hernia surgery on 11th January. He was assisted by Team India physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar," read a statement from Board Secretary Jay Shah.

"Bhuvneshwar will now return to India and commence his rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru," it added.

He was not named in the T20 squad for the upcoming tour of New Zealand due to the injury.

A belter and India can draw confidence from the home series against New Zealand in 2017, when they won 2-1 after losing the opener, co-incidentally in Mumbai.



Shreyas Iyer celebrates with Virat Kohli

BCCI/Twitter

Mumbai exposed India's weakest link but Iyer said that the game is well and parcel of the game.

"It happens sometimes and you are not prepared in such situations but it is a part and parcel of the game," said Iyer on the collapse.

"You have to take it in your stride and move forward. As a team we have been doing really well throughout the season and it was just one of the matches where you completely collapsed. There is learning from there," said Iyer.

"This is the time we should try and experiment things, hopefully, will work-out in the future," said the Mumbaier.

A middle-order collapse in

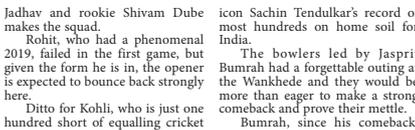
"In this situation, you should be ready to bat at any number because it is really important to play in the team,

thang playing in places like India against these guys is to have a little bit of character," said Zampa ahead of Friday's second ODI here.

Zampa has dismissed Kohli four times in ODIs and twice in T20s.

"You probably know you're going to get hit for boundaries but it can really get worse if you make that affect you. I have got him a few times now but I don't think there is anything in it. He still scores at over 100 (strike rate) against me," the 27-year-old spinner said.

"He is a very hard guy to bowl to. He's one of the toughest guys I've ever had to bowl



Adam Zampa kicks a ball during a practice session

to. After game one (first ODI), he will be even more switched on. It will be a big challenge," said Zampa, who has 66 ODIs wickets from 49 games.

Steve Waugh had said in the past that Kohli was not shown enough respect to Zampa, but the leggie disagreed with the former Australia skipper.

"I don't think he (Kohli) doesn't respect me. I don't think that's correct (referring to Waugh's statement)."

Zampa said Australia has managed to find out Kohli's weak point.

"We basically just found that Virat finds leg-spinners

hard to line up early in his innings. He's such a great starter, even the other day he was 16 off 14. How much energy he brought to the crease, his running between the wickets, some of the cover drives he played off the quicks," he said.

"I think it's important to try and have a game plan against him. So we figured out before the last game that it would be good to start with leg-spin to him."

"I've got him out four times in the last year or so it's nice to have that confidence to bowl to him at the start of his innings," said Zampa, who is on his third tour to India.

## Need to have a strong character to get better of Kohli: Zampa

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa on Thursday said one needs to have a "strong character" to get the better of a class act like India captain Virat Kohli, who he has dismissed six times in limited overs cricket so far.

Zampa said despite enjoying an upturn over the Indian captain in limited-overs, Kohli is a hard nut to crack.

"It's going to be an attacking approach. I think if you're on the back-foot and have a defensive mindset then that's when he (Kohli) can get on top of you. The most important



Virat Kohli bats during a practice session

to expect from Friday's match."

Asked about his opening partner's batting display, the Australian skipper said, "He (Warner) is playing unbelievably well. I think it's so hard to bowl to him once he gets in. He hits the ball all around the ground, so stopping him from scoring is so hard."

"He is so clear with how he is going to bat, his footwork is pretty good. His mental state is unbelievable when he is out in the middle. He is so clear with his thoughts and his game. He is in top shape."

how the boys went," he was quoted as saying by Cricket.Com.Au.

## 'India to fight back hard in second game'

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Australia captain Aaron Finch has no doubts that India will "fight back" in the second ODI here Friday after being battered in the series-opener in Mumbai.

Australia gave the hosts a reality check with a crushing 10-wicket win in the lung-opener on Tuesday, riding on David Warner and Finch's unbeaten hundreds.

But Finch said it would be silly to take India lightly as they boast of world-class players.

"That was a pretty good performance. I think our fielding was a little bit sloppy but all in all we are really happy with



Aaron Finch bats during a practice session

how the boys went," he was quoted as saying by Cricket.Com.Au.

how the boys went," he was quoted as saying by Cricket.Com.Au.



## Runaway favourites Ind ready for High Five

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

A few precocious talents, hardworking teenagers and a chunky lot which might fall by the wayside in times to come will form an edictive 16-team mix in the melting pot called ICC Under-19 World Cup starting on Friday.

Defending champions India will be overwhelming favourites to win the junior global meet for the fifth time with at least six players, including skipper Priyam Garg having played senior cricket (first-class, List A or T20).

Not to forget four players — Yashraj Jaiswal, Garg, Ravi Bishnoi, Kartik Tyagi — who have already landed fat contracts in the IPL.

India have been the team to beat on the junior cricket circuit since Virat Kohli's team dominated the proceedings in the 2008 edition.

While there will be future stars in Pakistan, Australia, England and New Zealand teams, the presence of Japan and Nigeria will certainly have its own curiosity value.

In fact Japan are clubbed with India, New Zealand and Sri Lanka in group D.

The Japanese team mostly

has South Asian expats with names like Tushar Chaturvedi, Yugandhar Retharekar, Ishan Fartayal, Debasish Sahoo helping out the likes of Kazumasa Iwakashi, Masato Morita and Shu Noguchi.

The Nigerian team, which is clubbed in a difficult group comprising Australia, West Indies and England, has more local flavour in the presence of Sylvester Okepe, Oche Boniface, Ifeanyichukwu Uboh and Olayinka Olaleye.

The tournament starts with hosts South Africa taking on Afghanistan in the 'Diamond City' of Kimberley on Friday, followed by Australia's big-ticket game against West Indies on the very next day.

Australia like India have a number of players, who have already played senior level cricket with one prominent name being former death over specialist OJ Harvey's nephew McKenzie Harvey, who has played 2 List A and 13 T20 games.

Similarly England have Ben Charlesworth with an experience of 11 first-class games to his credit while a few of his teammates have also played for their respective countries.

## Ireland stun WI by four runs

AFP ■ ST. GEORGE'S

Ireland rode a career-best 95 from opener Paul Stirling before keeping their nerve in a nail-biting final over to pull off a four-run win over world champions West Indies in the first of a three-match Twenty20 series on Wednesday.

The burly Stirling steered Ireland to 208-7 in their 20 overs.

However, the home side appeared comfortably on course for victory — bringing up their hundred inside 10 overs with just two wickets down — until the game was decided in the last over.

Needing 15 to win, all-rounder Josh Little (3-29) got rid of the dangerous Dwayne Bravo, one of two wickets to fall in the last over.

With five needed off the last ball and seven wickets down, Hayden Walsh could only wave his bat into thin air in a desperate attempt to win the game.

It was only Ireland's second victory in T20 cricket over the West Indies who went into the game having swept the ODI series 3-0.

"Everyone is ecstatic, we came so close in that second ODI (fifth by one wicket) and it maybe affected us in that third ODI, so to show the bottle and come out against one of the top teams in T20 cricket and get a win was great for the vibe of the team," said Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie.

## Dhoni dropped from BCCI's central contracts list

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni was on Thursday dropped from the BCCI's list of centrally contracted players, raising fresh doubts on the future of the former India captain who has not played since the World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand last year.

The BCCI announced the central contracts for the period of October 2019 to September 2020. The 38-year-old Dhoni was in the A category, which fetches a player Rs 5 crore as annual retainer, until last year.

Skipper Virat Kohli, his white-ball deputy Rohit Sharma and top pacer Jasprit Bumrah were retained in the highest A+ bracket of Rs 7 crore.

Dhoni's contract not being renewed is not exactly a surprise as he has not played a competitive game since the World Cup semifinal on July 9. He has been on an sabbatical and has refused to divulge his future plans.

Head coach Ravi Shastri had recently said that Dhoni may soon end his ODI career but could be in contention for a spot in the T20 World Cup squad provided he does well in the IPL.

Among others, batsman K L Rahul has been promoted from B grade to A. Having lost his place in the Test side



MS Dhoni in a file photo

following a dismal tour of Australia last year, Rahul has made a strong comeback and been a consistent performer in the shorter formats.

Test opener Mayank Agarwal, who has done well since making his debut during the tour of Australia in 2018-

## Mahi starts training with Jharkhand Ranji squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 38-year-old showed up at his home team's net practice in Ranchi, indicating that he is gearing himself for the upcoming Indian Premier League. This was on a day when BCCI axed him from the list of centrally contracted players.

"Even we did not know that he was going to come and train with

us. It was a pleasant surprise. He battled for a while and did the usual training routine," at a source close to the Jharkhand team management told PTI.

"We are expecting him to train with the team regularly from now on. His presence can only help the players," the source added.

In fact, Dhoni has bought a brand new bowling machine for his training. While the Jharkhand team will have their red-ball routines, Dhoni will primarily practice against the white ball.

Jharkhand's next match is against Uttarakhand, starting Sunday in Ranchi. The team has returned home after an eight wicket loss against Nagaland in Nagbhand. Out of five games, Jharkhand have won two, lost two and drawn one.

19, has been included in the Grade B category, which also features Hardik Pandya and Yuzvendra Chahal along with two others.

Pacer Navdeep Saini and T20 specialist Washington Sundar are new entrants in Grade C alongside Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur. Though he has not played Tests, Saini has emerged as an option in all three formats.

Iyer, who made a limited-overs comeback following India's World

Cup campaign, has cemented his place in the middle order and seems to be a stable number four that the team has been looking for.

Pacer Thakur too has made an impact in the limited opportunities he has got while the injured Chahal has become a strong contender for a spot in the T20 World Cup with a string of impressive performances, including a six-wicket haul against Bangladesh in November. It is the best ever in the shortest format till date.

AFP ■ PORT ELIZABETH

World cricketer of the year Ben Stokes survived three reviews by South Africa as he and Ollie Pope regained the initiative for England on the first day of the third Test at St George's Park on Thursday.

England were 224 for four at the end of an attritional day during which South Africa had briefly claimed the advantage.

England were 148 for four when Stokes and Pope came together in danger of failing to capitalise on batting first on a placid pitch on a hot, sunny day.

But the pair added 76 without being parted and were able to lift a slow scoring rate after England were able to score only 117 for two in 58 overs before tea. Stokes was unbeaten on 38 at the close while Pope made 39 not out.

Stokes came into the match

## Pope, Stokes revive England

a day after being named player of the year by the International Cricket Council and on the back of a man-of-the-match performance when England levelled the four-match series by winning the second Test in Cape Town by 189 runs.

Stokes made a shaky start, surviving a leg before wicket review on umpire's call against left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj and an appeal for a catch at slip off which South Africa thought was an inside edge off the pad.

South Africa wasted their last review when Stokes played no shot against Vernon Philander with the second new ball but the ball was well outside the off stump.



Ben Stokes in action

Kagiso Rabada took two wickets for South Africa but the home team's most impressive bowler was Maharaj who took one for 55 in 32 overs. He bowled an unbroken spell of 30 overs which enabled captain Faf du Plessis to rotate his fast bowlers as England struggled to assert themselves.

**OPENS FALL INTO TRAP**

Zak Crawley and Dom Sibley gave England a solid start, putting on 70 for the first wicket but both fell to catches at backward square leg.

Joe Denly was leg before to Maharaj when South Africa successfully sought a review which showed a ball headed for the stumps had hit pad before

but, while Root was beaten and bowled by a fast delivery from Rabada which hit the top of his off stump.

With the four-match series tied at 1-1, batting first appeared to be a considerable advantage on a pitch which had a fair covering of grass but which offered no help to the bowlers.

It was the sixth successive Test loss by Du Plessis.

South Africa picked new cap Dane Paterson as a specialist fast bowler in place of all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius. Paterson surprisingly shared the new ball with Philander, with the quicker Rabada and Anrich Nortje expected to wait for their turn.