

**OPINION 6**  
A NEVER-ENDING  
CRISIS

**WORLD 11**  
SENATE OK'S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL  
RULES, PUTS OFF WITNESSES

**VIVACITY 13**  
BEING IN THE RIGHT MINDSET  
CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

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## Akhilesh, Maya take up Shah gauntlet

SP, BSP chiefs accept CAA debate challenge; Owaisi asks HM to invite 'daadhi wale' too

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a new twist to the ongoing fracas over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supremo Mayawati have accepted Home Minister Amit Shah's challenge for debate on the CAA.

While Akhilesh is prepared for such an engagement while keeping economic slowdown and development as part of the package, Mayawati said her party is ready for a debate on the CAA on any platform.

Meanwhile, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi chipped in, telling Shah, "Daadhi wale se karo na" (debate with a bearded man).

Addressing a rally in support of the CAA in Lucknow on Tuesday, Shah had dared Opposition leaders like Mayawati, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav to debate with him on the law on a "sarvjanik manchi" (public platform).

Picking up the challenge, Akhilesh said, "I'm ready for the debate on CAA. Ask them to fix a place or a forum, with their favorite channels and anchors, also for a debate on development. We Samajwadis are ready for it. But the BJP should also debate on the issues like economic slowdown, unemployment, poverty and death of people due to

Government harassment." Accusing the BJP of discriminating on the basis of religion, Akhilesh said those who understand the soul of the country are opposed to the amended citizenship law. He also alleged the BJP is playing with the Constitution as it has majority in the Lok Sabha.

"I am glad that women have taken the lead and youth are protesting in large numbers," Akhilesh said after garlanding a statue of SP leader Janeshwar Mishra at a park here on his death anniversary.

BSP chief Mayawati, who along with Akhilesh, had skipped the Opposition meeting in Delhi to oppose the CAA, on Wednesday said her party is ready for a debate on the CAA on any platform.

"The BSP is ready to accept the challenge thrown by the Central Government, which is troubled by the organised struggle and agitation all over the country against the most controversial CAA/NRC/NPR, especially by the youth and women, for a debate on the issue on any platform and anywhere," Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi.

Mayawati had obviously come under pressure to take an aggressive stance against the CAA after another Dalit leader Chandrasekhar Azad occupied centre stage in Delhi in mobilising protest against the CAA. Meanwhile, asserting that Mahatma Gandhi and BR

Ambedkar were against discrimination, the SP chief accused the BJP of practising discrimination on the basis of religion. "Every Indian is against it. Will they (the BJP) kill the soul of the country and create fissures in society for votes," he said.

Accusing Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of using words like "thok diya jayega" in his speeches, he said, "This cannot be the language of a politician." BJP used 'kabristan and shamshan' and 'Diwali and Ramzan' during poll rallies for the sake of votes.



## Won't stay CAA without hearing Centre: SC

Govt gets four weeks to reply; 5-judge Bench to hear matter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act saying it will not issue any order to stay the Act without hearing the Government's argument. The court gave the Government four weeks to respond. A five-



judge Constitution Bench will hear the matter.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde restrained all high courts from hearing pleas on the CAA till it decides in the matter. As many as 143 petitioners have approached the SC on CAA questioning its constitutional validity.

The Bench, also comprising Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna, said it will hear

the petitions related to Assam and Tripura separately as the problem with the CAA in these two States is different from rest of the country.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for some petitioners, said the issue be referred to a Constitution Bench and the NPR exercise be postponed by a couple of months. He also urged the Bench to put on hold the operationalisation of the CAA.

Asserting that it will not pass any ex-parte order without hearing the Centre on staying the operation of the CAA and exercise of the National Population Register (NPR), the court said it will pass order on granting any

interim relief to petitioner opposing the CAA after four weeks.

The petitions concerning Tripura and Assam as well as the matters related to Uttar Pradesh, which is going ahead with the implementation of the CAA without framing any rules, can be dealt with separately, the Bench said. It said the earlier cutoff date for citizenship in Assam was March 24, 1971 and noted that it has been extended till December 31, 2014 under the CAA.

The SC said it will decide in-chamber the modalities of hearing the batch of petitions on the CAA and may fix them for day-to-day hearing after four weeks.

## Govt wants 7 days deadline for execution

Centre moves SC to amend rules to do away with delaying tactics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of delaying tactics adopted by the death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case, Union Home Ministry on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court for amending the 2014 guidelines regarding the timeline for the execution, filing of review and curative petitions and mercy petitions.

Asserting that the need of the hour is to lay down guidelines in the interest of the victims rather than keeping the rights of the convicts in mind, the Centre wants the SC to fix a deadline of seven days for the execution of death penalty of condemned prisoners after issuance of the death warrant.

The affidavit filed by the Government also sought clarifications with regard to cases involving multiple convicts who time their petitions in such a way that the execution of the death warrant could be delayed indefinitely. The Nirbhaya case is perfect example of such delaying tactics.

The MHA's plea sought a direction from the top court in fixing the deadline for filing of curative pleas after the rejection of review petitions. It also sought a direction that "if the convict of death sentence wants to file mercy petition, it would be mandatory for a convict of death sentence to do so only within a period of seven days from the date of receipt of death warrant issued by the competent court".



The MHA submitted that the top court should "mandate all the competent courts, State Governments, prison authorities in the country to issue death warrant of a convict within seven days of the rejection of his mercy petition and to execute death sentence within seven days thereafter irrespective of the stage of review petition/curative petition/mercy petition of his co-convicts".

## Rajini's house now fortress after threat

Dravidar Kazhagam attacks Thalaiva for comment on Naicker's anti-Hindu rallies

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A heavy posse of police have been deployed at the residence of Tamil film's superstar Rajinikanth following threat of physical attacks on him by the Dravidar Kazhagam and associated parties.

Rajinikanth's residence at Chennai's Poes Garden has come under a security blanket with armed guards of Tamil Nadu Special Police and plainclothesmen from city police taking positions in vantage points along the approach road to Poes Garden.

The posting of policemen is a fallout of the statement made by the actor on the 50th anniversary of Tamil magazine *Tuglaq* on last Wednesday when he pointed out that the Dravidar Kazhagam, founded by EV Ramasamy Naicker, had taken out a procession in 1971 holding placards with nude



Dravidar Viduthala Kazhagam (DVK) activists stage a protest against actor Rajinikanth for his recent comments, in Chennai on Wednesday

pictures of Lord Rama and Maa Sita which were garlanded with footweers.

This was a rally against the superstition prevailing among the Hindus and Ramasamy Naicker was a known Hindu baiter. Leaders of the Dravidar Kazhagam want a public apology from Rajinikanth for airing his views publicly.

But the film actor made it known on Tuesday that he stood by what he said during

his speech and there was no question of him tendering any apology. All political leaders, barring those from the BJP, have come together in condemning the superstition.

"Rajinikanth should not air his views publicly without learning and understanding the basics," said MK Stalin, president, DMK.

The AIADMK expressed displeasure over Rajinikanth's words for hurting the sentiments of the Dravidar cadre.

## Global manhunt on for fugitive Nithyananda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Interpol has urged member nations to help locate Nithyananda, the self-declared godman who fled India last year amid allegations of rape and sexual abuse.

A blue-corner notice that makes it obligatory for countries to share information on any person involved in a crime has been issued by the Interpol against Nithyananda at the behest of the Gujarat Police.

Last month, Ecuador denied the presence of the fugitive 'godman' and said it had rejected his request for asylum. The Embassy of Ecuador also suggested he had left the country for Haiti.

He was charged with kidnapping and wrongful confinement of children to make them collect donations from followers to run his ashram.

The Blue Corner Notice will help the law enforcement agencies here in collecting additional information from the member countries of the Interpol about the suspect's identity, location or activities in relation to the crime.



The Gujarat Police had sent a request to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the nodal body for Interpol matters in India, seeking a Blue Corner Notice against Nithyananda, officials said.

Following this, the Interpol issued the Blue Corner Notice against Nithyananda. After securing the Blue Corner Notice, the Gujarat Police is working to get Interpol to issue a Red Corner Notice, a global arrest warrant, against Nithyananda, source said.

The Gujarat Police had registered an FIR against Nithyananda after two girls went missing from his ashram in Ahmedabad last year.

## Vyommित्रा charms all with her hello before spacewalk

ISRO to send lady robot in unmanned Gaganyaan ahead of human spaceflight

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Before orbiting astronauts on India's first manned mission to space in December 2021, the Indian Space Research Organisation will send "Vyommित्रा", a "lady robot" in the unmanned Gaganyaan spacecraft.

The robot was the centre of attraction at the inaugural session of the "Human Spaceflight and Exploration — Present Challenges and Future Trends" here on Wednesday.

Vyommित्रा, a combination of two Sanskrit words Vyoma (Space) and Mitra (Friend), took everyone by surprise when she introduced herself to the audience gathered there. "Hello everyone. I am Vyommित्रा, the prototype of the half-humanoid, been made for the first unmanned Gaganyaan mission," the robot said.

ISRO chairman K Sivan told reporters the half-humanoid will simulate



ISRO Chairman Kailasavidoo Sivan, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India K Vijay Raghavan and others look at a humanoid robot during the inauguration of Symposium on Human Spaceflight and Exploration in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Explaining about the role in the mission, she said, "I can monitor through module parameters, alert you and perform life support operations. I can perform activities like switch panel operations."

The robot said she can also be a companion and converse with the astronauts, recognise them and can also respond to their queries.

ISRO chairman K Sivan told reporters the half-humanoid will simulate

human functions in space and also interact with the environmental control life support system.

"It will be simulating exactly the human functions there (in space). It will check whether the system is right. This will be very useful to simulate, as if a human is flying," he added.

The humanoid, which Sivan said was functioning well, has the human simulation system.

## Nath: MP will soon emerge as India's Warehousing Hub

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has said that Madhya Pradesh will soon emerge as India's Warehousing Hub. Since, Madhya Pradesh is geographically located at the center of the country, it will develop into a Logistics Hub in the near future. This will help the State become Warehousing Hub. He sought active participation of prospective investors.

On the second day of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, the globally renowned industrialists and investors discussed with the Chief Minister about their investment plans in allied emerging sectors of information technology, hospitality and tourism in Madhya Pradesh.

The investors expressed confidence in the leadership and vision of Kamal Nath and said that Madhya Pradesh will soon become an economic force.

Antonio Neri, President & CEO of Hewlett Packard Enterprise Division, Magesvaran Suranjan, President of Procter & Gamble Asia Pacific, Middle East Africa, Abidali

Neemuchwala, CEO & Managing Director of Wipro, Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum Chairman and CEO of Emeritus Airlines, Shamsheer Vayalil President & Managing Director of VPS Health Care Group, 2000 W Founder Andreas Bilkert had one-to-one discussion with the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister discussed topics related to setting



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath meets Chief Managing Director of Lulu Group International of UAE, Mohammad Yousuf, during World Economic Forum at Davos on Wednesday

up a data center, hardware manufacturing and setting up an IT park with Antonio Neri,

President and CEO of Hewlett Packard Enterprise Division. Neri talked about hardware

manufacturing and IT service operations at IT Park in Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister said that the Madhya Pradesh is a peaceful state and has the most favorable environment for investment in the IT sector as there is a large number of talented young IT professionals available here.

Wipro Limited CEO Abidali Neemuchwala discussed with the Chief Minister on the scope of setting up Information Technology Services Units and Parks. Expressing confidence in the leadership of Kamal Nath, he underlined the investment potential in information technology sector.

President of the Inter Continental Hotels Group (IHG), Patrick Cescau and

CEO Keith Barr expressed their willingness to invest underlining the prospects of the hospitality industry.

He discussed with the Chief Minister about a number of issues mainly setting up the world class resorts in

wildlife tourism area and construction of heritage hotels at major tourist destinations.

## CM discusses logistics hub, IT delivery centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a one-to-one talk between Chief Minister Kamal Nath and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra Group, Pawan Goenka during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 21, possibilities of investment in automobile,

agricultural equipments, irrigation and agro-chemical sectors in Madhya Pradesh were discussed.

The Chief Minister also discussed about the operation of logistics hub and creation of IT delivery centre in the state. Investments in manufacturing units for electric vehicles, passenger cars and

commercial vehicles were also discussed during the meeting.

It may be noted that the Chief Minister is on a four-day visit to Davos in connection with the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. Kamal Nath is accompanied by a high level team of senior officers of the State also.

# St Mary's bids farewell to outgoing students



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Farewell programme for the outgoing students of class XII was held at St Mary's convent Sr Sec School, Tulsī Nagar, on Wednesday in the school campus. The students in their formal colourful attire were all set to make their exit into the world outside and seen reminiscing the days they spent in the institution. The glittering event began with the lighting of the lamp followed by a mesmerising prayer dance. Students were felicitated on the stage in different groups. An energising dance performance given by the juniors on the latest notes was cheered by all. It followed an orches-

tra and a solo performance of Ayushman Kiran on flute. The last and the most spell binding performance was the Punjabi tadka in the end. In the end the deserving students were awarded with different titles. Sanjana Krishna was adjudged as the Star of the day. Vaishnavi Khatri and Priyanshu Bokde were conferred with the Miss St Mary's and Mr St Mary's respectively. The decent dude and diva were Nakul Sharma and Ayushi Dongre. The recipients of the other titles were- The most disciplined student- Neha Yadav, The most punctual - Ayush Yadav, Mr Personality- Vibhu Khare and Ms Personality- Kritika Sahni. Special achievement

awards were given to Swapnil Pradhan for music and Aditya Gupta for sports. Others were Anfinson Joseph — most well behaved, Ashay Jain — Early bird. Rushil Vyas was conferred with the Most outstanding student award. Academic excellence awards were given to Vibhu Khare from Science stream and Urvashi Raheja from commerce stream. The teachers Ms Nanda Negi and Ms Lakshmi also spoke on the occasion. Principal Sr Mary CD in her address urged the students to uphold the values they have imbibed from the school no matter wherever they are. She also wished them all the best for their bright future.

## Anganwadi workers, Sahayikas work area only 'Integrated Child Development'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Anganwadi workers and Sahayikas in the State will no longer be affiliated with works other than the works of the Integrated Child Development Scheme. The General Administration Department has issued orders in this regard to all the Heads of Departments, Divisional Commissioners, Collectors and Chief Executive Officers of District Panchayats. At present, 80 thousand 160 anganwadi centres and 12070 mini anganwadi centres are approved in the state. Through these centres, pre-school education and nutritious food to children upto 6 years of age are being provided by the anganwadi workers. Apart from this, nutrition and health related services are provided to pregnant and lactating mothers and special care is taken of underweight children. Till now anganwadi workers and sahayikas are affiliated in non-ICDS works also. Earlier action was taken against anganwadi workers/Sahayikas for not taking up their work due to which the services of anganwadi kendras were getting affected since long. Also, reform in nutrition level of children was also affected. It took a lot of time and extra efforts to recover it, which was not appropriate for the health of those children. That is why workers and sahayikas have been freed from other tasks.

## Visit Noor Us Sabah Palace to enjoy Galli wale Kebab, Parathas



Chefs display cuisines ahead of the Kebab and Paratha festival scheduled from Jan 24 to 26 at Hotel Noor-Us-Sabah Palace in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Noor Us Sabah Palace is going to celebrate a Culinary Journey of Kebabs and Parathas. The foodies will experience the journey on a lane where one will enjoy varieties of Curries, Biryani, Mithais and specialty tea. The festival will begin from Thursday. Paratha, a flattened Indian bread cooked on griddle plate, has its presence from 12th century in Indian culinary. Various States have different way to express the pronunciation. Much later, it was spread around South Asia too. Even the Mughals also enjoyed parathas of different varieties. Non vegetarian paratha happened after the Muslim reign in

### Paratha, a flattened Indian bread cooked on griddle plate, has its presence from 12th century in Indian culinary. Various States have different way to express the pronunciation

famous. Kebabs from Middle Eastern countries add on to the kitty of Indian cuisine after various Muslim rulers invaded or ruled India. Later, Punjabi, Lucknowi, Hyderabad cuisines influenced and made their ways out of their own specialty. Kebab at its early stage is basically meat-skewered. Later, preparation style was enhanced and vegetarian option added. In Bhopal, one cannot think meal without Chai. So, a first timer in Bhopal will have the combo of Iranian Chai, Bhopali Chai, Sulemani Chai, kesari chai and Tandoori chai in the menu. So please come down to Noor Us Sabah Palace at out BBQ Lawn to enjoy the Galli wale Kebab and Parathas.

## 14-year-old girl falls off 3rd floor, dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 14-year-old girl died after she fell from the third floor of a multi-storey building in the early morning hours at Vajpayee Nagar under Shahjehanabad police station area on Wednesday. Priyanka Singh, the girl who fell from the third floor of the building at Vajpayee multi storey building, died while undergoing treatment at hospital. The girl, who is a class 7 student, fell while she was playing. The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation and a case under section 174 of the IPC was registered. As the investigation is in preliminary stage, nothing could be provided regarding the death of the girl. The locals and family claimed that she fell accidentally while playing. Meanwhile, the 57-year-old man, who had met the accident near Apex bank on January 16, died during treatment. Mentionworthy, his bike had skidded and rammed into a road divider. On January 16, Khan was moving on his bike which skidded and he was injured severely. He was taken to hospital and his conditions remained critical for the past five days and he died on Tuesday. After the preliminary investigation, the body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have started further investigation.

### IN BRIEF

**13 MEDICOS WORKING WITH BMHRC RESIGN**  
Bhopal: Thirteen doctors working with Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC), especially meant to cater to the need of the Bhopal Gas tragedy, resigned on Wednesday alleging they were not getting permission or basic infrastructure to treat patients. "Of the 15 doctors, 13 resigned today," a surgeon with the Central Government-run BMHRC who wished not to be identified said. He said that hospital management was denying them promotion despite their repeated pleas. Besides, we do not have the medicine and surgical appliances to treat patients, he added. Situation has come to such a pass that we have to wait for things to conduct operation for months, the doctor alleged. BMHRC Director Prabha Desikan could not be contacted after repeated calls. According to a person who frequents BMHRC, around 4,000 outdoor patients go to the hospital. BMHRC was built to treat the victims and survivors of the world's worst industrial disaster — Bhopal Gas Tragedy following a Supreme Court's order. Thousands of people were killed and scores maimed when toxic gas from now defunct Union Carbide Factory spewed on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984 on the outskirts of the city.

**MIN LAYS FOUNDATION OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS**  
Bhopal: Minister for Energy, Priyavrat Singh, laid foundation of development works costing over ₹2 crore in Jirapur block of Rajgarh district. He laid foundation of Gou-Shala (Cow Shed) costing ₹1.02 crore in Chhapipeda, Kasturba Gandhi Girls Hostel worth ₹1.04 crore in Jirapur and beautification work of Janpad Office campus Jirapur costing ₹9.09 lakh. The Minister for Energy, Singh said that Gou-Shalas (Cow Sheds) will also be constructed at Gram Panchayat level to protect stray cows. He further mentioned that now an amount of ₹20 per day per animal is being given to Gou-Shalas. He stated that 5 vehicles each to urban body of Khilchipur, Jirapur and Machalpur will be provided for garbage collection. Singh called upon the people to respect the constitution and cooperate in maintaining law and order. He announced to provide two geysers and 25 beds on his behalf to the hostel. He instructed to remove the market and encroachments in front of the hostel. Singh also interacted with the girls dwelling in the hostel. He appealed the local people to actively participate in the cleanliness campaign. Former MP Narayan Singh Amlabe and other public representatives also expressed their views on this occasion.

**PALLAV KAUSHIK PUBLISHES HER NOVEL**  
Bhopal: Pallav Kaushik, a member of non government organisation working for education and Healthcare and serving nation through innovation and research PRISAL, recently published her novel innovation in the form of an Indian patent as she had successfully formulated and tested drug delivery systems for natural and synthetic origin antimalarial molecules for pregnant subjects. Her study is unique and satisfactory as it has been certified from Government body. Her research work was also appreciated by Indian researchers and academicians. PRISAL is working with a vision for the benefit of society of India through motivating young minds towards research and Innovation as per Prof Priti Tagde. We are basically working for the vision of Prime Minister of India to serve the nation by education Science and Technology and to innovative, Patent, product and prosperity of India and Indian as per Prof Priti Tagde, the President of PRISAL. She informed that for the information and help in IPR issue PRISAL signed an agreement with the Patent minder IP Attorney under the guidance of Prof Ravi Kant, Chief Mentor and Advisor of Patent minder IP Attorney. The team PRISAL congratulated Pallav Kaushik for her achievement.

## SISTec all set to host 8th edition 'Nirmaan 2020' from Jan 28

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Department of Mechanical Engineering of Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) is all set to host its 8th edition of signature event "Nirmaan 2020" from January 28, 2020 at its Gandhi Nagar campus. The two-day "Nirmaan 2020" is focused this year on an Electric Vehicle Startup Conclave. It is organised by SISTec Mechanical Engineers Association (SMEA) under banner of Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE,

India) & Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering (IIE) Student Chapter in association with Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and sponsored by RGPV under TEQUIP III. "Nirmaan 2020" aims to provide special insights on lifecycle of E-Vehicle Start-up right from the ideation stage and comprise of workshops, panel discussions, presentations, innovative case studies, start-up case studies, policies and business models by the industry experts from World Auto Forum, Mad About Wheels, ARAI Academy etc.

"Nirmaan 2020" aims to create and build entrepreneurs offering solutions to real life with innovation in various streams of science and engineering to enhance quality of life with idea generation, technical thinking and conceptualising with design of electrical vehicle models. "Nirmaan 2020" will also witness a competition on E-vehicle with exciting prizes upto ₹1 lakh to be won by participants basis best design, innovation, prototype, battery management system, economical with best business plan.

## Programme on road safety in State soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, is soon going to launch a programme on road safety in the State through the Asian Development Bank. In this regard, members of the Advisory Committee of Asian Development Bank held a discussion with the Nodal Officers of Road Safety Cell at the Police Training and Research Institute. Among the team members PR Devraj, Girish Mishra and Sonal Shah held a meeting with officials of PWD, National High-way, MPRDC, Education, Transport, Health and Urban Administration Department. The members sought information about the effective measures taken to reduce the death rate in road accidents. It was informed in the meeting that to prevent road accidents due to animals, Marg-Mitra have been made

in the villages. Through them, efforts are being made to reduce road accidents in the last one year. Marg Mitras are honoured as a motivation. In every village with a population up to 500, Marg Mitras are trying to prevent road accidents. Road safety programmes are also being organised from time to time to bring changes in the behaviour of villagers. A common platform for all ambulances is being prepared to ensure availability of ambulance. Ambulances are available at every 50 km distance on the national highway. In this direction, 606 life support 108-ambulances of the Health department are working. The work of construction of buildings in 44 districts to ensure availability of trauma centres in every district is almost complete out of which 41 trauma centres have started functioning.

## Bike-borne miscreants loot mobile phone

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old youth was robbed of his mobile phone by two bike-borne miscreants at Asharam Bapu trisection under Gandhi Nagar police station area in the evening on Tuesday. Police said that the victim was identified as Nadir Khan. The victim, in his complaint, stated that the two miscreants appeared on bike and one of them snatched his mobile phone he was carrying and escaped from the spot. He raised alert but in vain. The victim lives in Karond. The police have registered a case under section 392 of the IPC and started search for the accused. The victim sells goods at Saath Dukan area and was selling goods when the two miscreants came over bike. The bike was not having registration number which was spotted by the victim.

## Script is soul of any film: Faraz Haider

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

"Script is the soul of any film," said director Faraz Haider. He was interacting with the media persons here on Wednesday at the promotional event of his upcoming film "Mere Desh Ki Dharti". The movie stars Divyendu, Anant Vidhaat, Anupriya Goenka and Inaam-ul-Haq in lead roles. Notably, the entire star cast of the film was also present at the event.

THE TEAM IS SHOOTING FOR THE FILM IN A VILLAGE NEAR SEHORE. WHILE TALKING ABOUT THE FILM, HAIDER SAID, "THE FILM SHOWS THE JOURNEY OF YOUNGSTERS FROM URBAN LIFE TO RURAL. IT IS A WONDERFUL TRANSITION SHOWCASING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO LIFESTYLES."

The team is shooting for the film in a village near Sehore. While talking about the film, Haider said, "The film shows the journey of youngsters from urban life to rural. It is a wonderful transition showcasing the difference between two lifestyles." "Mere Desh Ki Dharti" produced under the leadership of new CEO and Director of Carnival Motion Pictures is a humungous take on the contemporary situation prevailing in India where rural and urban

divide comes into the fore. It is the story of two engineers and their altered journey that they take in life. "This movie is a story based on the life of millions of people in India. While shooting for this film, we came across various villagers and had an opportunity to experience true essence India. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the cooperation of local officers in Bhopal, who made the whole shoot process easy with timely

permissions. It's truly the heart of India experience," said Producer and CEO and Director of Carnival Motion Pictures Vaishali Sarwankar. "Bhopal has been our first shoot location and the memories that we have captured here will be remembered forever. Bone-chilling winter, the lands, the local food and specially the Bhopali people will be a lifelong memory. They all have become part of us," said director Faraz Haider.



A group of litterateurs after being felicitated poses for a group photo with the guests on the last day of Book Fair at Hindi Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## 96th Free Urology, General Surgery camp to be held on Feb 18 at SS Eye Hosp

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 96th Free Urology and General Surgery camp will be held on February 18, 2020 at Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital with the collaboration of an American NGO — One Global

Village and Sant Nagar based Jeev Swaya Sansthan. Surgeries like stone in Urethra, Prostate, Cystoscopy, Bladder diseases, Hydrocele, Hernia, Breast Tumors, Thyroid, Parotid, ENT ailments and enlarged masses of

throat and head will be performed in the camp. USA based eminent Urologist and General Surgeons Dr Tammy Neblock Beirne, Dr Brandon Johnson, Dr Clinton Gates, Dr Marissa Mendez, Dr Barbara Nguyen, Dr Narendra and

Pratibha Khare, Dr Brijesh Patel, Dr Radha Sukhani and a Delhi based Urologists Dr Prashant Jain will perform surgeries of ailing patients. Besides American surgeons, Mumbai based senior Radiologist Dr Deepak

Jhangiani, Dr TK Gyanchandani, Dr Dilip Chotrani Urologists Dr Sudhir Lokwani and Dr CP Dewani Anesthesia specialist Dr Deepak Jain Bhopal and Physicians Dr Lal kishnani, Dr GT Khemchandani and Dr

Preeti Motiyani will assist the core team of American surgeons. Registration of Patients will be done on February 18, 2020 from Morning 8 am to 2 pm. Diagnosis and investigation procedure like X-ray,

Sonography and Pathology of registered Patients will also be done from February 18 to 20, 2020. Patients identified for surgery will be admitted in hospital on February 21 and 22, 2020. Admitted patients will be operated from February 23 to

28, 2020. After post operative care, patients will be discharged from February 29 and onwards. Patients are advised to bring their identity cards and old treatment record along with them.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

# Indian Karting Race 2020 held at Radharaman Group of Institutes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indian Karting Race 2020 is being held at Radharaman Group of Institutes.

Tuesday marked the second day of the competition. The teams presented their business plans in front of the judges on the second day of the Indian Karting Race 2020, organized in collaboration with the Radharaman Group and the Imperial Society of Innovative Engineers at the Radharaman Group campus.

On Tuesday the contestants were seen preparing their vehicles for the test with tool kits. This year the competition is being held in petrol engine and electric motor classes.

The business plan that the judges found suitable sent their teams to the experts for technical testing to proceed to the subsequent rounds. In the technical round, experts from

Mahindra and Mahindra, TVS and Honda were present. The technical tests conducted today included Weight and Vision, Design and Innovation, Business and Static Cast.

The contestants, who found deficiencies in the business plan or technical test, were given time to correct these deficiencies by tomorrow. Whereas the teams that successfully crossed these rounds were given entry into the next round. Tomorrow there will be break and acceleration etc. tests. After these tests, the cars of the selected team will race among themselves in the finale.

Cars designed by college students were seen racing on the streets and grounds of the group. The occasion was the Indian Karting Race to be held from January 21 to 23 in collaboration with the Imperial Society of Innovative Engineers.

More than 50 teams from different engineering colleges located in 19 states are participating in this competition organized to promote eco-friendly technology.

Mahindra and Mahindra, TVS, Basch, Reno, Ashok Leyland, Hero and Tech Imperial are playing expert roles as judges for the selection of the winners.

The race was formally inaugurated by regional legislator Rameshwar Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Professor Sunil Kumar Gupta, Chairman of Radharaman Group, RR Saxena Imperial Society of Innovative Engineers, Vinod Gupta.

On this occasion, Sharma said that such an event is also a matter of happiness for the state including Bhopal. These events provide an opportunity to highlight the hidden talent within young students.

# House burgled, valuables taken away



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of a retired senior accountant was targeted by miscreants and escaped with valuables worth ₹1 lakh from his house at Idgah Hills under Shahjehanabad police station; victim lodged complaint on Tuesday.

Police said that the victim Randeep Bhattacharya had gone to Trilanga on January 19 and when he returned on Tuesday valuables were found burgled.

A complaint was lodged by the victim with the Shahjehanabad police and in his complaint, he stated that he along with family had gone to Trilanga on January 19 and when they returned two window grills located at the back of the house were found broken and three almirah carrying valuables were found broken. After checking, victim found that the total loss in the burglary was around Rs 1 lakh.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

Meanwhile, Parvalia police have nabbed a 22-year-old youth and recovered 100 bottles of country made liquor from Jodhpur Ashirwad hotel on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Jakharam Jakhad, was nabbed after police received information regarding youth carrying liquor illegally.

Based on the information of illegal transport of liquor when the police started to search for the miscreant the accused tried to escape the spot after the police personnel spotted the accused. A case under section 34(2) of the Excise Act was registered and further investigation has been started. The accused was involved in illegal transport of liquor for long, said police.

# Week-long academic workshop on Sustainable Heritage Development held

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Under the joint venture of the International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership, Anant University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, a week-long academic workshop on Sustainable Heritage Development organised by the two institutions here on Wednesday.

Thirty International Fellows from the disciplines of Architecture, Design, Planning, Art and Engineering including two faculties from the Anant University attended the workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Dr SK Pandey, Asstt. Keeper, IGRMS.

In this programme, an introductory visual of the museum was screened and Dr P Sankara Rao, Asstt Keeper delivered an insightful introduction of the museum with special emphasis on the Tribal Habitat Open Air Exhibition of IGRMS which has been chosen to be the study area for the Senior Fellows.

On this occasion, Prof Amareshwar Galla, Director, International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership, Anant University, spoke about the relevance of choosing IGRMS as the site of study. He

**In this programme, an introductory visual of the museum was screened and Dr P Sankara Rao, Asstt Keeper delivered an insightful introduction of the museum with special emphasis on the Tribal Habitat Open Air Exhibition of IGRMS which has been chosen to be the study area for the Senior Fellows**

maintained that IGRMS sets a perfect place example to know about 'what is National about the National Museum. It connects people and truly represents the indignity of Indian Culture. He emphasised on the need to work on 'decolonizing the heritage discourse'. Collections in the museum largely appear to have focused on the tangible heritage, which is very much a colonial perspective.

The legacy of western colonialism still continued and we need to work with our pride sense of indigenous wisdom. Citing examples from South Africa, New Zealand where 'Heritage' is given the due focus on the values of intangible culture. "When you ask them what is your heritage, they proudly respond- 'we breathe the values we received through our

intangible heritage; we breathe through our ancestors. This inter-generational transmission also appears strong to the Maoris of New Zealand.

The programme was also attended by Rakesh Bhatt, Head of the Office, Curatorial Staff and officials of IGRMS. The programme concluded with the proposal of Vote of Thanks given by N Shakmacha Singh, Museum Associate. In the Post-lunch session of the workshop, a guided tour was organised by P Sankara Rao, SK Pandey and other curatorial and documentation units of the IGRMS.

The International Fellows availed the opportunity to interact with the curators on this first-day visit in the Tribal Habitat Open Air Exhibition of the Museum.



Vice Chancellor of Barkatullah University, RJ Rao, makes an appeal to a PhD scholar Pankaj Bhargava (seen inset) to come down after he climbed atop an overhead water tank inside BU campus in an attempt to commit suicide over alleged irregularities in the educational system in University, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# 'JNU virus has reached Madhya Pradesh'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

While protesting at Biaora in Rajgarh district on Wednesday, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Wednesday said that the JNU virus has reached Madhya Pradesh.

He along with other party leaders was participating in the protest against the issue of 'Rajgarh collector slapping BJP workers in pro-CAA rally'.

Addressing a BJP protest in Rajgarh's Biaora town against the bashing of party workers during Sunday's pro-CAA rally, Vijayvargiya went on to say that the JNU virus has reached here (Rajgarh).

Mincing no words, he said that he is told that collector madam of Rajgarh is a pass out of JNU. "Ye usi college se padhi hui hain (She is a pass out from JNU)."

Those holding tricolour in their hands have been insulted due to this virus, he added referring to the incident in which the collector had slapped and pushed several protesters. "Ye JNU ka virus Rajgarh me aa gaya hai aur hamen is virus ko khatam karne ke liye kya karna chahiye....par loktantrik tarike se (The JNU virus has reached Rajgarh and what should be done to kill this virus....but through democratic means)," Vijayvargiya asked the party workers.

Saying if no action is taken against these 'egoist' bureaucrats, Vijayvargiya warned CM Kamal Nath of direct action against him and his officers from BJP workers. He added the sweat and blood of BJP workers is not so cheap.

Former Assembly speaker Sitasaran Sharma also stirred controversy with his remarks on the collector Nidhi Nivedita. "Dhokhe se maar diya, aur mahila this warna hamara karyakarta uska hath marod deta (She hit the worker deceitfully and she was a woman or else, our worker had twisted her arms.)"

Sharma however assured party workers of befitting response to the state government saying top leadership has reached Rajgarh and would twist arms of everyone.

Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargav too crossed the line while slamming the R a j g a r h collector.

CORRECTION OF NAME	CORRECTION OF NAME	CORRECTION OF NAME
I Ajay Kumar Singh son of Shiv Parasad Singh age 42 years serving in army presently residing at flat no 201 Block A Eden Garden village Pigdamber tehsil Mhow district Indore declare that my daughter's name Sweta is incorrect. My daughter's correct name is SHWETA SINGH. I have corrected this name vided affidavit number 407/2020 presented in Mhow court district Indore MP.	I Ajay Kumar Singh son of Shiv Parasad Singh age 42 years serving in army presently residing at flat no 201 Block A Eden Garden village Pigdamber tehsil Mhow district Indore declare that my daughter's name Alka is incorrect. My daughter's correct name is ALKA SINGH. I have corrected this name vided affidavit number 408/2020 presented in Mhow court district Indore MP.	I Biju K.V. S/o V. V. Ambu Komaram age 41 years occupation military service resident of Perumpadav post Karipal district Kannur state Kerala pin 670581 declare that my son's name Anik Biju K. V. is incorrect. My son's correct name is ANIK P. V. I have corrected this name vided affidavit number TN 196447 dated 11 June 2018 presented in the court of executive magistrate Kamptee Maharashtra.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय खण्ड राजगढ़ ( ब्यावरा ) म.प्र.**  
पता:- खिलचीपुर रोड पुराने पेट्रोल पम्प के पास राजगढ़ ( ब्यावरा ) म.प्र.  
दूरभाष क्रमांक 07372-255070 ई मेल आई.डी. eephedraj@nic.in

क्र.	ऑनलाईन क्र.	विभागीय क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (PAC) लाख में	अमानत राशि (EMD) रुपये में	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रुपये में	टेकदार को प्रेषी करने की अवधि (वर्षा काल सहित)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षा काल सहित)
1	2019_ PHED _74578	84/ 19-20	राजगढ़ जिले के विकास खण्ड नरसिंहगढ़ के ग्राम नाहली में मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम नलजल योजनाकरी 125 के. के. एल. क्षमता 15 मीटर स्ट्रेजिंग आर.सी. टीकी निर्माण, 20 के.एल. क्षमता का सम्पन्न कम्प पम्प हाऊस निर्माण, रार्डजिंगमेंट एवं वितरण पाईप लाईन कार्य, सर्वमसिबल मोटा पम्प स्थापना, बाजूनी बाल निर्माण विद्युत कनेक्शन व परेनु नल कनेक्शन व 30 दिवस ट्रायल रन तथा 24 माह तक योजना का संचालन संभारण मय सामग्री सहित सम्पूर्ण कार्य।	144.39	144390.00	12500.00	केन्द्रीकृत प्रणाली में उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत	06 माह

द्वितीय नि.सू. क्रमांक 84/2019-20 राजगढ़ दिनांक 13.01.2020  
निम्न कार्य हेतु निविदा ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर आमंत्रित की गई है। निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय व बीड प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 03.02.2020 सांय 5.30 तक निश्चित है। निविदा में संशोधन की स्थिति में वेबसाईट पर ही संशोधन देखा जा सकेगा। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य जानकारी उक्त वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय खण्ड राजगढ़ ( ब्यावरा ) म.प्र.

# State players will be given incentives for their brilliant performance in Khelo India Youth Games

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The players of State will be given incentives by the State government for their brilliant performance in Khelo India Youth Games in Guwahati.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has appreciated the unique performance of Madhya Pradesh players in the Khelo India Youth Games and congratulated the medal winning players. The incentive of Rs 1 lakh will be given to the gold medal winners, ₹75,000 for the silver medal winners and the ₹50,000 for bronze medal winners has been announced.

While congratulating all the medal winning players, Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Jitu Patwari said that all facilities like international level sports infrastructure,

training in modern and scientific method and high level sports equipment are being made available to the players of the state.

As a result, the players are brilliantly performing at the national and international level. In the Khelo India Youth Games last year, where the state got eight gold medals, this year the sportspersons of the State have given 15 gold medals to Madhya Pradesh.

Players of Madhya Pradesh have won a total of 46 medals including 15 gold, 11 silver 20 bronze in the Khelo India Youth Games.

Sportspersons of the state have given this medal to Madhya Pradesh in athletics, judo, archery, table tennis shooting, wrestling, swimming, badminton, weightlifting and boxing.

In the Khelo India Youth

Games in the year 2019, players of Madhya Pradesh have won a total of 31 medals including 8 gold, 8 silver and 15 bronze.

Meanwhile, under the Khelo India Youth Games Madhya Pradesh players got one bronze medal each in boxing and swimming. With these, Madhya Pradesh has secured twelfth place in the medal table by winning a total of 46 medals, including 15 gold, 11 silver and 20 bronze so far.

At the Khelo India Youth Games, a bronze medal was presented to Madhya Pradesh by the academy's player Divya Pawar in the 54 kg category of under-21 girls in Boxing today. Similarly, in the 100 meter butterfly event of Swimming Under-17, Madhya Pradesh player Kanya Nair scored 01:05.76 m / s. Took bronze medal to Madhya Pradesh.

# Light rainfall at isolated places witnessed in State Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Light rainfall at isolated places was witnessed in the state capital on Wednesday making the weather conditions cold in the morning hours.

Four Jabalpur, Bhopal, Sagar and Shahdol divisions witnessed rainfall in the past 24 hours. Fog prevailed in Sagar, Jabalpur and Gwalior divisions.

Met department told that a system over central Maharashtra and moisture incursion from Bay of Bengal induced rainfall in the early morning hours in the state capital.

Sagar recorded 1 cm of rainfall while other places witnessed rainfall which were light showers or light rainfall.

Datia and Gwalior recorded the night temperature at 7 degree celsius which was the lowest in the State. State capital recorded day temperature at 22.1 degree celsius and night temperature at 13.9 degree celsius and according to the forecast day and night temperature would be recorded around 23 and 12 degree celsius respectively. Weather pattern would be witnessed at the same level which is prevailing.

The day temperature which was recorded at 18.8 degree celsius on Sunday rose to 27.8 degree celsius in two day and again dipped to 22.1 degree celsius on Wednesday. According to the forecast Rewa and Shahdol divisions, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Mandla, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Raisen, Vidisha, Bhopa, Betul and Hoshangabad districts are likely to witness light rainfall, thundery activities in the next 24 hours.

The fog which has prevailed at several places in the past few days would be witnessed. Warning of moderate to dense fog has been issued for Rewa, Sagar, Shahdol, Bhopal, Gwalior and Chambal divisions and Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Rattam, Shajapur and Ujjain districts.

# Property dealer booked for cheating one

STAFF REPORTER N BHOPAL

Habibganj police have booked a property dealer on the charge of cheating a woman to the tune of ₹16 lakh in the name of providing land. The accused went absconding after complaint was lodged by the victims.

The police have booked Sunil Yadav who duped Aparjita Sharma of Trilanga area who provided ₹16 lakh to the accused for buying land.

The victim stated that she bought a land worth ₹16 lakh which was facilitated by Sunil Yadav in the year 2010. The money was provided in parts to the accused. After the deal

was stuck victim asked for transfer of ownership by registering the property which the accused escaped with excuses and never provided the victim with the land. The accused and victim did agreement but registry was not done by the accused for the land.

A complaint was filed regarding the fraud and after completion of the investigation the police have registered a case under section 420 of the IPC.

Meanwhile, Habibganj police have booked three persons who deal in tour operating for Umrah and duped victims to the tune of lakhs of rupees; trip was booked in the year 2018.

**नाम परिवर्तन**  
मैं श्रीमती रेहाना खानम (Rehana Khanam) पति श्री सै. इमरान हसन (Syed Imran Hasan) निवासी-72, मुरली नगर, करौंद लहसोल हजूर जिला भोपाल म.प्र. सर्व साधारण को सूचित करती हूँ कि मेरे आधार कार्ड में त्रुटिबद्ध मेरा नाम फरज़ाना (Farzana) दर्ज हो गया था जो कि गलत है। यह कि मेरे समस्त दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम श्रीमती रेहाना खानम (Rehana Khanam) पति श्री सै. इमरान हसन (Syed Imran Hasan) दर्ज व अंकित है। अतः मुझे श्रीमती रेहाना खानम (Rehana Khanam) पति श्री सै. इमरान हसन (Syed Imran Hasan) के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जावे।



Drug peddlers and miscreants with illegal liquor in police custody at Kamal Nagar police station in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

// प्रेम विज्ञापन //

**पुलिस अधीक्षक मुख्यालय**  
पुलिस अधीक्षक मुख्यालय भोपाल के पत्र क्र.

क्रमांक/पुअ./मुख्या./भो./अपुअ./याता./172/20 दिनांक 18.01.2020

द्वारा यातायात नियमों के पालन हेतु 02 नग सौर्य ऊर्जा से संचालित ट्रेफिक सिग्नलम्प लागू किया जाना है जिस हेतु खुली/रूनिविदा का प्रकाशन दिनांक 22.01.2020 से [www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in) एवं <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर किया जा रहा है। सौर्य ऊर्जा ट्रेफिक सिग्नलम्प को अधुनिक तकनीकीका होना आवश्यक है। उक्त खुली ई-निविदा के पत्रआईटी डायक्यूमेंट एवं अन्य दस्तावेज उपरोक्त लिखित वेबसाईट से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

पुलिस अधीक्षक मुख्यालय, भोपाल

**MENTOR HOME LOANS**  
(Formerly known as Mentor India Ltd)

HEAD OFFICE: Mentor House, B-9, Govind Marg, Sethi colony, Jaipur-302004  
Phone: 0141-2611999, 8946800800, E-Mail: legal01@mentorloans.co.in

**APPENDIX IV [See Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable property]**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Mentor Home Loans India Ltd. (Formerly known as Mentor India Limited) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) Read With Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (S) Issued by the Authorised Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Co-Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice as per the details given in below table: The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(S) / Co-Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Sub-Section (4) of the section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower (S) / Co-Borrower (S) / Guarantor(S) & Loan Account Number	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	Dinesh Jat, Sandhya Bai, Virendra Kumar, Ward No.09, Iklera Road, Village Barwad, Post Iklera, Tehsil Pachore, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL08597)	Residential Property Situated at Khasra No. 322, Patwari Halka No. 61, Ward No. 09, Gram Baranabad, Tehsil Narsinghpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. Area 825 Sq. Ft. In Favour of Dinesh Jat S/o Atarnam Jat	27.06.2019 Rs. 3,59,771/-	22/01/2020
2.	Gopal Dhangar, Kala Bai, Sandeep Kumar Rambabu, Plot No. 63/2, Ward No. 03, Village & Post Amiar, Tehsil Pachore, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL09805)	Plot No. 63/2, Ward No. 03, Khasra No. 154, Patwari Halka No. 34, Village Amiar, Tehsil Pachore, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. Area 1296 Sq. Ft.	08.07.2019 Rs. 2,72,045/-	22/01/2020
3.	Ishwar Singh Patidar, Maya Devi Patidar, Vishal Patidar, Jayprakash Patidar, Plot No. 541, Gram Padaliyamata, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL08578)	Residential Property Situated at Patwari Halka No. 34, Survey No. 1255/1, 1266, 1255/2, 1126/3, 1127/3, Gram Padaliyamata, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P.	17.09.2019 Rs. 29,83,260/-	22/01/2020
4.	Devan Singh, Rekha Bai, Jitendra Singh, Plot No. 84, Ward No. 05, Gram Jabardi, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL07255)	Plot No. 84, Ward No. 05, Patwari Halka No. 33, Khasra No. 132, Gram Jabardi, Tehsil Pachore, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P., Area 1350 Sq. Ft.	05.08.2019 Rs. 3,29,041/-	22/01/2020
5.	Nem Singh Rajput, Prem Bai, Subhash Singh, Plot No. 68, Gram Kamalsara, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL06813)	Plot No. 68, Patwari Halka No. 49, Ward No. 04, Khasra No. 270, Kamalsara, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. Area 726 Sq. Ft.	05.08.2019 Rs. 2,89,698/-	22/01/2020
6.	Rajesh Kumar Khatri, Sonu Devi, Keshar Singh, Plot No. 134, Gram Gulavata, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL06059)	Plot No. 134, Patwari Halka No. 47, Ward No. 11, Khasra No. 600/1, Gram & Gram Panchayat Gulavata, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. Area 612 Sq. Ft.	13.09.2019 Rs. 2,65,580/-	22/01/2020
7.	Manoj Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Mohan Bai, Subhash Kumar Bhalala, Plot 04, Ward No. 06, Gram Ichavada, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. (MHL08019)	Plot No. 04, Patwari Halka No. 32, Khasra No. 89/1, Ward No. 06 Gram & Gram Panchayat Ichavada, Tehsil Sarangpur, Dist. Rajgarh, M.P. Area 780 Sq. Ft.	13.09.2019 Rs. 3,93,261/-	22/01/2020

The borrower(S) / Co borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, redeem the secured assets.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Mentor Home Loans India Ltd. (Formerly known as Mentor India Limited) for an amount, amount mentioned here under with interest thereon.  
Authorized officer, Mentor Home Loans India Ltd.  
Date: 23-01-2020 Place: Rajgarh (Formerly Known as Mentor India Limited)

# Art buffs enjoy colourful paintins at Swaraj Bhavan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The art enthusiasts are having a close look at the various colourful paintings by different artists put up at Swaraj Bhavan.

At the first entering the gallery, the spectators would witness the beautiful paintings. The three day exhibition began here from Wednesday.

The artists showcased their thought process over the canvas through various mediums. The art enthusiasts had an enthralling experience of watching all the art works as

they walked through the gallery. With bringing a lot of variations, many artists of the group have displayed their best of creations.

From modern art to abstract art and from figurative to traditional paintings were all displayed at one roof that evoked a good response by the art lovers of the city.

On the other part of the gallery, the artists have brought a lot of variations of art over the canvas.

From modern art to abstract art and from figurative to traditional paintings could be seen under one roof. These

colourful paintings depicted the emotions of the artists clearly.

The artists have displayed their best of creations at the gallery. This section is all about contemporary, abstract and modern art on canvas. The art lovers find exquisite works of artists in form of canvas paintings.

Not only this, but the poters have put up their creations as well. Giving stones a beautiful look and texture, the artists presented their creativity before the Bhopalites. This exhibition is a sheer treat for the art lovers of the city.



Prof RK Rawale giving away certificates to the students participating in State-level inspire award science model exhibition on the concluding day at SC, ST students hostel, old Ravindra College, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# Punjab CM sends Hitler's autobiography to Sukhbir

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as he questioned SAD President Sukhbir Badal's logic in interpreting his criticism of party's stand on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as being 'anti-Sikh', Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday sent him a copy of 'Mein Kampf'. Chief Minister advised him to read Adolf Hitler's autobiography to understand the dangerous implications of unconstitutional legislation passed by the Central Government, of which the Akalis are a part.

Given the current attempts by the Centre to replicate Hitler's agenda is India, it was important for the SAD leaders to read the former German Chancellor's autobiography before coming out with irrational reactions on the CAA,

said the Chief Minister. The recent statements of various Akali leaders, including Sukhbir, clearly exposed their ignorance on this sensitive issue, with grave repercussions for the nation, said Capt Amarinder, urging Sukhbir to read the book and decide "whether it's country first or political expediency".

"Supporting the bill in both houses of Parliament and in the Vidhan Sabha and opposing it on other platforms is unbecoming of a political leader," the Chief Minister said in a letter sent to Sukhbir along the book.

In the letter, Capt Amarinder recalled that, during the last Vidhan Sabha session, he had promised to send the Akali Dal copies of Hitler's 'Mein Kampf', which in English translates to 'My Struggles'.

"These were his (Hitler's)

beliefs which he sold to the German people in his rise to power, which later became his government's policy, when his Nazi party assumed office," wrote the Chief Minister, adding that "Apart from destroying Germany in World War II, to fulfil his territorial ambition, from the time he assumed office in 1933 to the end of the war in 1945, his purification of the German race by his ethnic cleansing, led initially to the removal of his main opposition, the communist parties, followed by persecution of the intellectuals, and finally to the extermination of the Jews".

"Read the book, as one always learns from history. The world has changed and our television and other media are powerful, and certainly different to that of Germany in the 30s under Joseph Goebbels. Nevertheless, the

talk of camps and a national register to eliminate the Muslim and Jewish communities is ominous," Capt Amarinder further wrote, adding that while some of the political parties, including the Congress, were protesting everyday along with universities across the country, "it is time now that others, too, join this movement".

Meanwhile, taking the SAD president head-on over his remarks, the Chief Minister also asked him to explain how his (Captain Amarinder's) demand for the Akalis to quit NDA over CAA amounted to "subservience" to the Gandhi family.

"Or are you trying to say that the lakhs of people out on the streets to protest against CAA are doing so simply out of subservience to the Gandhi family," he asked Sukhbir. Retorting to Sukhbir's

'saving his chair' job, the Chief Minister said that his chair was quite secure. "But apparently, you are worried about your wife Harsimrat's chair in the Union Cabinet and do not want her to lose that at any cost," quipped Capt Amarinder, adding that this could be the reason for SAD refusing to walk out of NDA despite claiming to take a stand against CAA.

Dubbing Sukhbir's remarks as a blatant case of double standards, the Chief Minister pointed out that the SAD chief was deliberately twisting his (Captain Amarinder's) statements in a bid to fool people on the government's stand on CAA. "Or is he so ignorant that he does not understand the difference between seeking an inclusive legislation, which allows citizenship for all communities, including Muslims

and Sikhs, and a law that excludes certain sections such as the Muslims and Jews etc?" asked the Chief Minister.

He said that Sukhbir need to clarify his and SAD's stand on CAA, considering their outrageously contradictory statements on the issue over the past several days.

"First they support CAA wholeheartedly in the Parliament, then some of them (Akali leaders) say they want Muslims in CAA (why they did not say so in Parliament is beyond comprehension), then one of their leaders says they won't fight Delhi polls because they are not ready to review their stand on CAA. But nobody knows what their stand on CAA really is," quipped the Chief Minister, asking Sukhbir to give clarity, once and for all, on the controversial issue.



Mahila Congress activists burning an effigy of Leader of the opposition in the State Assembly Gopal Bhargava and BJP MLA Badrial Yadav at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday to protest against the incident of slapping women collector and deputy collector by BJP workers during rally in support of CAA and NRC in Balaora, Rajgarh district recently. Pioneer photo

# Hemant hints at Cabinet expansion soon

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday hinted towards the expansion of his Cabinet in next couple of days. Soren, while talking to media person at Birsa Munda International Airport on his return from New Delhi said, "There is no confusion on cabinet expansion. The opposition is yet to recover from its shocking defeat in Assembly election."

"The Opposition is upset with its loss and is spreading rumour that there are differences between JMM and Congress over Cabinet expansion. I want to make it clear that Grand Alliance is united and there are no differences between us," added Soren. Soren's remark on Cabinet expansion assumes importance as the Opposition has been tar

condemnable. Meanwhile, sources said that both the parties — JMM and Congress — have finalised the shape of new Cabinet. Soren on his recent visit to Delhi for receiving 'Champion of Change' award from former President Pranab Mukherjee had discussion with senior Congress leaders on Cabinet expansion. Sources said the Cabinet expansion will be done on January 28.

The Hemant Soren Government in State comprises three Ministers who took oath along with him on December 29 along with two ministers from Congress quota (Alamgir Alam and Rameshwar Oroan) and one minister Satyanand Bhokta from RJD camp.

Sources said the delay in Cabinet expansion is mainly due to both parties failing to reach consensus on number of ministerial berths and key departments. While the Congress wants five ministries, the JMM is willing to give only four. The Congress also wants important ministries, like health, education and rural development.

Also, Hemant Soren has to deal with the Congress demands, meet the aspirations of his own party legislators as well as balance the caste factor. Also, there are over half a dozen JMM legislators who have won the Assembly polls four-five times and are aspiring to be in the ministry.

getting JMM and Congress for delay in cabinet expansion. The BJP targeting Soren's government has claimed that both the parties are yet to finalise their cabinet as Congress is exerting pressure on JMM demanding plum portfolios.

State BJP spokesperson, Pratul Shahdeo had claimed that Soren is dancing on the tune of Congress as the party is demanding key portfolios in the cabinet. Shahdeo said that due to the blackmailing of the Congress, Chief Minister Hemant Soren spent almost half of his 25-day tenure visiting Delhi Darbar. Shahdeo claimed that the selection of ministers and allocation of portfolios is the prerogative of Chief Minister, but the way in which Congress is exerting pressure on Chief Minister for getting plum portfolios is

# Top cops of Punjab, Chandigarh, Hry to meet once in three months

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bid to ensure better coordination on law & order front, the top cops of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh will meet once in every three months.

The Director General of Police (DGPs) of neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana and their joint capital Chandigarh will meet to discuss issues related to interstate gangsters, to tackle drug menace, safety of women among others.

Apart from this, SPs of two states and the union territory will meet once in a month for better coordination on law and order front especially in the interstate gangs related crimes while the field police officers will meet more frequently for coordination and cooperation in crime case investigations.

These decisions were taken at the meeting of Apex Committee for coordination of tricity held under Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator VP Singh Badnore on Wednesday here. Punjab Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh, Haryana Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora, Manoj Parida, Advisor to UT Administrator and other senior officers of Civil and Police Administration from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh were present at the meeting.

During the meeting which lasted for more than one and a half hours, the Chandigarh Administration recommended establishing a special unit involving senior police officers from

two State Governments and UT Administration to deal with crime by interstate gangsters.

Apart from this, the Administration suggested extension of e-beatbook system in the tricity (Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali) and integration of emergency response support system.

"It has been decided that DGPs will meet once in three months to ensure better coordination between three authorities. The need to establish special investigation units, integration of emergency response support system and other requirements for better policing system will be discussed at DGPs meetings," said a senior officer of UT Administration after the meeting.

The coordination committee discussed about various law and order issues like the participation of both the neighbouring states in tackling the crimes committed by the interstate gangsters, snatchings and thefts in the tricity. It was also suggested that there should be special hotline for seamless transfer of border area calls in the tricity, the officer said.

The Administration has also recommended that the security audit of public places for women safety should be done on various safety parameters like lighting, openness, visibility, security, public transport and setting up of powerline for women and child safety and adopt the best practices on same lines from other states including Uttar Pradesh.

At the meeting, Chandigarh

Administration apprized the neighboring State Governments that no action was taken from their side to prevent the entry of agitators from joint border even after prior information was given to them and stressed on better coordination and cooperation.

Some of such incidents mentioned by the Administration included entry of Kissan Majdoor Sangharsh Committee Pidi Group entering Chandigarh from Punjab border and reaching Prime Minister's rally place at Sector 34 here in May last year and agitators from BKU Kadiyan Group, Joint Action Committee of Punjab and UT Employees and Punjab Govt pensioners, Gazetted and non-gazetted SC/BC employee federation, BKU Lakhnowa Group entering the city from Punjab border on various occasion for protests last year.

Apart from law and order issue, discussion was held on construction of outer ring road, inner ring road and traffic management issue. Not keen on implementation of metro project, the three authorities maintained their earlier stand on project, considering the non-viability and high cost.

Following a discussion on this, it was decided that the committee under the Advisor to the Administrator will look into various agendas discussed and resolve the health and transport issues of the tricity. The Administrator directed that this Committee should meet more frequently.



Development work underway near TT Nagar Dussehra ground for smart city project in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# All 7 Hry Independents meet, oppose case against Meham MLA

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Murmuring of dissent amongst the Haryana Independent MLAs, on whose support the BJP-JJP Government survives, has begun.

All the seven Independent MLAs who had given unconditional support to the coalition Government, held a meeting under the chairmanship of independent MLA from Rania and Haryana Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala in Chandigarh late on Tuesday evening apparently to discuss the case against Meham's independent MLA Balraj Kundu and his brother.

However, talking to reporters in Chandigarh on Wednesday, Chautala downplayed the meeting and said it was held on general issues. He, however, refused to disclose anything regarding Kundu's case.

Sources said that in the meeting, while the independent MLAs supported Kundu, Chautala and Nayanpal Rawat, an independent legislator and chairman of Haryana Warehousing Corporation suggested that the issue should be discussed with Chief Minister Manohar Lal before taking any decision.

Winning from the Meham constituency, Kundu is another BJP rebel. He had sought a BJP ticket but when it fielded Shamsheer Kharkara, he chose to fight as an Independent and won. The meeting of independent legislators is considered to be important after Kundu had given a warning two days ago to the coalition government to withdraw support. Sources said that a strong objection was expressed to the case registered against Kundu and his brother by independent legislators. Independent legislators have indicated that they would pressurise the government on the matter.

Kundu and his brother have been booked for allegedly cheating their business partner Narender Dhankar and not paying back Rs 10.50 crore they owed to him. Kundu had earlier said, "The police had booked me in a false case due to political pressure and former MLA Manish Grover is exerting pressure on administration to implicate me in a false case."

Two days ago, Kundu had threatened to withdraw support

to the BJP- JJP government in Haryana if chief minister Khattar fails to order a probe into allegations of corruption against former cooperatives minister Manish Grover within a month. Grover is counted among the BJP leaders close to Khattar.

Kundu said he had demanded inquiry against Grover for allegedly allotting development projects in Rohtak to his relatives and favourite contractors by ignoring rules and regulations. He also alleged that Grover was also responsible for large scale irregularities in sugar mills across the state during his tenure as cooperatives minister. The Haryana Police has

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charged Kundu and his brother Shivraj Kundu for allegedly cheating a Rohtak resident. A case was registered on January 17 against Balraj and his brother Shivraj under relevant Indian Penal Code sections pertaining to cheating, conspiracy and criminal breach of trust on a complaint lodged by one Narender Dhankar.

Dhankar had alleged that the brothers, who run a construction company, were not paying money to him which they owed to him during business transactions.

Kundu had alleged that he was being framed in the case due to political vendetta at the behest of a BJP leader from the state, who is a former minister. "I have been raising my voice against corruption. Such false cases will not suppress my voice," he told reporters in Rohtak.

Independent MLAs supporting the government include Kundu from Meham, Ranjit Singh Chautala from Rania, Nayanpal Rawat from Prithla, Sombir Sangwan from Dadri, Randhir Golan from Pundri, Rakesh Dulatabad from Badshahpur and D h a r a m p a l Gondar from Neelokheri.

# Punjab to replace over 15-yr-old 3-wheelers with electric or CNG autos

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To control air pollution, Punjab's Environment and Climate Change Department, under Tandrust Punjab Mission, has decided to ensure replacement of more than 15 years old three-wheelers with electric or CNG autos.

Informing this, Tandrust Punjab Mission Director Kahan Singh Pannu said that it has been observed that a large number of three wheelers, which are more than 15 years, are operating in the state of Punjab. "But as per Rule 68 C of the Punjab Motor Vehicle Rules-1989, three wheelers auto rickshaws cannot operate beyond 15 years," he said.

He said that Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has already banned the registration of new diesel or petrol three wheelers in the districts of Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Mohali since January 2019.

"In fact, the case for banning such vehicles in the districts of Patiala and Bathinda is also under PPCB's consideration and CNG supply stations have been set up in these two districts to meet the upcoming demand," he said.

Pannu said that all the three wheelers, which are more than 15 years old, are not just illegally operating in the State but are a major pollution hazard in addition to being accident prone. "In major cities of Punjab, CNG supply stations have been set up and in addition, electric three wheelers have also become available," he added.

He said that Deputy Commissioners of all major

cities have been asked to undertake measures to weed out the old three wheelers and to provide opportunity of having gas or electric based three wheelers to the owners of old three wheelers.

Pannu said that to facilitate the transition, under Tandrust Punjab Mission, it has been proposed that a committee consisting of officers from District Police traffic wing, PPCB, Transport Department and Lead Bank officer of the District may be constituted by Deputy Commissioner under the chairmanship of a senior officer of the District Administration.

"The residual value of old three wheelers is dismally low as these have outlived their life. However, major gas or electric three wheelers companies have agreed to offer a price ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 for old three wheelers, which shall be scrapped by them in the shredding or furnace units, so that these are permanently put off the roads," he said.

Pannu added that it has been suggested that the owners or drivers of old three wheelers who are desirous of getting new gas or electric three wheelers, should be facilitated to obtain loans at concession rates from commercial banks under the Mudra Scheme or any other scheme of Government or Banks.

Even camps of such applications can be organized. He said that action, as provided under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, shall continue to be taken against the vehicles running in violations of the Act.

# CRPF facing critical shortage of armoured troop carriers

**RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

Amid heightened threat to its troops and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims this year, the CRPF — the lead agency for internal security and conduct of Yatra — is facing a critical shortage of armoured troop carriers to transport the paramilitary personnel in Jammu & Kashmir.

Officials said, the paramilitary is facing a shortage of up to 40 per cent of the sanctioned strength, a figure being withheld in order to avoid any risk to the troopers from the terrorists in the Valley.

The preparation for the Amarnath Yatra begins in March and a meeting was held

in the Home Ministry for procurement of the armoured troop carriers, sources said.

The shortage of the armoured troop carriers has accrued over the years as the paramilitary has not been able to procure bullet proof vehicles from Original Equipment Manufacturers during the last one decade, leading to an alarming shortfall in such vehicles, they said.

The security forces especially the CRPF is facing enhanced threat from the terror groups post-abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories — J&K and



Ladakh, officials said, adding approvals for procurement of the specialised vehicles are yet to see the light of the day

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- The security forces especially the CRPF is facing enhanced threat from the terror groups post-abrogation of Article 370
- The Amarnath Yatra that is held between July and August is estimated to be tough from the security perspective as it will be the first such Yatra to be conducted after change in the special status of J&K
- Last year, the Amarnath Yatra was called off midway ahead of the decision to scrap Article 370 on August 5 as a well calculated move to avoid any risk to the pilgrims

despite the Pulwama incident last year in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed while travelling in a convoy consisting of

non-armoured buses. "The sanctioned numbers of bullet-proof bunker vehicles are badly needed as addition-

al deployment of 25 battalions of the CRPF was made in the Valley in anticipation of aggravated law and order situation following nullification of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir," an official said.

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The terror groups are also seeking to find traction among the youth as the jihadi ranks are facing crisis due to the wiping out of the terror leadership in the Valley owing to counter-

terror action by the security forces in the last two years.

Last year, the Amarnath Yatra was called off midway ahead of the decision to scrap Article 370 on August 5 as a well calculated move to avoid any risk to the pilgrims.

In 2017, Amarnath pilgrims were targeted by the terrorists in July 2017 in which eight religious tourists were killed and over 30 others injured.

Likewise, in June 2016, the banned terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyeba ambushed a convoy of CRPF vehicles in Pampore and killed eight uniformed men of the paramilitary and injuring over 20 others.

# Children in J&K are nationalists not culprits: Rajnath

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Days after Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said girls and boys between the age group of 10 and 12 years were being radicalised in Jammu & Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the children from there are "nationalists" but sometimes get motivated in the wrong direction and those guiding are the "culprits."

Rawat had also said the misguided youth have to be weaned away by lodging them in deradicalisation camps.

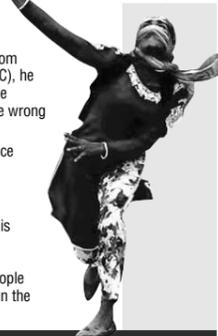
Dispelling the notion of radicalisation, the Defence Minister said those youngsters "should not be seen in any other way."

Making this observation when asked about his opinion on the children from Jammu & Kashmir being motivated to join the National Cadet Corps (NCC), he said, "Youngsters are youngsters only. Sometimes, the way they should be motivated, people do not motivate them. In fact, they are motivated in the wrong direction."

In his address during the Raisina Dialogue here last week, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat had said children as young as 10 to 12 years are being radicalised in Kashmir and there is need to isolate those completely radicalised and put them in deradicalisation camps

Defence Minister said Indian values consider all religions equal, and that is why the country is secular and never became a theocratic state like Pakistan. "Even America is a theocratic country. India is not a theocratic country. Why? Because our saints and seers did not just consider the people living within our borders as part of the family, but called everyone living in the world as one family," the Minister said

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everyone living in the world as one family," the Minister said.

Singh underlined that India had never declared its religion would be Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist and people of all religions could live here. "They (saints and seers) gave the slogan of 'Vasudev Kutumbakam' — the whole world is one family. This message has gone to the whole world from here only," he added.

He later presented Raksha Mantri Padak and commendation cards to NCC cadets and observed band and cultural performances of NCC cadets. Praising the parade and various performances of cadets, the Defence Minister said it has been able to boost the sense of national pride among Indian youth.

He also said the NCC plays an unparalleled role in transforming the youth into future leaders. "Today, NCC cadets can be found in almost every field, including Armed Forces, politics and sports. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is taking our country to newer heights, was an NCC cadet," Singh said. He also recalled his days as a cadet of the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world.

# Cabinet allots ₹4,371 cr to upgrade NITs

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday allotted Rs 4,371 crore to upgrade National Institutes of Technology (NITs) across the country.

Addressing media, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said this will help the NITs to establish permanent campuses and infrastructures. Blaming UPA Government, he said the NITs were established in 2009 were given very low funding around Rs 250 crore and this had hampered the growth of the institutes.

"Now with the decision for granting Rs 4, 371 crore all NITs can be upgraded with better facilities by 2022, he said.

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved fur-

ther extension of six months to the Other Backward Classes sub-categorisation commission, headed by retired Delhi High Court Chief Justice G Rohini. Cabinet also decided to designate Daman as the headquarters of the merged Union Territories of Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The Cabinet also approved a model pact with foreign countries for recognition of seafarers' competency certificates. This will pave the way for mutual recognition of maritime education and training of seafarers by the countries involved.

"The Cabinet has approved a model MoU with foreign countries for unilateral/bilateral recognition of Certificates of Competency of seafarers," a Government official said.



## INSHORT

**JAPAN'S HUGE INFRA INVESTMENT IN N-E**  
**New Delhi:** Japan has huge investment in infrastructure projects in the Northeast and is collaborating with several States in the region in areas like forest, sewerage and disaster management, the Centre said on Wednesday. The issue was discussed threadbare when a delegation led by Japanese Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki called on Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh, an official statement said.

**GOVT TO UNVEIL ACTION PLAN TO BOOST ECONOMY**  
**New Delhi:** The Government will unveil its "plan of action" to boost the economy in the Union Budget to be presented on February 1, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said asserting that economic fundamentals remain very strong.

**43 FLIGHTS SCREENED FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**  
**New Delhi:** A total of 43 flights and 9,156 passengers were screened for novel coronavirus till Tuesday at the seven identified airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, Union Health Minister said on Wednesday. Till now, no cases have been detected through these screening efforts, the Ministry added.

**MoRD SIGNS MoU WITH BILL GATES FOUNDATION**  
**New Delhi:** The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana — National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), for furthering their mutual objectives of strengthening grassroots institutions of the rural poor.

**CBI ARRESTS 2 ENGINEERS FOR TAKING BRIBE**  
**New Delhi:** The CBI on Wednesday arrested an assistant garrison engineer and a junior engineer from the Garrison Engineer's office in Dehradun for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 for clearing bills.

# Gadkari convenes 2-day marathon review meet of all ongoing projects

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has convened a two-day marathon review meeting on Thursday and Friday of all the ongoing projects, worth Rs 3 lakh crore, of his Ministry as also that of the central road making agency NHAI.

Ministry sources said progress of about 500 projects especially struck/delayed projects will be taken up during the meeting to be held at Manesar near national Capital. Various stakeholders numbering about 600 Concessionaries/Contractors/Bankers and concerned officials of Union Governments and its Departments/Organisations, State NH Division, State PWD Departments will be attending the review meeting on January 23-24.

"This meeting is an important platform for ironing out issues and exploring the way forward for pending projects and helping in expediting the implementation," said a MoRTH official. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways General (Retd) VK Singh will also attend the marathon meeting.

Officials said the first day of the meeting projects of South Zone (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Pondicherry, Karnataka) and Central Zone (Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat) will be reviewed while projects

of Haryana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal will be taken up on Friday.

The projects in the States of Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Goa will be taken up afterwards. It may be stated that issues related to projects of North-Eastern States, and NHIDCL have already been reviewed in a separate meeting early this year.

This is the second time

within a week when Gadkari will be chairing a meeting of entire Transport Ministry and stakeholders with the first being the National Road Safety Council meeting last week when it was deliberated to improve road and highways infrastructure.

In the meeting, expressing concern for fatalities on roads, Gadkari had advocated to penalise the officers for faulty engineering of road infrastructure.

# PM takes stock of progress made in 9 delayed projects

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took stock of progress made in nine delayed projects, worth Rs 24,000 crore and spread across as many States at the first meeting of 'Pragati' this year.

These projects are in Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

These include three from Railways, five from the Road Transport and Highways and one from the Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Modi also reviewed the performance related to insur-

ance schemes — 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY) and 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' (PMSBY).

The progress under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project, which is a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-governance, also came up for review.

In the last 31 'Pragati' interactions, Modi has reviewed a total of 269 projects with a total investment of Rs 12.30 lakh crore.

He has also reviewed the resolution of grievance redressal related to 47 Government programmes and schemes across 17 diverse sectors.

# BJP calls Cong 'Muslim League Congress'

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Charging the Congress with "Muslim appeasement" and "insulting Hindus", the BJP on Wednesday quoted Maharashtra Minister Ashok Chavan's comments on installation of a non-BJP coalition Government in the State to say the party should be termed "Muslim League Congress".

Citing Chavan's reported remarks that the Congress joined hands with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra as Muslims also wanted the party to stop the BJP from coming to power, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra accused Congress of betraying interests of Hindus and appeasing Muslims.

"The Congress leader says they joined the Government for Muslims. What is the sin of Hindus, Sikhs and others. The Congress has insulted Hindus and this comment has exposed it," the BJP leader claimed.

At his press conference Patra referred to comments of many opposition leaders, including those from AIMIM, to allege that they were "abusing" Hindus in the name of anti-CAA protests and sought support from Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP's Sharad Pawar.

Patra also drew attention to the reported comments of AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, whose brother Asaduddin Owaisi heads the party that Muslims ruled over the country for eight centuries to refer to him as Jinnah, Pakistan's founder

Citing Chavan's reported remarks that the Congress joined hands with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra as Muslims also wanted the party to stop the BJP from coming to power, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra accused Congress of betraying interests of Hindus and appeasing Muslims.

For his part, Union Minister Giriraj Singh reacted saying, "Wo Mughal lutere thay. Aap Bharat ko darane ka kaam na karen. Jinnah ke raaste par na chalein, Bharatvanshi ab jaag chuke hain."

Asked about Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge's reported jibe at the RSS for its "non-participation" in the freedom movement, Patra shot back, asking if parents of Sonia Gandhi, who is of Italian origin, had fought in India's independence struggle.

The Indian National Congress, he said referring to the opposition party's full name, should be called "Muslim League Congress". The Congress does "Muslim appeasement" for the community's votes but has never done any good for it, he claimed.

Pointing to a report in an Urdu daily, Patra said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had once described his party as a 'party of Muslims' and its leaders coined terms like saffron terror. Since 1946, Patra claimed the Congress has done "Muslim vote bank politics".

# BJP's focus is only 'Loot & Scoot': Cong

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Wednesday said the "Suit-Boot" BJP Government's focus is only on the industry of "Loot & Scoot" and under its rule "Common man is in pain but Con-man is in gain". The party questioned whether the BJP-led dispensation is involved in Frost International Bank Scam of Rs 3,592.48 crore and in the escape of its directors.

The Congress alleged the total bank fraud during the BJP's tenure amounted to over Rs 2.7 lakh crore.

The party stated political accountability must be fixed on Prime Minister and Finance Minister for Rs 2,70,513.49 crore public money looted from banks and Rs 5,00,000 crore written off of willful defaulters.

Congress spokesperson Jaiver Shergill slammed the Government for not taking timely action against the directors of Frost International which is alleged to have defrauded banks to the tune of Rs 3,592 crore. He alleged that it was the Government that prevented the lodging of complaint in the scam.

"When the consortium of lending banks had authorised registration of complaint on June 15, 2019, why did it take more than seven months to register a complaint? Was someone in the BJP Government preventing the

registration of complaint?" Shergill questioned at a Press conference.

"When the PSBs having Government nominees on board were aware that the company is unable to return the money, why did it take them a year to request the MHA to issue a lookout notice?" he said.

The grand old party also

queried as to why the lookout notice was delayed.

"Despite issuance of LOC on January 18, 2019, why and on whose directions in the BJP Government did the investigating agencies not register a case till January 19, 2020, for an entire year against the suspected offenders who remain untraceable till date?" Shergill said.

# NPR good when UPA brought it, bad when we repeated it: Javadekar

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday hit out at parties questioning the National Population Register (NPR) saying it was welcomed in the past when the then Congress-led Government introduced it but is being dubbed as "bad" when the NDA regime is repeating it.

He also said the provision of "naturalisation" to grant Indian citizenship to foreign nationals in the principal Citizenship Act of 1955 still remains and Pakistani singer Adnan Sami became an Indian citizen due to that.

"That provision (of naturalisation) still remains. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) takes note of persecuted minorities in three countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan) who came to India seeking justice ... The amendment is about giving citizenship and not taking it," Javadekar said at a briefing of the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet.

Kerala and West Bengal are some of the States who have opposed the NPR exercise. The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to stay the amended citizenship law without hearing the Centre.

Responding to a question on the issue, Javadekar said, "Those who are opposed to the Citizenship Amendment Act made have their own views,

but the Supreme Court decided not to give it (CAA) any stay," he said.

Responding to questions on the NPR, he said giving date of birth or place of birth of parents is optional in the exercise. "If you don't have it or don't remember, don't give it... Many questions are optional," he said.

Referring to the origin of the NPR, he pointed out that it was introduced by the Congress-led UPA Government in 2010. "Then you all welcomed it. They bring it, it is good. When we bring, it is bad. This cannot be the case. This is not fair," he said.

The Minister said the National Register of Citizens is limited to Assam and it was brought by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"They brought it (NRC) so it is good. We did not bring, so we are bad," he quipped.

To a question, the senior BJP leader said at one point of time, thousands of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka were given Indian citizenship.

Responding to a question on "proposed" police action in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, he said no action is on in the area.

"No action is being taken in Shaheen Bagh, there is a complaint... Police went to Jamia (university) there was a complaint, they did not go (enter) the JNU (campus), there is a complaint. This is not done (Aisa toh nahin chalta hai)," he said.

# India bans toxic chemical hydrochlorofluorocarbon

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

With an aim to combat climate change, India has banned import of toxic chemical hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141b used in the production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams by foam manufacturers from January 1, 2020.

Since HCFC-141b, greenhouse gases that damage the earth's ozone layer, was not produced in the country, all the domestic requirements were being met through imports.

However, the Union Environment Ministry issued a notification last year in December seeking ban on import of the foam manufacturing companies. With this, India has completely phased out the important ozone-depleting chemical, said an official from the Ministry.

HCFC comprises inert compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine, and it is used instead of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) as it is less destructive to the ozone layer. At present,

HCFCs are used in various sectors like refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) and foam manufacturing. These sectors are directly related to urban development, agriculture through cold chain, and industrial development.

Simultaneously, the use of HCFC-141 b by foam manufacturing industry has also been closed as on 1st January 2020 under the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2014, said

a senior official from the Union Environment Ministry.

Nearly 50 per cent of the consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals in the country was attributable to HCFC-141 b in the foam sector.

The Ministry had adopted a structured approach to engaging with foam manufacturing enterprises for providing technical and financial assistance in order to transition to non-ODS and low GWP technologies under the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan

(HPMP), said the official.

Around 175 foam manufacturing enterprises have been covered under HPMP out of which, 163 enterprises are covered under stage II of HPMP. The complete phase-out of HCFC 141 b from the country in the foam sector is among the first at this scale in Article 5 parties (developing countries) under the Montreal Protocol.

The implementation of HPMP through regulatory and policy actions, implementation of technology conversion pro-

jects has removed around 7800 Metric Tonnes of HCFC 141-b from the baseline level of 2009 and 2010 of the country, he said.

The phase-out of HCFC-141b from the country has twin environmental benefits viz. assisting the healing of the stratospheric ozone layer, and towards the climate change mitigation due to transition of foam manufacturing enterprises at this scale under HPMP to low global warming potential alternative technologies.

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Miffed allies

Slighted by the BJP over seats, the Akali Dal and Dushyant Chautala refuse to contest Delhi polls



The allies are proving to be an itch again for the BJP in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections and though it may not be betting big on them, the mutual differences are worsening its arrogant and abrasive image. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), its long-time ally, which was hoping to contest six seats, has now decided to withdraw from the race altogether, citing irreconcilable differences on several issues, primary among them being the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The SAD is dead against the religion-based conditionality in the new law and wants all minority communities (some Ahmadiyyas are in Punjab) to be included. Besides, the BJP was pushing it to contest under the lotus symbol, clearly intended to subsume federal parties under its umbrella than that of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Ever since the Akali leadership has passed into the hands of Sukhbir Singh Badal and the SAD has been pushed down the ladder of political dominance in Punjab, it has slowly and steadily been asserting its independence. By choosing to end the alliance in Delhi, it hopes to douse the fire of criticism in Punjab that it is now being guided by the Hindutva ideology and supporting contentious issues like the abrogation of Article 370 and CAA without looking at the bigger picture. Its core constituency feels these issues serve a predominantly Hindu voterbase and do not find much resonance among Sikhs, who have been shortchanged. This has become more pronounced after the Akal Takht jathedar, Giani Harpreet Singh, publicly lambasted Hindutva, going so far as to seeking a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS).

Already Congress Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, by passing an Assembly resolution against the CAA, has pushed the Akalis into a corner. As for Delhi, there are around 10 lakh Sikh voters, who could potentially affect the results in about 10 of the 70 Assembly seats. Question is whether this slippage would impact the BJP vote share. Rifts between the Akali Dal and the BJP have been widening ever since the seat-sharing fiasco in the Haryana Assembly elections, with the latter attempting to poach some of its candidates. While all of these moves may seem hurtful to the coalition dharma, fact is the emaciated SAD needs the BJP's majoritarian weight to have a stake in both Central and State politics. The BJP, post the mammoth Lok Sabha verdict of last year, is not looking to be overly dependent on the Punjabi vote in the city. In fact, it doesn't see too much of a community drift, arguing that the presence of the Akalis could have led to an ideology-based split. It claims the neutral Sikh vote would come its way and is, in fact, hoping to divide the Sikhs as those with Panthic loyalties and those that are non-aligned. In that sense, it is trying to undercut the Akalis. Besides, the Delhi BJP, which once thrived on the anti-Sikh riots sentiment to draw the Sikh vote towards it from the Congress and had the Punjabi Hindu vote with negotiators like Madan Lal Khurana, is now much more dependent on other community votes like the Purvanchalis while consolidating its hold among Baniyas. The shift in the power axis is apparent from the fact that the BJP has accommodated both the Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), allocating three seats between them, clearly with an eye to the Bihar elections. However, both these allies are not with their fair share of troubles. JD(U) senior leader Pavan K Varma has sought "ideological clarity" over the seat-sharing with BJP in Delhi while colleague Prashant Kishor continues asking questions on CAA. Other than the SAD, the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), the BJP's newest ally in Haryana, will also not be contesting the Delhi elections. Led by the fiery young descendant of the Chautala clan, Dushyant Chautala, it claims it didn't get the electoral symbols of its choice and is, therefore, withdrawing from the race. But there were murmurs of the party wanting to contest at least 12 seats. There is a sizeable Jat population that can swing the results in Najafgarh, Mundka, Mahipalpur, Mehrauli, Nangloi, Badarpur, Devli and Chhattarpur. And while Dushyant may not openly challenge the CAA, fact is he is finding it hard to justify a relationship of convenience politically. The BJP may not need the allies numerically now because it has stepped out of the pretend politics of Modi 1.0 and is gung-ho about its solo majority status. But it cannot consolidate its India map without its federal partners given its recent drubbing at the State polls. And with its oldest ideologically-friendly ally, Shiv Sena, walking out, it certainly could do without more friends turning foes and eroding popular trust in the process.

## Another deadly virus

With complex strains emerging in China, we should ask why this is happening at all when dealing with public health risks



It looks like every second year, a new deadly contagion emerges in China. First, it was SARS, then Avian Flu, which was followed by Swine Flu and now, a new coronavirus has taken over the Chinese city of Wuhan. This new virus is estimated to have infected over 400 people, nine of whom have died. Thanks in no small part to the boom in international air travel within and outside China, which connects even secondary cities such as Wuhan, cases have spread in several countries now, including across the Pacific in the US. Earlier viruses like Avian Flu or Bird Flu were thought to have originated in illegal poultry farms where animals were kept in unhygienic conditions. In the case of Swine Flu, too, the emergence of the virus was in pig farms. Avian Flu led to the killing of millions of birds at poultry farms as they were culled. With the emergence of Swine Flu, where the virus was thought to have passed from domesticated pigs to humans, thousands of pigs were eliminated as well. And now, this latest virus, which does not have a moniker as yet, appears to have emerged from the illegal trade in marine wildlife in that Chinese city.

All of this does raise questions about hygiene standards and food quality issues that many towns and villages in China face behind the new glass and concrete skyscrapers. In this part of the world, illegal trading of animals and bird farms is common, often next to human dwellings. It should not be a surprise then that when pathogens do the dreaded inter-species skip, such an environment becomes an enabler. It is, therefore, contingent upon the Chinese authorities to get to the bottom as to why these new pathogens are emerging. This should be done on an urgent basis because the next outbreak may not be as contained or worse but more virulent and deadlier. Public health officials have been warning about the potential of a next global pandemic to rival the Spanish Influenza of exactly a century ago when an estimated 50-100 million people died, including around 17 million people in India. This is one reason why Indian authorities must be vigilant. During the Avian Flu crisis, authorities pre-emptively culled millions of chickens in poultry farms across the country. It is good to know that passengers arriving from China are being scanned at Indian airports. However, we have to stay on our toes and urge the Chinese to clean up their act.

# A never-ending crisis

As more details about the Boeing 737 MAX emerge, it is becoming clearer that a fair dose of arrogance pushed the American plane-maker



KUSHAN MITRA

Boeing's internal documents, which revealed that executives mocked aviation regulators and airlines across the world, including India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), were hugely damaging for the American planemaker and marked a torrid start to 2020 after a horrific 2019. The year began in the aftermath of the Lion Air 737 MAX crash in Indonesia. Using "friendly" media sources, Boeing executives said that poor pilot training (and the lack of it) was the primary cause of the crash. While there may have been an element of truth to that, the second 737 MAX crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet, seconds after takeoff from Addis Ababa, dealt the final blow.

As a result, Boeing's 737 MAX fleet was grounded worldwide, some regulators doing it sooner than others, but the aircraft manufacturer kept on producing planes, even though they could not fly. Planes kept coming off the production line at over 20 a month, leading to over 200 aircraft being parked at Boeing's plant in Renton, Washington. However, with little space to keep so many airplanes — Boeing was also forced to park planes in employee car parking lots — the American manufacturer decided to suspend production a few weeks ago.

It is extremely fortuitous that the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX has not collapsed the global aviation industry. It is noteworthy here that the MAX was still a new aircraft and had not been fully integrated with fleets across the world. The grounding is now beginning to impact growth opportunities for airlines. With large American carriers like American Airlines and Southwest Airlines, which are the largest operators of MAX, now delaying the re-introduction of the plane all the way till the middle of this year, this crisis is not going to end anytime soon. Boeing's nose has been grounded to the tarmac, its reputation ruined.

In most other industries, such a crisis might have been fatal for a company but the global airliner manufacturers' duopoly between the American Boeing and the European Airbus, where the latter has smartly and carefully not uttered a word or even celebrated the former's woes, makes the Coke-Pepsi duel look like a violent conflict in comparison. While the Chinese and the Russians are trying to up their game in the civilian airliner market — some could even argue that Boeing's fall has given them an opportunity — they are far from being an effective contender. It takes several billions of dollars and an army of engineers to develop a new aircraft. Right now nothing can beat the entrenched players.

But at the end of the day, the entire MAX crisis that has engulfed Boeing comes down to the fact that the manufacturer did not want to spend a huge sum of money on developing a new plane. The Boeing 737 is a design



that dates back to the early 1960s, the airworthiness certificate given to the aircraft is one that was issued almost seven decades ago. The Boeing 737 has been an immensely successful plane. During 2018, Boeing delivered its 10,000th 737 with a backlog of close to 5,000 aircraft remaining in its books. It has been off the competition over the years as well. The McDonnell Douglas DC-9 and Douglas MD80 family could not keep up with the success of the Boeing and eventually Boeing acquired McDonnell-Douglas.

However, the Airbus A320 family, developed by the European planemaker in the early 1980s, was a different kettle of fish. With its highly advanced wing and computerised fly-by-wire technology, Boeing had to develop new technology to keep the 737 competitive. So when Airbus decided to refresh the A320 with modern new high-bypass ratio engines, which would reduce fuel consumption, it got a lot of interest from airlines. While Airbus has had its share of problems over the years, particularly around the A380 super-jumbo, the A320 has been a money-spinner. With modifications in new engines — the New Engine Option (Neo) — it would become even more attractive.

Despite the problems that India's low-cost carrier IndiGo has suffered with Neo aircraft, nearly a thousand such planes are in service currently. Boeing had to do something to keep up with the rising competition. Neo's efficiency gains over the existing generation 737 were massive.

But Boeing had a problem. When it started developing the 737 in the 1960s, it did not have to face much in terms of ground clearance and kept riding low to the ground. This made it easier for planes to service at smaller and less prepared airports, which were all but common in the 1960s and the 1970s. In fact, it was this very ability, coupled with it having lower engines, that made it attractive to the airlines. Even when the 737 was improved, few changes were made to this end. The problem with high-bypass ratio turbofan engines today is that to gain a perfect ratio, the front fan has to be massive. The 737's basic architecture made fitting such a new engine nearly impossible. And while Boeing should have ideally developed a new aircraft altogether, market realities made that an impossibility. It took it over a decade to develop the 787 Dreamliner with an overly optimistic entry into

service schedules. The subsequent delays left the company with a bloody nose.

The 787 is an immensely successful aircraft today, hundreds of them forming the backbone of airline fleets across the world. But Boeing did not have the time and its management thought of developing a new aircraft. A better option, no matter what the physics, would have been to re-engine the current airframe with minor modifications.

Well, the modifications were not simple. In order to fit a larger fan, Boeing engineers had to move the engine further forward and above the wing. This caused some major problems to the aerodynamic properties of the 737 but these could be solved. Pilots could be trained to deal with the changes. Then came another problem. One major selling point for airlines is to calculate the number of additional training pilots needed when they move to a new type of aircraft. Pilots trained on the regular Airbus A320 could fly the new A320 Neo with just a couple of hours of orientation. Boeing promised pretty much the same even though it was obvious — something that was stashed in internal emails revealed — that pilots should have taken many more hours of training for

the MAX, even some hours inside the simulator.

The issue, as many people know now, is that Boeing decided to integrate much more software into the MAX to augment flying characteristics. One of those pieces of software was the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), which in low-speed conditions, usually after take-off, would keep the plane from stalling. With the engines of the 737 MAX being shifted so much further forward, the centre of gravity of the plane, too, being far forward, only software could resolve it. As we know now, the MCAS system depended on good data from the sensors outside the aircraft. Sensors can fail and usually those failures should be notified, as on cars, to cite an example. But Boeing just made an alert system for a sensor data mismatch, an optional extra on the 737 MAX, even though it was but a software switch. The MCAS system made some sudden changes to the planes flightpath and without proper training to recognise the software intervention, pilots onboard had no clue how to deal with the issue. With little altitude, the pilots of the Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines aircraft slammed to the ground.

At the end of the day, a company, once known to be extremely fastidious on the engineering front, made a stupid mistake. A firm that almost bankrupted itself while developing the Boeing 707 and then almost did so again with the Boeing 747 — which has proven that it can redefine the market even in contemporary times with the Boeing 777 and Boeing 787 — has ruined its reputation, thanks to the unnecessary shortcuts it took. As is being made clear in the emails for the public to see, sheer arrogance of its executives made matters worse.

It is being made apparent that the Boeing 737 MAX will not make it back into the service before mid-year. A freshly empowered Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the civil aviation regulator in the US, will not be in the pocket of Boeing as it was once. It is unlikely that a company so vital to America's trading interests and its defence industry will be allowed to collapse. But the arrogance on display at the company was little different from that displayed by the bankers before the financial industry collapse of 2008. Boeing has to do a lot to repair its reputation and salvage the image of Boeing 737. Being humble shall make for a very good start.

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

## SOUNDBITE

With no development on its agenda, the ruling party is making a complete exposition of its agenda to create a Hindu rashtra.

Congress MP — Shashi Tharoor



Growing up in a country like India, you see wealth and poverty live together in such a symbiotic way...seeing that you become desensitised to it.

Actor — Priyanka Chopra



What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely.

US President — Donald Trump



Normalcy acrobatics is in full swing even as Kashmir continues to reel under a crippling internet shutdown and leaders remain detained.

PDP president — Mehbooba Mufti



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Righting the wrong

Sir — A peaceful protest by Kashmiri Pandits to mark the 30th anniversary of their mass exodus from the Kashmir Valley grabbed some attention. Through it, they appealed to the Government to take plausible and sincere steps to rehabilitate them in the Valley. Successive Governments have only paraded their cause. Largely, they have either ignored the Pandits or used them for their selfish end. Left liberals, rights activists and secularists, too, have turned a blind eye to their rightful grievances though they have been campaigning for the rights of minority communities in general. Are Kashmir Pandits not a minority in the Valley? After the nullification of Article 370 and the revocation of special status to the former State of Jammu & Kashmir, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to restore normalcy in the Valley and rehabilitate the displaced Pandits willing to return. Even after the Supreme Court's directive, little action has been taken.

Nimai Charan Swain  
Bhubaneswar

### Crash barriers will make roads safer

This refers to the report, "Crash barriers planned to slash NH fatalities" (January 22). The Centre's plan to install crash barriers along its existing National Highways (NH) and make them mandatory for all future highway projects is welcome. This step is bound to bring down the number of crashes and fatalities. Coming closely on the heels of the enactment of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, that calls for stricter punishments for traffic violators, the installation of crash barriers will require a big push from the powers that be to make it a reality.

Crash barriers are designed to withstand the impact of even high speed vehicles and are expected to slide and roll the vehicles back on the road while keeping the level of damage to them as well as the barriers within acceptable limits. As per statistics, less than five per cent of the total network of about 1.50 lakh km of highways have installed crash barriers. India accounts for the highest number of road deaths in the world. The total number of accident-related deaths in 2018 stood at



1,51,417, indicating an increase of 2.3 per cent over 2017 figures. About 85 per cent of accident-related deaths happen in the most productive age group of 18-60. Cost effective solutions for crash barriers are available worldwide. All we need are implementation and adoption.

Shubham  
Via email

### Growth trouble

Sir — Once again, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed India's growth estimate to 4.8 per cent for this fiscal year and 5.8 per cent for 2020-21. Observers attribute such grim forecasts to an economic slowdown.

In the Indian context, the current growth projection follows a downward trend from 7.5 per cent last year to 6.1 per cent in October. It is disheartening that while growth projections have continued to decline in the recent past, the Government has taken little cohesive action for revival and has instead been demanding rate cuts from the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Yet India is projected to be the second-fastest growing major economy in the world after China. There are miles to go for that to happen. The Government has to come up with a big bang strategy to revive growth.

Srishti Mathur  
Ujjain

### The clock is ticking

Sir — At a time when the country is faced with severe economic slowdown and given the seriousness of the problem of unemployment with agrarian crisis, too, at its peak, the common man is expecting relief and progressive measures in the Budget that is to be presented on February 1.

However, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is busy attending various forums and meetings to defend the Government's decision to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). With just a few days left for the Budget, one would have expected the Finance Minister to be giving finishing touches to it. Despite the fact that Sitharaman has taken several measures to revive the economy, the situation isn't showing any signs of improving. The Budget must focus on reviving demand, investment and growth. All of this must be done in a transparent manner.

Anna Mary Yonne  
Chennai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The tech-savvy road to health

Technology has not been a disruptive force in senior healthcare but that story is set to change over the next six years, says **Sushant Reddy**

We have just celebrated our entry into a new decade. The defining theme of the first two decades of this century was the rise of technology start-ups and their transformative change in our lives. Just 10 years ago, none of us could have imagined the lifestyle changes created by internet-enabled platforms and aggregators like Uber, Amazon, Swiggy, Zomato, Hotstar or Netflix. However, there are some sectors where technology hasn't had such a transformative effect, yet. One such is healthcare and more specifically, healthcare for senior citizens. What is senior healthcare? This in itself is a very generic term; in fact, the term is so generic that everything, from an Out Patient Department to in-hospital care to the pharmacy can be grouped into this category.

Broadly speaking, senior healthcare can be classified into four areas: Hospital care, preventive care, home care and healthy living.

**Hospital care:** This is what everyone easily relates to as traditional healthcare. Episodic events such as emergencies, illness, injury treatments at a hospital come under hospital care.

**Preventive care:** All aspects of healthcare that are preventive in nature such as diagnostic tests, pharmacy, doctor consultations, disease management (diabetes, hypertension), health insurance and so on fall in the category of preventive care.

**Home care:** Healthcare services delivered at home such as nursing, physiotherapy, home Intensive Care Unit (ICU), dialysis and chemotherapy services, medical devices and so on come under this.

**Healthy living:** Services that enable a healthy lifestyle for seniors such as custom-designed senior homes, smart tracking devices, companionship services and so on come under this tag.

The fact remains that senior healthcare is a massive challenge. India is in the middle of a rapid demographic and cultural transition — senior citizens above 60 years are over a 100 million today and constitute eight per cent of the total population. This figure is expected to grow to 350 million, an estimated 20 per cent of the total population by 2050, a dramatic rise in the older population, both in size and proportion.

Another massive factor driving this transition is a mass migration, both domestic and international, of educated, urban youth that happened during the 80s, 90s and the first decade of the 21st century. The country recorded over 30 million international migrants and 139 million domestic migrants as of 2017.

These challenges have increased India's senior healthcare burden exponentially and the problem is compounded by the fact that despite massive technological advances in this century, it has not yet created a disruptive impact in the senior healthcare industry. This is because of three main reasons, fragmented and localised service providers, low tech savviness of seniors and language barriers.

**Fragmented and localised service providers:** Traditionally senior healthcare services have been very human-intensive. The role of care provider was and still remains extremely critical and everything else was not a deal breaker.

**Low tech savviness of seniors:** All things equal, technology adoption of millennials is much higher than that of senior citizens. While seniors are comfortable with popular apps like WhatsApp and YouTube, adoption of other technology in general has been less than spectacular.

**Language barriers:** English is not a preferred conversational medium for most senior citizens and as most technology platforms are designed for urban, English-speaking customers, this becomes a major mental obstacle not only for senior citizens but also for care providers. So, the big question is, how can technology transform senior healthcare? There are multiple areas where technology can become a real force-multiplier.

**Smart medical alert system:** India does not have a reliable 911 emergency service that can be accessed by senior citizens. Having smart medical alert systems that can provide emergency support at the push of a button will be a great value addition for seniors.

**Doctor-on-call services:** Senior citizens usually avoid visiting a doctor for minor health issues because of mobility and logistic issues. A "doctor-on-call" service where general physicians and specialist doctors can talk over a voice/video call will be a great value proposition for senior citizens.

**Internet of Things devices and smart tracking:** Senior citizens have a higher risk of falls, rapid heart rate, breathlessness, low blood pressure and so on. Smart Internet of Things (IoT) devices that can track regular health vitals, detect abnormal patterns and alert care providers is another major opportunity in this space.

**Smart senior living homes:** The concept of senior living was a social taboo until recently. With reality developers revisiting the concept of "senior living", a lot of Indians are taking a fresh look at this concept.

**Intelligent voice platforms:** Voice is a major breakthrough when it comes to senior citizens. Easy, intelligent voice-based platforms to order medicines, schedule doctor appointments or health check-ups will be a major opportunity in future.

Technology has not been a disruptive force in senior healthcare but that story is set to change over the next five-six years. With rapid advances in voice-enabled platforms, artificial intelligence and IoT devices, start-ups are burning the midnight oil to come up with smart, easy-to-use technological solutions that create an impact in the senior healthcare industry. It is not a question of "if" anymore, it's just the "when" that needs to be answered.

(The writer is CEO and founder of a leading insurance aggregating platform)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS DIALOGUE (IN KASHMIR) IS TO GO CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE, LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND FIND SOLUTIONS TO THEM.

— UNION MINISTER  
MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI



THE VISIT OF MINISTERS' BRIGADE IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE AGENDA OF THE BJP AT THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC EXCHEQUER BY USE OF ENTIRE OFFICIAL MACHINERY.

— J&K CONGRESS COMMITTEE CHIEF  
RAVINDER SHARMA

The changemakers

Young innovators Manav and Swati Subodh are empowering entrepreneurs to undertake social experiments, job creation and meaningful development in their communities



MOIN QAZI

One of the dispiriting features of the modern development model is that despite oceans of research and studies, there has not been a substantive transformative impact on marginalised communities. Much of the outcomes have been purely academic and we need more dedicated, courageous and purpose-driven champions who can creatively apply their core competencies and new knowledge to enhance people's well-being. Similarly, we need to design tools and techniques that can help translate these insights into effective public policies and professional practices that can sustainably deliver quality outcomes on an exponential scale.

There is now a tribe of passionate entrepreneurs who are collaborating with like-minded allies and with those with different perspectives, to build a collegiality of expertise to address pressing human challenges and accelerate the transition of the underprivileged from subsistence to sustainability in emerging economies. Some of them are bright people working to uncover and scale breakthrough disruptive solutions for leapfrogging meaningful social change. They have the vision to see the world the way it should be and create what is missing. They are combining business acumen with their conscience to solve problems in the community and foster a fairer society in an efficient and sustainable way.

A brother-sister duo, Manav Subodh and Swati Subodh, with diverse backgrounds and with careers on the cusp of steady and promising trajectories, decided to change track and pursue something that had relevance and meaning to the wider world, and in particular to the underserved communities. Manav was Global Manager, Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Affairs at Intel but found the canvas dimming his social horizon. Swati obtained her post-graduate in biotechnology and did her doctoral research in genomics at AIIMS. It was here that she had her moment of epiphany. Her laboratory was opposite the outpatients department where the daily sight of struggling patients stirred her and fired the imagination to furrow a path of concrete action. Manav and Swati realised that their path was never going to lead to the right level of fulfillment, because they were not doing something that exactly fitted the values they had cultivated over time.

Since it wasn't possible to change their values, they knew they needed to switch their careers. Manav was the first to take the plunge when he conceptualised the 1M1B (1 Million for 1 Billion) Foundation, an initiative to inspire a million young leaders, educators and entrepreneurs to generate jobs that will create better lives for a billion people in the underserved communities. The idea was to empower entrepreneurs who would undertake social innovations, job creation and meaningful development in their communities so that each in turn would create jobs and more stable economic lives for a thousand more.

With Swati's expertise in healthcare and Manav's expertise in entrepreneurship education and ecosystems, a social entrepreneurship model was conceptualised. They visualised that a million entrepreneurs — spanning different geographies and sectors — can come up with the right solutions that can impact one billion people. Everyone, according to them, is a natural entrepreneur and can play a vital role in promoting resilience in their communities. They believe that with relatively simple and inexpensive tools we can put the needle on tough problems but interventions fail to reach the right person at the right time. Sharing them equitably across the world to maximise the impact is a big challenge. Addressing these and other burning social problems requires understanding and reframing them with a fresh view. It is here that entrepreneurs like Manav and Swati



IT TAKES LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS EMPOWERED TO ADAPT EASILY TO THE NUANCES OF LOCAL CULTURE TO CREATE AND DRIVE CHANGE SUSTAINABLY ON THE GROUND. THE 1M1B FOUNDATION IS SERVING AS A MICRO-ACCELERATOR FOR GRASSROOTS ENTREPRENEURS BY GIVING THEM SKILL TRAINING, ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGIES, FINANCE AND THEN HELPING THEM LAUNCH THEIR OWN MICRO-ENTERPRISE



are stepping in and filling the vacuum. With a team of like-minded people who share this passion 1M1B started taking shape.

Manav and Swati understand that interventions for rural regeneration cannot be played out in the same way that society perceives the poor: Desperate citizens who need to be rescued by the elite. "We have to understand the local challenges to improve their composite livelihoods. You can't solve the problems of the last mile from the headquarters," explains Manav. According to him, it takes local entrepreneurs, empowered to adapt easily to the nuances of local culture, to create and drive change sustainably on the ground. The 1M1B Foundation is serving as a micro-accelerator for grassroots entrepreneurs by giving them skill training, access to technologies, finance and then helping them launch their own micro-enterprise. "We scan the local environment to get better assessment of needs of the area and prospective interventional aspects and partner with these entities to provide our know-how and execution pipeline to enable last mile access to maximise impact," he adds.

There are several interventions being promoted by 1M1B across segments. The Skills Accelerator programme helps individuals develop relevant skills to ensure that they are in line with the market needs. Fifty per cent of the participants get formal jobs and 15 per cent of them land up starting their own business. 1M1B is honing the leadership skills of micro-entrepreneurs along with building rural co-innovation labs. It helps accelerate the access of indigenous technologies to rural markets by pairing these entrepreneurs with mentors who help them in developing their ideas. It also connects global start-ups to rural markets. This access and exposure allows them to test their solution on the specific populations through other village-level players. The programme provides training in computer skills, communication, accounting,

finance, access to technologies and hands-on growth support to help them launch their own micro-enterprises. 1M1B believes that communities of artisans, particularly women, deserve economic opportunities and aims to keep alive the rich tradition of their craftsmanship. The foundation is working with *Kalamkari* weavers to provide a more robust economic base to the weaver community. It is also an implementation partner on providing training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to 5,000 schoolchildren in New Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Students are encouraged to come up with project ideas on how AI can be applied for societal good. Those selected are given access to the AI Youth Lab to advance their projects and create prototypes.

The Future Leaders programme is dedicated to identifying and nurturing the next generation of leaders committed to positive change. The target group comprises high school students and undergraduates who have the potential to have a meaningful influence on topics of relevance. During the course of the programme, they are imparted high-impact leadership development skills to develop the knowledge, resources and network needed to become an inclusive and socially-minded changemaker. These skills include thinking critically and from multiple perspectives, collaborating inclusively, communicating effectively and becoming empathetic leaders. The coaching also exposes them to an array of educational experiences that broaden their world views.

The latest batch participated in the fifth annual 1M1B Activate Impact Summit at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York. The summit provided them the opportunity to learn about leadership through the lens of the experiences of leaders of civil society, government, industry, non-government bodies, private entities, venture funds, entrepreneurs and influencers. The foundation is a UN-accredited

non-profit organisation with special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council and associated with the UN Department of Global Communications.

The foundation has a very innovative business development programme, called *Business Raja* (king). An AI-enabled chatbot, it is guiding aspiring entrepreneurs in rural India to grow their nascent ideas, raise funds and run their businesses successfully. It is simple in design. For the user, it is just another contact on WhatsApp they talk to about their ideas in three languages — Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada — as of now.

The chatbot asks a user about their ideas, how they came up with it, measures the person's personality and attains a complete profile. It also assesses their responses to tough questions — a sort of psychometric test.

An aspiring entrepreneur needs to follow a three-step process: First, share a business idea. The chatbot will provide reference resources that need to be completed. Then, the candidate will have to design a financial plan such as product pricing. Finally, if the idea works well, the chatbot will help in raising funds. A final score of investment readiness is then sent to the lending institution.

"The idea of *Business Raja* emerged while our team was working with grassroots innovators and helping them navigate the challenging entrepreneurial landscape. The AI chatbot and the resources associated with it help to do this, at scale so we can enable more entrepreneurs faster," explains Swati.

It doesn't require a flash of genius or invention of any radical idea to change the story line. What is ultimately needed is practical compassion. Most revolutionary solutions have been evolved by people like Manav and Swati who looked at the familiar landscape with fresh eyes. They saw promise where others saw hopelessness.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

Vote for the environment

The spectre of climate change is looming large and pollution cannot be stopped by turning a blind eye to it. In the February 8 Assembly polls, Delhiites need to elect a Government that makes environmental policies its priority



SRIRAJ KOTA

Delhi is heading for polls on February 8 to elect 70 members to the Legislative Assembly and needless to say, campaigning by political parties across the national Capital is expected to reach a fever pitch soon. Like always, this election, too, will witness a plethora of populist issues being made a poll plank by the candidates and their star campaigners as they do the rounds of the city. Populism has become an integral aspect of elections mainly due to the fact that the people of one of the world's largest democra-

cies have become used to being wooed with sops and benefits. Whether it is regularisation of illegal colonies and structures or subsidised electricity and so on, we just lap it up.

However, do we ever stop to think what the cost of these sops is and who is footing the bill? The answer is that we the people or the electorate are eventually going to pay for the sops, collectively. The sole beneficiary in this will be the political party we elect, who will be laughing all the way to the seat of power, for the next five years.

We, as voters, must critically evaluate the promises being made by the Government in power and all the other contending parties and see what their commitment is for pressing issues such as climate change and the environment. And, we also need to look at the environmental cost of an election. This also needs to be audited and made public in order to ensure that the people realise the environmental costs of



this democratic exercise and which parties have had the smallest carbon footprint. This will usher in a positive change in the thinking of the voter which will in turn compel the parties to shun anti-environmental activities in the form of excess use of fuel, plastic and paper during campaigning. The people of Delhi need to question the Government and ask it what it has done to safeguard the environment and

also assess what the environment-related promises and assurances other contending parties are bringing to the table. The subject of pollution in Delhi has been a hotly debated matter, with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claiming tremendous success in reining in the same with the help of the vehicle rationing initiative the Odd-Even Scheme. However, as is the norm in politics, these initiatives have been

heavily criticised by the Central Government.

Both the Centre and the Delhi Government have been trading charges over this key issue and blaming each other for the sad state of affairs in the Capital.

As the common man continued to suffer the impact of the pollution shrouding the city in a pall of smog, the judiciary took it upon itself to express reservations on the efficacy of the scheme in controlling the spiraling pollution levels in Delhi-NCR and pulled up the Centre, the Delhi Government and even the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on the environmental crisis caused by crop residue burning by farmers.

The Supreme Court also directed the Central Government to assess the feasibility of the use of hydrogen-based fuel technology in the Capital to mitigate air pollution.

However, the fact remains that

things should not have come to such a pass. We need clear, tangible and more importantly quantifiable results against efforts undertaken to protect the environment by all stakeholders. The city is what we will leave to the future generations and it cannot be inhospitable due to pollution that has reached unmanageable levels and turned it into a "gas chamber", choking and killing the people that reside in it.

The spectre of climate change is looming large and pollution cannot be stopped by turning a blind eye to it. Combatting pollution and climate change need a concentrated and sincere effort by the Government in power that has the resolve and the firm mandate of the people behind it. So this time let us elect the environment. A Government that makes environmental policies its priority will then automatically get elected.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



BE ALERT, NOT AFRAID

Sounding the alarm unnecessarily has dangers of its own. People may fail to pay heed next time, or may overreact this time. Equally, muting discussions can backfire, especially in a world where information, or unfounded rumours, can be shared so quickly. It is essential that Chinese authorities at all levels are open about the coronavirus outbreak, as well as assiduous in tackling it. (The Guardian editorial)

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

# Speak the truth about it: Didi to Shah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after Amit Shah attacked her for spreading disinformation about the Citizenship Amendment Bill inviting her to an open national debate on the issue, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday lashed out at the Union Home Minister for talking big but hesitating to come out with the truth about the CAA.

Banerjee who led an anti-CAA rally in Darjeeling with more than a thousand people referred to Shah's speech saying "yesterday I heard the Home Minister making tall speeches saying that I am telling lie about CAA and National Population Register... Now if we are lying let him tell the truth to the people. Let him tell whether

CAA is a selective Act which discriminates among people. Let him tell about the conditions mentioned in the NPR. Let him mention whether those who will be granted citizenship will have to live as foreigners for the first five years or not."

"And if such be the conditions then he will have to say whether the people will lose jobs because aliens cannot work in India... whether the children will lose their school certificates and whether the citizens will lose their rights to property they now own."

Wondering whether most of the people in the crowd had the date of births of their parents, Banerjee asked, "Do you have date of births of your parents? Is this how a responsible

Government works. They do not even the same thing at the same time. In the something they say something and in the evening they other something. They say date of birth is not mandatory. If it is not mandatory, why is it there in the columns?" she added.

Referring how thousands of Nepali speaking people had been banished from the National Citizenship Register, Banerjee said, "People are scared that if CAA and NRC are implemented they will be uprooted. I want to tell the hill people not allow NRC and CAA."

Referring to the rising inflation and decreasing jobs Banerjee said, "see what they have made of the Indian economy. They promised acchhee din (good days) but where the

jobs. Why so many people are unemployed today. Why the farmers are not getting their due and respect. Why Government factories like ordnance factory (in Kolkata) are being shut down... They are selling the country... and to hide these all they are raising the issues of CAA."

Claiming that in order to turn the attention of the people from grim economic scenario and failed promises she said, "they are setting people of one religion against the other. They are dividing the people to rule but implementing CAA, NRC and NPR," adding those who are protesting are being termed anti-Indians.

"The students are being beaten up if they raise their voices, the Opposition is harassed by the Agencies (read

CBI, ED etc) when they are raising the contentious issues. They are calling them Pakistanis. I want to ask why do you always bringing in Pakistan. Do you have extra love for that country to invoke its name always?" Banerjee asked.

She said the BJP leaders always were foul-mouthing her for protesting against their policies. "I want to tell the BJP that foul-mouthing me all the time will not work. Tell us whether you will withdraw CAA or not. If CAA is not a mischievous Act then why did you leave out Assam and Tripura, the States ruled by BJP? Why are these BJP-ruled states out of the purview of CAA?" There would be no CAA, NRC or NPR in Bengal she insisted.



Protesters participate in a demonstration against CAA and NRC at Shahjahan Eidgah in Aligarh on Wednesday

PTI

## Prashant Kishor dares Shah over CAA-NRC

Patna: Poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor fired a fresh salvo at the BJP on Wednesday, daring Union Home Minister Amit Shah to "go ahead and try implementing" the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register for Citizens which the latter had "audaciously announced to the nation".

Kishor, who is the national vice president of the JD(U), is helping Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party for the upcoming Assembly polls even though his own party headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has tied up with the BJP to take on the less than a decade old party.

"Being dismissive of citizens dissent could be the sign of strength of any Govt. @amitshah ji, if you dont care for those protesting against

#CAA\_NRC, why dont you go ahead and try implementing the CAA & NRC in the chronology that you so audaciously announced to the nation!", Kishor wrote on his twitter handle.

The 42-year-old, whose first claim to fame was his handling of Narendra Modis spectacularly successful election campaign in 2014, made the remarks in the backdrop of Shahs assertion at a pro-CAA rally in Lucknow that "CAA is here to stay and it will not be taken back", countrywide protests by opposition parties and others notwithstanding.

The Bihar BJP was, expectedly, rankled by the latest outbursts of Kishor, who joined the JD(U) about two years ago, got elevated to the top party post within weeks, and has been taking a public stand on the burning issue that has embarrassed the NDA. "There is no move

on #NRC by the Govt but #CAA is now a legislation made by Parliament. Respect the Constitution. Dont worry. The Supreme Court has agreed to listen to the voice of dissent. Just to satisfy the professional ego and political frustration why creating hue and cry", state BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand said replying to Kishors tweet.

"You have all the right to disagree but selective propaganda on religious lines to suit the Congi (sic) style politics of Muslim appeasement must not be encouraged. The Gazette notification to start the process of #NPR and implement #CAA is published. Won't be taken back at any cost, Anand added.

The JD(U) did not react to Kishor's comment. Party leaders are refraining from saying anything on the poll strategist-politician's assertions in recent times. PTI

## Protesters 'lathicharged' by police in Etawah

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

People protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act were allegedly lathicharged by police in a Muslim-dominated area in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district even as demonstrations continued against the legislation in Lucknow and Aligarh.

A video of the Etawah incident, where policemen can be seen using batons and chasing away protesters in the area on late Tuesday night, has also gone viral on social media.

Violence broke out when police tried to disperse the protesters who were observing a sit-in since Tuesday morning in Pachraha area, defying prohibitory orders imposed there.

"Police used force against us while we were holding a peaceful protest. Our brothers and cousins were beaten up and we were abused. We were physically tortured. We have a right

to protest," one of the women protesters said.

Responding to the allegations, police said the protesters had staged a dharna defying prohibitory order imposed in the area and pelted them with stones. Police said they had to use mild force to chase the protesters away.

In the video, policemen can be seen entering houses and shops.

The sit-in was organised in solidarity with the women protesting at Shaheen Bagh in Delhi against the new legislation.

"Police are citing prohibitory orders to end our protest. What about the large public meetings being held by ministers," another protester said. In Lucknow, protesters at the Clock Tower (Ghantaghar) in old city area of Lucknow held a symbolic 'havan' with Hindu women joining them.

## Rajnath: India fulfilled its 'moral duty' by enacting it

Meerut: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said religious minorities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are living a "life of misery" and India has fulfilled its "moral duty" towards them by enacting the CAA.

Addressing a rally in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Shatabdi Nagar here, he also questioned those opposing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and said the government has not discussed it.

Dismissing allegations that the Centre is pursuing a "divisive agenda" through the CAA, Singh said the BJP doesn't do politics on religious lines for selfish gains.

"In Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, religious minorities are living a life of misery. India has fulfilled its moral duty (by enacting the CAA)," he said.

"The entire world is accepting India's power. We don't do politics on the lines of religion for selfish reasons," he said.

The citizenship law is being viewed from a Hindu-Muslim perspective, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks of justice, he added.

Singh said the NDA had prepared the citizenship legislation in its first tenure, but it could not be enacted.

On the NRC, Singh said, "The government has had no discussion on the NRC. And suppose it has, then what is the problem with having a register of citizens?"

"Shouldn't there be a register of citizens? Shouldn't there be a document for people to seek benefits of government schemes," he asked the crowd at the rally.

Singh said the BJP wants to do politics by winning people's hearts and asserted that the

party is working to fulfil all its promises.

"Whenever a political party contests elections, it makes various kinds of promises. I was given the responsibility to prepare the BJP's manifesto for the 2019 (Lok Sabha) elections. Within seven months of being elected, the BJP has been rapidly fulfilling its promises," he said.

"I want to assure the people of India that our party will deliver on whatever it promises. We do not want to cheat the people," he said. "By the end of 2022, every house will have a pucca roof. Tap water will reach every household by the end of 2024. PM Modi put Rs 6,000 each in the bank accounts of farmers," he added.

The minister said the BJP had also taken steps for farmers' welfare. "Farmer brothers need not worry, we will pay you every single penny for your hardwork," he said. PTI

## Khadi fights back to prevent misuse of trademarks globally

Seeks protection under article 6ter of Paris Convention

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has stepped up efforts to prevent misuse of its brand and symbol both within the country and on foreign soil. KVIC is proprietor of over 100 trademarks including the symbol of 'Charkha' in India and other countries like Russia, China, Germany, Australia, UK and Bhutan.

These trademark and symbols have been misused time and again by private players. In an initiative to prevent such misuse, KVIC has taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Permanent Mission of India at UN, Geneva seeking International Trademark protection of symbol of 'Charkha' under the article 6ter of the Paris Convention.



Article 6ter of the Paris Convention for the protection of Industrial property of 1883 (1967 Stockholm Act) safeguards armorial bearings, flags and other State emblems as well as official signs and hallmarks of the States party to the Paris Convention. The signs published with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) under this act are prevented from being registered or used as trademarks, across the world, without authorisation.

Speaking about the initiative, Chairman KVIC VK Saxena said, "KVIC is one of those unique institutions in India that links the nation's past, present and future on its

functional plane, through self-reliance and sustainability. Ever since the pre-independent era, Khadi has been considered as the national symbol for Swadeshi. The word marks KHADI, KUTIR, "SARVO-DAYA and the logo of Khadi India and Charkha are the harbingers of this spirit of Swadeshi, hence, must be protected at all cost."

Saxena said that due to the negligence of earlier Governments, some private entities managed to register these symbols to fulfill their personal material motives. This initiative to prevent wrongful use of the trademarks will help reinstate the dignity and pride attached with Khadi and the

symbols representing it, he said."

Saxena has written to Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal seeking his intervention so as to expedite the matter pending with the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) which comes under the Ministry of Commerce.

KVIC is fighting cases in several countries for violation of the Khadi Mark Regulations. The regulations issued in 2013 by the Ministry of MSME, empowered KVIC to grant 'Khadi Mark' registration and take royalties from any producer using the Khadi Mark. In continuation, KVIC has issued notices against 600 entities in India, including a renowned garment chain and 3 entities in the International market for misusing these symbols and indulging in unfair trade practices in the recent past.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been endorsing Khadi and due to his appeals the sale of Khadi has gone up manifolds," Saxena said.

## CBI registers fresh four cases against Chhota Rajan

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the probe into an attempt to kill a veteran journalist in 1997 and three other fresh cases allegedly involving jailed gangster Chhota Rajan.

Noted crime reporter in Mumbai Baljeet Shersingh Parmar was severely injured when motorcycle borne shooters of Rajan allegedly attacked him outside a building at Antop Hill on June 12, 1997.

The agency has taken over the Mumbai police FIR in the case filed under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder).

The agency has registered two more cases of extortion by alleged gang members of Rajan and one case related to issuing threats to life, according to the FIRs.

The agency has booked Rajan and his henchmen Guro Satam and Suresh for allegedly demanding Rs 20 lakh as extortion money from businessman Devang Bipin Parikh in 1995.

The other case pertains to alleged demand of ₹ 25 lakh in 1998

from a man named Ghisulal Jain by Hemant, who is believed to be a member of Rajan gang, officials said.

The Mumbai police had filed charge sheets in both the cases but Rajan remained absconding, they said.

The last case is related to threats issued to the life of builder Shabbir N Patel and his son in 1996.

In November last year, the CBI had taken over 10 cases, including those of extortion and murder, in which Rajan was an accused. These cases were registered in a 14-year period since 1992.

These cases include killing of trade union leader Datta Samant in 1997 in Mumbai in which Rajan's role is suspected.

Rajan was arrested at Bali airport in Indonesia on October 25, 2015, and deported to India.

He is an accused in around 70 cases in Maharashtra, including the J Dey murder case in 2011. After this, the Maharashtra government had handed over all the cases relating to Rajan to CBI.

## Pavan Varma's conduct an act of indiscipline: senior JD(U) leader

PTI ■ PATNA

Janata Dal (United) leader Vashishtha Narayan Singh on Wednesday took strong exception to party colleague Pavan Varma questioning 'in public' the tie-up with BJP for the Delhi Assembly polls by extending the alliance beyond Bihar, calling it 'absolutely' an act of indiscipline.

Singh, a Rajya Sabha member and the head of the JD(U)s state unit, asserted that the decision to align with the BJP was taken after "due deliberation".

He further said although the party respected freedom of thought of every member, it was 'anuchiit' (inappropriate) on part of the career diplomat-turned-politician to make public his letter to the Chief Minister and national president Nitish Kumar.

"I consider his (Varma's) conduct as inappropriate and will put forth my views forcefully whenever a party meeting takes place", Singh told a news channel. He also said "if there were any reservations, these ought to have been expressed in a party forum. People may have their individual opinions and the party respects that. But airing these in public is something I do not approve of".

He also said Varma had 'absolutely' committed an act of indiscipline by sharing on the social media his two-page letter to Kumar in which the chief minister was reminded of the unease he had been allegedly expressing 'in private' over the BJP's ideology and agenda.

## KPCC to announce jumbo office bearers list this week

ARUN LAKSHMAN ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Congress which has been without a proper committee will be announcing the list of office bearers by this week end. While State Congress chief and former Union Minister of State for Home, Mullappally Ramachandran was adamant for a "One man, One post" rule to be implemented in the list of office bearers, the powerful "A" and "I" group managers of the party scuttled the move.

The "A" group led by former Chief Minister Oomen Chandy was somehow accommodative to the suggestion of the KPCC president, but the "I" group led by the Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala did not budge for the "One man, One post" theory and hence the party will once again be having a jumbo list of office bears.

In addition to the KPCC president, there will be five working presidents in Kodikkunnil Suresh, PC Vishnunath, K Sudhakaran, KV Thomas and VD Satheshan. There will be six vice presidents and thirty general secretaries in the list followed by sixty secretaries. The number of state executive members of the party is yet to be decided.

With the advent of Sonia Gandhi back as the AICC president, senior leaders of the party had a major say and it was after much confabulations and inter party discussions, the list is to be finalized. However it is learnt that KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran was adamant that party leaders with criminal antecedents will not be accommodated as office bearer which was met with stiff resistance from the group managers.

Interestingly in the agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA),

Mullappally has taken a stiff position that there will not be any joint agitation with the CPM. This was after the opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala had taken the initiative for a joint agitation with the CPM and other left forces and Oomen Chandy supporting this. Mullappally had stayed out of the meeting.

Incidentally the AICC high-command - read Sonia Gandhi - had stood by the position taken by the KPCC president and in the press conference held at Kerala house, New Delhi both Chandy and Chennithala had to bite humble pie and subscribe to the position taken by the KPCC president. In the list of party office bearers also, the KPCC president had done his maximum to reduce the number of contenders and sources in the Congress party told *The Pioneer* that the list would have been double the present figure had not Mullappally taken a strong stand.

## Antony, Venugopal, Mullappally axis developing in Kerala Cong

ARUN LAKSHMAN ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A new troika has emerged in the Kerala Congress scheme of things with two powerful leaders of the party, AK Antony, CWC Member and close confidant of Sonia Gandhi and KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary (Organisation) and close associate of Rahul Gandhi putting in their weight behind the beleaguered KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran who was being pushed around by the "A" group and "I" group.

Sources in the Congress told *The Pioneer*, that it was the strength of these two leaders that Mullappally had taken on both Chandy and Chennithala on the CAA issue and raised the red flag for the joint agitation with the CPM.

To solve the vexed issue of announcing the list of office bearers, both these leaders had thrown their weights behind the KPCC president and at the same time carefully seeing it to that the group managers are not offended.

The support of these two powerful leaders who have a major say in the organisational affairs of the Congress party has given a fresh impetus to Mullappally who is fast emerging as a major power centre in the state

Congress. With the state going to polls in 2021 and the Congress led UDF all set to replace the LDF Government led by the CPM, there are possibilities of Mullappally being considered as the Chief Minister candidate as there is bound to be fight between Ramesh Chennithala and Oomen Chandy for the CM post.

There is already a subtle whispering campaign in the corridors of State Congress that an Ezhava leader has not don the mantle of Chief minister of the Congress since R Shankar who was Chief minister from 1962-64.

With the Congress led UDF winning nineteen of the twenty loksabha seats in the last general elections, the graph of Mullappally Ramachandran has gone high and the seven term loksabha member who has won the parliamentary elections from the CPM bastion of Vatakara is keeping his fingers crossed. "These are early days to comment on the Chief ministership and my primary responsibility is to work among the grass root and to strengthen the party machinery. 2020 we have to face the local body elections and in 2021 the assembly elections and these two are my present priorities," Mullappally told *The Pioneer*.

## Suspect in Mangaluru airport bomb case surrenders

Bengaluru: A 36-year-old man, who is suspected to have planted the explosive at the Mangaluru International Airport, surrendered before the police here on Wednesday, officials said.

The suspect has been identified as Adithya Rao, a native of Manipal, police said, adding that he resembled the one captured on CCTV footage at Mangaluru airport.

The man turned up at the DG and IGP office here in the morning, where he was detained and taken for medical tests and preliminary inquiry done, they said. The suspect confessed to having planted the bomb at the airport, police said.

He is reported to have got information on making the explosive via internet, sources said.

"One suspect named Adithya presented before police between 8-9 am, claiming that he was responsible for Mangaluru incident—he will

be handed over to Mangaluru police team for further investigation... Bengaluru (Central) DCP Chetan Singh Rathore told reporters earlier in the day.

A team of police officials, led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) from Mangaluru arrived in the city later to question the suspect and carry out necessary legal procedures.

Police sources said, Rao, an engineering graduate and an MBA holder, who was taken to Ulsoor Gate police station in Bengaluru for questioning, was subsequently handed over to Mangaluru police, which is investigating the case.

He was presented before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court here and transit warrant secured, officials said, adding that he will be produced before a court in Mangaluru on Thursday to obtain his custody. PTI

# Trump offers to 'help' resolve Kashmir issue

**Davos:** President Donald Trump has said that the US is watching the developments between India and Pakistan over Kashmir "very closely" and repeated his offer to "help" resolve the dispute between the two neighbours during his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan here.

Addressing the media with Prime Minister Khan prior to their private meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum here on Tuesday, President Trump asserted that trade and borders were both critical points for discussion, while Khan said that for him, Afghanistan was the top priority.

Trump told Khan, whom he referred to as 'my friend,' that he would speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about



the ongoing Kashmir issue. The US president is expected to visit India in the coming weeks, marking his first visit after taking up his post in the White House.

"What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely and it's an honour to be here

with my friend," Trump said.

The Pakistan-India conflict is a very big issue for us in Pakistan and we expect the US to always play its part in deescalating the tensions, because no other country can," Khan said.

President Trump has repeatedly offered to mediate following India's August 5 decision to revoke the special status to Jammu & Kashmir and bifurcate the State into two Union Territories, evoking strong reactions from Pakistan which has been trying to internationalise the issue.

## No scope for third party mediation: Govt sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As President Donald Trump Ayet again offered to "help" India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue, New Delhi on Wednesday categorically asserted that there is no role for any third party on the issue.

Government sources also said India's long-held position has been that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

Responding to Trump's offer, they said there is no question of any mediation or intervention by any third party.

This assertion came after the US President, while addressing the media with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in Davos on Tuesday, said the US was watching the developments relating to Kashmir "very closely" and repeated his offer to "help" resolve the dispute.

It was Trump's fourth offer in last five months to help both the countries resolve the Kashmir issue after India withdrew the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

"What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely," Trump said. Official sources said India's clear and consistent position has been that there is no role to play for any third party on Kashmir. The US President is expected to visit India in the second half of February.

It is learnt that India had communicated to Washington after Trump's offer to mediate on Kashmir last year that it is a bilateral matter with Pakistan.



Villagers at a polling station during the second phase of Panchayat elections at Nasirabad in Ajmer district on Wednesday

# Mumbai gets nod to remain open 24x7 from January 27

**New 'Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife' policy will not be applicable to bars, pubs and restaurants serving liquor**

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

After initial resistance from Maharashtra Government on Wednesday approved the implementation of its much-discussed 'Mumbai 24x7' or 'Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife' policy from the intervening night of January 26 and 27.

At a weekly meeting presided over by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the State Cabinet gave a go-ahead for the 'Mumbai 24x7' policy without tweaking the current excise rules which permit service of alcoholic beverages only till the existing time limits of 1.30 am.

In effect, the new 'Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife' policy will not be applicable to bars, pubs and restaurants serving liquor, which will be permitted to serve alcoholic beverages only till the existing time limits of

1.30 am.

The new 'Mumbai 24x7' policy — which is a brain child of Shiv Sena leader and current Tourism and Environment Minister Aditya Thackeray — will allow malls, multiplexes and eateries in the designated areas to function round-the-clock.

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, who had initial reservations about implementing the Mumbai 24x7 because of security reasons and on the ground that bars and restaurants cannot serve liquor, came around after Aditya — at a meeting held a few days — convinced him that the policy could be implemented without tweaking the current State excise rules and imposing a lot of burden on the city police force.

Addressing a news conference jointly with the State Home Minister after the State

Cabinet gave a nod for the Mumbai 24x7, Aditya said: "Mumbai's identity is being that of a safe city. In Mumbai, you can get to see women and women moving around Marine Drive and other places safely at around 2 am or 3 am. Mumbai police perform their duty well. But, take the case of tourists coming to Mumbai, they would not be in the city for more than 36 hours. To increase the employment and tourism in Mumbai, we came up with the Mumbai 24x7 proposal in 2013. We are implementing it after seven years."

"We will implement this policy in malls and mill compounds coming under the Shops and Establishment Act. The malls and mill compounds are in non-residential areas. The people do not live inside these places. There are facilities like parking lots, CCTV, decibel limits, solid waste management. All the establishments there are licensed ones. We are giving permission to all these establishments to remain open for all 24 hours."

In fact, the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments

(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017, allows all establishments to operate around-the-clock.

"There would not be any change in the excise rules. The liquor will be served only up to 1.30 am in bars and restaurants. We are changing that. We are providing facilities who want to eat out, go for shopping or movies. The MVA Government is a people's Government. We are Government of aspirations. Unlike the BJP Government, we want to encourage the youngsters," the Tourism Minister said. Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said that the State Government would ensure that there was no stress on the police force.

"We do not enforce anything here. If some units are not able to keep their establishments for all 24 hours, they can do so. It is not the job of the state government to increase the footfalls. We are enabling the owners of these establishments. Mumbai being an international city, we are giving a 24x7 facility," Aditya said.

"London's nightlife econo-

my is 5 billion pounds. In Mumbai, there are five lakh people who directly employed in this service sector. When we say that employment will increase because of Mumbai 24x7, it is because the owners of these establishments will have to employ their staff in three shifts. Going that logic, we will have an employment potential of 15 lakh people or at least 10 lakh people in this service sector. Keeping these establishments open, state revenue will increase through various taxes," he said.

"I do not think there will be tension for the police. Currently, the police personnel do is to track if the establishments are open beyond the stipulated hours rather than controlling crime. Now they do not have to do that job and can concentrate on the job they are meant to do. If the establishments want more security, they can employ private security or hire police security by paying money," Aditya said.

Public distribution and civil supplies minister Chhagan Bhujbal said that Mumbai

Police Commissioner and Municipal commissioner would decide where nightlife would be allowed. "During the meeting a lot of suggestions came in. Like in some of the railway stations of Mumbai where there is rush for 24 hours, people come and go, eateries could remain open there," Bhujbal said.

Earlier this week, at the bi-annual crime conference, Uddhav, along with his Cabinet colleagues and bureaucrats, held a meeting with the city police officers Mumbai 24x7 proposal.

**Not Nightlife but 'killing life' for Mumbaikars: BJP**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Opposing the Maharashtra Government's Mumbai 24x7 decision, senior BJP leader and former Minister Ashish Shelar said on Wednesday 'Mumbai Nightlife' decision taken by the Uddhav Thackeray dispensation would prove to be a 'killing life' for Mumbai.

Reacting to the State Government's go-ahead for the implementation of Mumbai 24x7, Shelar said: "The nightlife decision is going to be a killing life for mumbaikars. Two years, 14 persons were killed in a massive fire that broke out in two pubs.

The decision is an effort to regularise massive FSI irregularities in the Kamala Mill compound in the name of tourism". "Mumbaikars are already stressed over a number of restaurants, bars, ladies bars and pubs existing in the residential areas. The nightlife decision will increase their inconvenience further. The work burden on the police personnel will increase," Shelar said.

## Tribal boy commits suicide at Govt school in Maha's Palghar

**Palghar:** A 14-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide at a Government-run residential school for tribal children in Maharashtra's Palghar district, the police said on Wednesday.

Sunil Khandvi, resident of Beriste village, was the student of a government-run Ashram school at Hirve Pimpalpada in Mokhada tehsil, a police official said.

His body was found hanging from the window grill of the school toilet on Sunday.

The school superintendent told the police that Khandvi had written in the school register on January 19 that he was going home and would remain absent for a few days.

However, the next day he was found to have hanged himself with a bed sheet in the school toilet, the police officer said. The reason for committing suicide was yet to be ascertained, he said, adding that further probe was on.



President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday conferred the Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020 to 49 children in the age group of 5-18 years at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan here. The Bal Shakti Puraskar is given to children in the fields of innovation, social service, scholastic, sports, art and culture and bravery and carries a medal, a cash prize of ₹ 1 lakh, a certificate and a citation

## NIA shifted Davinder Singh to Jammu

PNS ■ JAMMU

National Investigation Agency (NIA) team, interrogating Davinder Singh, DySP arrested by the police along with Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Naveed Babu from Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on January 11, shifted him to Jammu along with other arrested terrorists on Wednesday.

The NIA team, which took over the probe from the Jammu & Kashmir police recently, is trying to establish the link whether Davinder Singh was regularly transporting HM terrorist Naveed Babu to a relatively safe hideout in Jammu and whether he was also in touch with over ground workers (OGW's) active in the region to facilitate hassle free stay of HM commander.

Last week, police had also arrested younger brother of Naveed Babu, studying in Chandigarh.

According to highly placed sources, Naveed's brother had carved out a safe hideout for his brother in Bhatindi area of Jammu and the same was likely to be used for accommodating terrorists, ferried by Davinder Singh at the time of arrest.

## Raut: Uddhav to visit Ayodhya on completion of 100 days of power

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In an apparent effort to indicate that it has not deviated from its Hindutva path after forming a Government with the Congress and NCP, the Shiv Sena on Wednesday announced that its president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray would visit Ayodhya after the MVA Government completes 100 days in office.

Announcing the Chief Minister's impending visit to Ayodhya, Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut tweeted: "Chalo Ayodhya! CM #UddhavThackeray will visit Ayodhya on the completion of 100 days in power! @OfficeofUT".

In another tweet, Raut said: "Our government has begun performing its duties in great vigour. We shall complete five years in office. After government completes 100 days. CM Uddhav Thackeray shall go to Ayodhya. After seeking blessings of Lord Ram, will decide on future course of action."

Uddhav, who had announced after the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya dispute case that he would go once again Ayodhya on November 24, 2019, had postponed his visit then, owing to the impasse in the govern-

ment formation in the state. The public perception was that the Sena would soft-peddle its Hindutva agenda as long as it is running the government in the state with the Congress and NCP.

It may be recalled that Uddhav had on November 25, 2018 — along with his wife Rashmi and son Aditya, had visited Ayodhya. On June 16, 2019 year after the Lok Sabha polls, he once again visited Ayodhya and offered prayers at the makeshift Ram Lalla shrine.

However, atmosphere has changed after he joined hands with the "secular" and NCP to form a Maha Vikas Agadhi government in Maharashtra.

The perception that has been gaining ground in the state political circles that in order to ensure that there is no threat to its government in the state the ruling Shiv Sena is pursuing the Hindutva as vigorously as it was doing earlier. So much so that its erstwhile ally BJP has been taking pot shots at the Shiv Sena for giving up on its Hindutva agenda for the sake of power.

Interestingly enough, Raut came out with a tweet a day ahead of the first grand convention of the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). It is speculated

that at the convention, MNS chief Raj Thackeray embrace the Hindutva path and change the colour of his party flag.

Raj had recently met former Maharashtra chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis, sparking speculation about the possibility of the MNS joining hands with the Amit Shah-led party.

Meanwhile, talking to media persons, Raut extended invitation to Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar to accompany Uddhav Thackeray to Ayodhya. "We want that our alliance leaders should also come along. Rahul Gandhi also visits several temples."

On her part, BJP national spokesperson Meemakshi Lekhi had earlier in the day wanted to know if Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray would also take Congress leaders along with him to Ayodhya. How the alliance partners of the Sena react? How will he show his face to them — to the ones who questioned the very existence of Lord Ram, even went to the Supreme Court stating the same," she said.

Uttar Pradesh's deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma described Uddhav's impending visit to Ayodhya as a "political stunt".

## Maha makes film 'Tanhaji' tax-free

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

The Maharashtra Government on Wednesday announced that the historical drama 'Tanhaji - The Unsung Warrior' would be tax-free in the State till April 30, 2020. At its meeting presided over by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the State Cabinet decided to waive State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) on the tickets of 'Tanhaji - The Unsung Warrior' and compensate for the loss from its exchequer. "Thank you Uddhav Thackeray ji for declaring #Tanhaji The Unsung Warrior tax-free in the State of Maharashtra. @OfficeofUT @CMOMaharashtra," lead actor in the film Ajay Devgn tweeted.

The martyrdom of Tanaji Malusare - the Commander of the Maratha Empire headed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj — in the bloody battle of Sinhagad Fort in Pune with the then commander of the fort Udaybhan Sinh Rathore allied with the Mughals, holds a special place in the state's history.

The governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana had earlier exempted 'Tanhaji — The Unsung Warrior' from tax.

## High alert in J&K ahead of R-Day

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After losing two soldiers, one each from the Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir police during fierce gunfight in Khrew area of Pampore in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday, a joint team of security forces on Wednesday once again trapped group of terrorists responsible for killing their buddies, one kilometer away from the encounter site, and eliminated at least one terrorist.

According to ground reports, massive searches were going on in the Khrew area after the initial gunfight with terrorists resulted in killing of two soldiers. Due to bad weather and poor light conditions, the search operations were halted and the same were resumed early Wednesday morning.

After the fresh contact was established with the hiding terrorists, the security forces tightened the cordon and eliminated at least one of the terrorists in the ensuing encounter, official sources said.

Confirming the elimination of one of the terrorists, twitter handle of the Jammu & Kashmir police posted a message which read, "Police & Security forces killed one of the killers of Martyred SPO



Shahbaz Ahmed and Martyred Rifleman Rahul in this operation even before bodies of these martyrs reached their respective homes. Operation is going on at Nagander one kilometre away from yesterday encounter site."

Official sources claimed, security forces were conducting random searches in the area since Wednesday morning to track down the foot prints of the terrorists hiding in the area. Meanwhile, mortal remains of both the soldiers were dispatched to their native places after a formal wreath laying ceremony in Srinagar. Senior police and Army officers paid their tributes to both the martyrs. Interacting with the media in Srinagar, DGP Dilbagh Singh said, the security has been beefed up in Kashmir.

"All arrangements have been made with regard to security measures on ground, the security in South Kashmir has been reviewed. We visited

Anantnag and also took stock of the security in other districts," DGP Singh said.

"We have strengthened the security measures in Srinagar ahead of the Republic Day," he added. In the run up to the Republic Day celebrations, a high alert has been sounded in Jammu and Kashmir after intelligence inputs suggest of possible terror strikes.

According to latest intel reports, a joint module of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen militants have been tasked by their handlers in Pakistan to carry out dastardly attacks in the run up to the Republic Day.

There are inputs that militants could launch suicide attacks on security installations in south Kashmir and defence positions across the south of Pir Panjal in the Jammu region.

According to inputs, terrorist movement has also been traced in areas of Srinagar and Budgam districts.

## Jammu: Police recruitment drive for women gets good response

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

To realise their childhood dream of donning 'khaki' uniform and serve the mother Nation, large number of 'enthusiastic' young girls from remote areas of Jammu region are queuing up outside Police headquarters for last couple of days, braving adverse weather conditions, to participate in the special recruitment drive aimed at raising two women battalions.

So far aspirants from hilly districts of Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar and twin border districts of Rajouri, Poonch have attended the first leg of the special recruitment

drive, currently underway at Gulshan ground.

Since early morning, aspirants start converging along with their parents and family friends to attend the rally. Since they are travelling from far off places they prefer reaching venue at the earliest to avoid any last minute hiccups. The atmosphere inside the Gulshan ground was electrifying when group of media persons reached the venue of the special drive.

In the first leg, the candidates were undergoing physical endurance/standard test. After clearing the first hurdle, jubilant candidates were allowed to interact with media persons for

a short span of time. The candidates, greeted them with patriotic chants and loud cheers. "We are feeling proud, we are participating in the recruitment drive despite facing many hardships". Several candidates, names not being disclosed, claimed they wanted to serve the mother Nation by joining the police force. "I am very optimistic, after clearing the first round without facing any major hurdle I am set to participate in the second round", a NCC cadet from Bhallessa in Doda district said.

Another candidate from Ramban claimed, "I want to help my family. "We have seen many ups and downs during

our childhood days, now I want to help my parents as they had struggled a lot while raising my siblings and ensuring better education facilities for us".

Senior police officers, supervising the recruitment drive told reporters in Jammu, "the morale of the aspiring candidates is very high and they are all keen to serve the police force".

Briefing media persons, Inspector General of Police (Armed) Danesh Rana said, "the current recruitment drive is aimed at raising two women battalions, one each for Jammu and Kashmir divisions".

He said, the candidates are being screened in a very pro-

fessional manner. We have allocated district wise quota for aspiring candidates. Rana said, "we are following a very transparent process. There is no scope of any human intervention during the recruitment drive and only meritorious candidates are expected to make it to the final list".

Union government had earlier announced two women battalions in June 2018 to enhance the representation of women in the Police force. The final sanction was given by the State Administrative Council (SAC) under the chairmanship of former Governor Satya Pal Malik in January 2019.

# Budget will have plan of action on economy: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will unveil its "plan of action" to boost the economy in the Union Budget to be presented on February 1, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Wednesday, asserting that economic fundamentals remain very strong.

Responding to a question about the downward revision of India's growth rate by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said the economy is on the path of "revival" and nobody should have a pessimistic view about it.

"From the Union Budget, you will get Government's plan of action. Our fundamentals are very strong. Therefore, nobody should create a pessimistic view about Indian economy," the Information and Broadcasting minister said at a briefing after the Union Cabinet meeting.

Asserting that the economy was on the path of "revival", he



Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar briefs the media on Cabinet decisions at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi PTI

said there are ups and downs in world economy, and it has reflection on economy of countries.

The IMF had on Monday lowered growth estimate for India to 4.8 per cent for 2019, citing stress in the non-bank financial sector and weak rural income growth as the major factors for the downward revision.

While providing an update on the global economy ahead

of the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit, the IMF cut its India growth forecast.

India-born IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath had said growth in India slowed sharply owing to stress in the non-banking financial sectors and weak rural income growth.

Opposition parties have been attacking the Government over the economic slowdown and its policies.

## Stock markets to be open on Budget day

New Delhi: Stock markets will be open for normal trading on February 1, Saturday, when the Union Budget will be presented. Generally, the markets are closed on Saturdays and Sundays, except for special circumstances.

In separate circulars on Wednesday, leading exchanges BSE and NSE said the markets would be open for trading on February 1 on account of Union Budget presentation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is to present the Budget for 2020-21.

Trading would be conducted during normal hours from 9 am to 3.30 pm, as per the circulars.

According to markets sources, the decision has been taken following requests made in this regard by market participants as Budget contains several market-moving announcements.

In 2015, stock exchanges were open for trading on February 28, Saturday, when then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had presented the Budget. PTI

## Budget may offer production incentives for fabless chip cos

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget 2020 may unveil a scheme on production linked benefits to attract hi-tech manufacturing in semiconductors, and microprocessors to India, apart from giving tax incentives to solar electric charging infrastructure, computers, servers, and laptops.

To make it look more attractive to MNCs to opt for domestic electronics manufacturing in India, the Budget may dish out production-linked subsidies for companies involved in semiconductor fabrication. This is aimed at inviting global semiconductor, and microprocessor companies to set up plants in India.

Earlier also, the government had announced schemes for setting up semiconductor plants in the country.

The National Policy for Electronics, 2019, argues for special support for developing

core competencies in the strategic sub-sectors like fabless chip design industry. The Government could provide tax incentives to high-tech manufacturing plants in the fields of solar photovoltaic cells, lithium storage batteries, solar electric charging infrastructure, computers, servers, and laptops.

For 'Make in India', there may be investment-linked income tax exemptions under Section 35AD of the Income Tax Act and other indirect tax benefits.

Many global semiconductor companies such as ARM, Qualcomm, Intel, Cadence and Texas Instruments have set up design and software development infrastructure here but per se, chip manufacturing plants are still elusive for India.

Intel, AMD and ARM for microprocessors, and Qualcomm, Samsung and MediaTek are the names in this segment globally who also cater to the telecom segment and their chips are imported by Indian companies.

## BUSINESS CORNER

SRM INKS MOU WITH KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Kansas State University (KSU), USA. Professors Ramasamy Perumal and Krishna Jagadish from KSU visited SRMIST for the purpose. Both the faculties are also adjunct professors in SRMIST. Speaking on the occasion, Ramasamy Perumal said that the process of the MoU is lengthy, he is happy to have this association with SRMIST.

KAMDHENU PRESENTS GENNEXT CONSTRUCTION STEEL

New Delhi: Kamdhenu Limited has presented innovative steel in the field of construction steel. Power Alloy Steel 10000 (PAS10000) aims to take the industries to the next level. The alloy gives it better rust-proof qualities and gives this Rebar capability to bear 28 per cent more weight. Along with that it also gives double earth-quake prevention to the building.

## Ujjwala inspires Ghana, India to assist Ghana in implementation of its LPG promotion policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ghana wants to replicate the highly successful Ujjwala model of giving out cooking gas (LPG) connections to the need and has signed an agreement with state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) seeking its assistance and technical expertise in implementation of the African nation's national LPG promotion policy.

Alhassan Sulemana Tampuli, Chief Executive, National Petroleum Authority (NPA) of Ghana and L K S Chauhan, Chief General Manager (LPG Operations), IOC signed the MoU in presence of Oil Minister Dharmendra pradhan and Michael Aaron, High Commissioner of Ghana to India.

"With India's emergence as a world leader in provision of clean energy to its citizens by the expansion of its LPG network, Ghana sought assistance from India in its own efforts to promote to safe, clean and environmentally friendly LPG for increased domestic, commercial and industrial usage," an IOC press statement said.

LPG coverage in Ghana is just 23 per cent and customers have to queue up at petrol stations with cylinders to get a refill. It wants to replicate the Indian model of setting up bottling plants where LPG can be filled in cylinders which are then transported to dealers who deliver them at customer doorstep with a view to expand the coverage to cover at least 50 per cent of the population.

## Relief to Indians on card as New Jersey to lower college costs of H-1B visa holders' children

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The US state of New Jersey will enact a legislation that will make college and universities more affordable for the children of H-1B visa holders, mostly Indian IT professionals, bringing a huge financial relief to them.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy on Tuesday signed the legislation "S2555", allowing New Jersey students, who are the children of H-1B visa holders, to qualify for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education. A majority of H-1B visa holders are Indians and this legislation comes as a significant relief to them, amidst an environment of stringent immigration laws and scrutiny under the Trump administration.

"New Jerseyans deserve equal access to higher education, and today we are taking another step towards making that possible. I'm proud to sign the legislation to help our students achieve their education goals, pursue a successful future and live their dreams here in their home state," Murphy said.

The legislation exempts dependent students whose parents or guardians hold H-1B visas from paying out-of-state tuition provided they meet certain criteria, including having graduated from a New Jersey high school and having attended a New Jersey high

school for at least three years. New Jersey is home to prestigious institutions such as Princeton University.

Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis said New Jersey is working to make college affordable for New Jerseyans and the legislation will expand postsecondary opportunities to more residents such as dependents of H-1B visa holders. India's Deputy Consul General in New York Shatru Sinha welcomed the legislation, saying in a tweet that it is an "important initiative for the Indian community".

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Indian-American Democratic Senator Vin Gopal, Senator M Teresa Ruiz and Assembly members Raj Mukherji, Daniel Benson, and Robert Karabinchak.

President and CEO of Edison-based health technology company HealthEC Arthur Kapoor welcomed the legislation, saying it will tremendously benefit the Indian diaspora in New Jersey.

"Indian diaspora welcomes this bill since H-1B visa holders pay enormous amounts of taxes as well as social security contributions which they are never able to use as they return to India before they are eligible to receive benefits. This bill will allow their kids access to the best education," Kapoor said.

## India falls to 51st position in EU's Democracy Index

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India slipped 10 places to 51st position in the 2019 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which cited "erosion of civil liberties" in the country as the primary cause for the downturn.

India's overall score fell from 7.23 in 2018 to 6.90 in the Index that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide for 165 independent states and two territories.

## Govt allows 3 last dates for filing GSTR-3B for different categories of taxpayers

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Wednesday staggered last dates of filing GSTR-3B, a monthly return form, and has provided three dates for different categories of taxpayers, a move aimed at de-stressing the system.

Currently, the last date for filing GSTR-3B is 20th of every month. From now onwards, there will be three dates — 20th, 22nd and 24th — of every month for different categories of tax payers.

In past, glitches in the return filing system of GST Network were reported on the

last day of filing of returns and trade and industry had to face problems. It may be noted here that about one-fifth of the total GSTR-3B returns were filing on the last day (January 20).

"From now on, the last date for filing of GSTR-3B for the taxpayers having annual turnover of ₹5 crore and above in the previous financial year would be 20th of the month. Thus, around 8 lakh regular taxpayers would have the last date of GSTR-3B filing as 20th of every month without late fees," the ministry said in a statement. The taxpayers

having annual turnover below ₹5 crore in previous financial year will be divided further in two categories.

The tax filers from 15 states/UTs — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh — will now be having the last date of filing GSTR-3B returns as 22nd of the month without late fees.

## India advances 8 places to 72nd spot on Global Talent Competitiveness Index

PTI ■ DAVOS

India has moved up eight places to the 72nd position in the 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index that measures and ranks countries based on their ability to grow, attract and retain talent.

Switzerland topped the list of 132 countries, followed by the US and Singapore.

"Although more could be done to improve the country's educational system (68th in Formal Education), India's key strength relates to growing (44th) talent, due to its levels of lifelong learning (40th) and access to growth opportunities

(39th)," the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) report noted.

The country's highest-ranked sub-pillar is employability, but the ability to match labour market demand and supply stands in contrast to the country's poor "mid-level skills", which result in a mediocre score in vocational and technical skills, the report said.

India's greatest challenge is to address its weak ability to attract and retain talent, where strengthening the role of minorities and women would raise the level of internal openness, it added.

The GTCI report was launched by INSEAD, a partner and sponsor of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Tent in Davos, Switzerland on Wednesday.

Switzerland topped this year's ranking, followed by the United States, its highest position yet, while Singapore is the third most talent-competitive country.

Other countries in the top 10 include Sweden at the 4th position, Denmark (5th), the Netherlands (6th), Finland (7th), Luxembourg (8th), Norway (9th) and Australia (10th).

## Sebi comes out new framework to check non-compliance of listing rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Wednesday put in place a stricter mechanism to deal with non-compliance of listing conditions under which stock exchanges will have powers to slap penalties up to ₹50,000 for certain violations.

At present, a stock exchange is allowed to charge a maximum amount of ₹10,000 for each violation of listing norms that need to be complied with by companies.

According to a Sebi circular, exchanges can impose a fine of ₹50,000 per instance for non-compliance with respect to

obtaining in-principle approval of bourses before issuance of securities.

The bourses can levy a fine of ₹25,000 each in cases of non-disclosure of dividend distribution policy in annual reports and on the websites of the entities.

The amount would also be applicable in the cases of non-convening of annual general meeting within a period of five months from the close of a financial year and for not taking exchange's approval before filing request for change of name with Registrar of Companies (RoC).

The new framework would

come into force with effect from compliance periods ending on or after March 31, 2020.

The move is aimed at maintaining consistency and adopting a uniform approach in the matter of levy of fines for non-compliance with certain provisions of the listing regulations.

Besides, the exchanges can impose a penalty of ₹10,000 for delay in furnishing prior intimation about the company's board meeting as well as delay in non-disclosure of record date or dividend declaration, and non-compliance with norms pertaining to having a functional website.

## Oil India moves SC against DoT seeking ₹48K cr payment on ₹1.47 cr revenue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) on Wednesday said it has filed a clarificatory/modificatory petition in the Supreme Court against a ₹48,000 crore demand raised by the telecom department on cumulative revenue of ₹1.47 crore it had earned on an NLD telecom licence.

Following the October 24 Supreme Court ruling that non-telecom revenues of telecom firms such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea should be included for considering payments of Government dues, the

telecom department asked OIL to pay ₹48,000 crore in principal dues together with interest and penalty. The dues sought are double the net worth of OIL.

"OIL had obtained a National Long Distance Service Licence (NLD Licence) to establish Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA System) for control, management, and protection of OIL's pipeline network used for transportation of crude oil, natural gas, and petroleum products," the company said in a statement.

The NLD licence is pre-

dominantly used for the SCADA system and only the spare bandwidth capacity is leased out to other telecom operators.

"As per the licence terms, licence fee is to be paid on gross total revenue from services provided under the NLD licence. Since the award of NLD licence, the cumulative revenue of ₹1.47 crore is earned by OIL from the leasing of spare bandwidth capacity on which all applicable licence fee and other statutory dues as per licence terms have been paid by OIL regularly," it said.

## Tata Motors JLR to cut 500 jobs at UK factory

PTI ■ LONDON

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) on Wednesday said that around 500 jobs will be affected as it cuts down on shifts to optimise car production at its Halewood factory in Merseyside.

The factory, which builds the Range Rover Evoque and Land Rover Discovery Sport in the north west of England, will move from a three shift to a "two-plus" shift pattern from April as part of what the company says is an efficiency programme and does not imply a loss of volume.

## India keen on importing more oil from Brazil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday expressed interest in raising the import of crude oil from Brazil as the world's third largest oil consumer is looking at diversifying its import basket beyond the highly volatile Middle East region. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met visiting Brazilian Minister for Mines and Energy Bento Albuquerque to review cooperation between the two countries.

"India is diversifying its crude oil supply and our oil companies have expressed interest in sourcing more crude from Brazil if offered favorable

commercial terms," Pradhan tweeted after the meeting.

India imports 84 per cent of its oil needs and two-thirds of its import come from the Middle East with Iraq and Saudi Arabia being the top suppliers. Pradhan said he also sought intervention for the early monetization of India's existing investments in the Brazilian energy sector.

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), has two exploration blocks in Brazil — BC-10 and BM Seal-4 and is looking at monetizing discoveries made there.

## Adani lays out plans to become world's largest renewable energy player by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moving away from polluting coal, billionaire Gautam Adani on Wednesday laid out a blueprint to make his group the world's largest solar power company by 2025 and the biggest renewable energy firm by 2030 through aggressive capacity addition push in these areas.

The \$15-billion Adani Group — a sprawling conglomerate with interests in energy, agri-business, real estate and defence, among others — plans to double its renewable

power generating capacity of current 2.5 gigawatts (GW) by 2020 and further to 18 GW by 2025, Adani wrote in a LinkedIn post.

"Our vision is to become the world's largest solar power company by 2025 and largest renewable power company by 2030," the Adani Group chairman wrote. Adani Group not just owns coal-fired power plants but also coal mines in India and Australia. It has invested big time in coal as the Adani empire of mines, cargo ships, ports and power plants depend heavily on it.

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused namely Sunil@Sonu, S/o Jagdish, R/o H.No. F-44, Gali No.81, Mahavir Enclave Part-III, Dabri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 237/19, u/s 356/379/34 IPC, Dated: 24.06.2019, P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the accused Sunil@Sonu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sunil@Sonu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Processing U/s 82 Cr. P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sunil@Sonu, case FIR No. 237/19, u/s 356/379/34 IPC, Dated: 24.06.2019, P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.02.2020.  
By Order  
Sh. Deepak Vats,  
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No.9  
Ground Floor, Dwarka District Courts,  
Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi  
DP/8592/WD/20-(Court Matter)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**  
General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Raju, S/o Shri Jang Bahadur, R/o F-383, Karampura, Moti Nagar, New Delhi, Age 35 years has been reported missing from his house since 28.12.19 at 05.00 am vide DD No. 37-A, dated 01.01.20 has been lodged at PS Moti Nagar, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
Raju  
Height : 5', Complexion : Fair, Built : Medium, Clothing : Wearing Blue colour jacket, blue colour jeans pant and brown colour shoes.  
Any person is having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.  
E-mail ID: cbc@cbl.gov.in  
SHO  
PS: Moti Nagar, New Delhi  
Tel: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Ph: 25101150  
Fax: 011-24368639  
DP/8581/WD/20

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**  
General Public is hereby informed that one man Namely: Vinod, S/o: Pramabai, R/o: N-18, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi, Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Wearing: Maroon Shirt & Blue Pant and Black Shoes in Feet has been missing since 12.12.2019 from the area of P.S. Khyala, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 37A, Dated 13.12.2019 has been lodged at PS. Khyala, New Delhi.  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform the undersigned.  
Web-site : http://cbl.nic.in  
E-Mail ID: cbc@cbl.gov.in  
SHO  
PS: Khyala, New Delhi  
Ph: 011-28335696, 28335686  
DP/8590/WD/2020

**M/s Z Landholding LLP**  
LLPIN: AAB-4222  
Registered office: 60B, SAINIK FARMS NEW DELHI, New Delhi-110062, NCR, Before the Central Government Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019, NCR.  
In the matter of: Section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008  
And  
In the matter of: M/s Z Landholding LLP a Limited Liability Partnership having its registered office situated at 60B, SAINIK FARMS NEW DELHI, New Delhi-110062, NCR. Applicant.  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that M/s Z Landholding LLP proposes to make application to the Central Government under Section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Agreement of the LLP in terms of the special resolution passed at the Meeting of all Partners held on 02.01.2020 to enable the LLP to change its Registered office from New Delhi in the "State of NCR" to Bhubaneswar in the "State of Odisha". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or sent by registered post of higher objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019, NCR within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant LLP at its registered office at the address mentioned above.  
For and on behalf of the Applicant  
M/s Z Landholding LLP  
Sd/- Tapan Kumar Mohanty Designated Partner  
Date: 20.01.2020, Place: New Delhi



# OSAKA SETS COCO CRUNCH

Defending champion will take on American prodigy in mouth-watering third round fixture

Australian Open  
Live from 5:30am IST  
SONY SIX & TEN 2 NETWORK

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Fifteen-year-old prodigy Coco Gauff set up an Australian Open blockbuster with defending champion Naomi Osaka on Wednesday, as a pumped-up Serena Williams took another step towards a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title.

On a day when men's seeds tumbled, Serbia's Novak Djokovic strode into the third round to be joined by Roger Federer, who dismissed Filip Krajinovic 6-1, 6-4, 6-1.

American teenager Gauff, showing a tenacity which is becoming her trademark, clawed her way back from a set down to beat the experienced Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Gauff, who screamed and pumped her fists as she completed her victory, said her "will to win" had got her through the tough second-round match at a windswept Melbourne Park.

"My parents always told me you can always come back — no matter what the score is," said Gauff, who beat seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams in round one.

Gauff also beat Williams on her Grand Slam debut last year at Wimbledon, and in another quirk, she faced Osaka in the US Open third round, going down quickly in straight sets.

Japan's 22-year-old Osaka, beat China's Zheng Saisai 6-2, 6-4 but briefly lost her cool mid-match, hurling and kicking her racquet when she gave up a break in the second set.

"I was thinking that I really don't want to play a third set this time," explained Osaka, who is



Defending champion Naomi Osaka reacts during her second round match against Zheng Saisai

defending a Grand Slam title for the second time.

Former world number one Wozniacki, playing her final tournament before retiring, came from behind in both sets for a 7-5, 7-5 win over Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine.

Serena Williams shouted at the

top of her voice during a testing second set against 70th-ranked Tamara Zidansek, before seeing off break points to win 6-2, 6-3.

"She was a really good fighter — she did not just let me win," said Williams, who can equal Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 Grand Slams if she lifts the trophy.

## WIND 'MASSIVE FACTOR'

Earlier, Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty raced through 6-1, 6-4 against Polona Hercog, buoying hopes of a first home winner since 1978.

"It was very different end to end, I think the wind was a massive factor particularly with the new



Serena Williams reacts after missing a shot against Tamara Zidansek AP

ball," she said. Djokovic also weathered the breeze — which followed heavy rain on Monday, and smog from bushfires last week — to beat Japanese wildcard Tatsuma Ito 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in 95 minutes.

"They were tough conditions, pretty windy and it was hard to know where the balls were going. My serve helped a lot to get me out of trouble," said the Serb.

Federer was barely detained by Krajinovic, the world number 41, as he moved smoothly through in 92 minutes in the night match on Rod Laver Arena.

In other results, Petra Kvitova, last year's runner-up, came through 7-5, 7-5 against Paula Badosa of Spain, and China's Zhang Shuai ousted American Caty McNally 6-2, 6-4.

Former US Open champion Marin Cilic won a five-setter against French seed Benoit Paire, and one-time semi-finalist Milos Raonic beat Chile's Christian Garin in straight sets.

Also, Tennyson Sandgren took the biggest scalp when he ousted eighth seed Matteo Berrettini in five sets.

Sandgren's fellow American Tommy Paul also pulled off a five-set upset when he beat Bulgarian 18th



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Tatsuma Ito in second round match AP

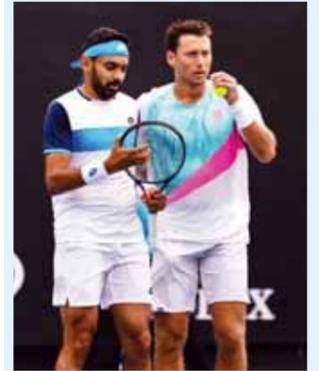
seed Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (10/3).

And Australia's John Millman further trimmed the number of high-ranked players when he ended the campaign of Polish 31st seed Hubert Hurkacz.

But Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was handed a slice of fortune when Philipp Kohlschreiber withdrew injured.

Among eight first-round matches held over from Tuesday, after rain wiped out half of Monday's schedule, Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, also retiring this year, upset Belarusian 11th seed Aryna Sabalenka in straight sets.

## Divij advances, Rohan Bopanna knocked out



Divij Sharan and his partner Artem Sitak Divij/Twitter

MELBOURNE: India's Divij Sharan and his New Zealand partner Artem Sitak progressed to the second round of the men's doubles event but Rohan Bopanna was knocked out of the Australian Open here on Wednesday.

Sharan and Sitak got the better of the Portuguese-Spanish duo of Pablo Carreno Busta and Joao Sousa 6-4, 7-5 in a thrilling one hour, 28 minutes encounter.

The pair will next face the winner of the first-round match between 10th seeds Mate Pavic-Bruno Soares and Ben McLachlan-Luke Bambridge.

Partnering Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan, Bopanna went down to USA's Bryan brothers, Bob and Mike, 1-6, 6-3, 3-6 in a hard-fought one hour, 17 minutes contest.

Meanwhile on Wednesday Sania Mirza pulled out of the mixed doubles due to a calf injury. She was supposed to partner compatriot Rohan Bopanna.

Mirza will, however, play in the women's doubles event.

Sania, who won the doubles title in Hobart International, will team up with Nadia Kichenok of Ukraine for the Australia Open today.

The duo will face Chinese pair of Xinyun Han and Lin Zhu in their women's doubles first round clash.

"It's unfortunate that this niggling injury got aggravated in the Hobart final just as I was getting to the top of my game. It is a lot better now and I intend to give it my best shot in doubles. It's disappointing to miss out on the chance to partner Rohan in mixed," Mirza was quoted as saying by the Times of India. Agencies



Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli moves past Chelsea's N'Golo Kanté to score his side's first goal Arsenal/Twitter

## LAST GASP DRAMA

Ten-man Arsenal hold Chelsea in torrent of late Premier League goals

AFP ■ LONDON

Ten-man Arsenal slowed Chelsea's charge for a Champions League place on Tuesday as Manchester City kept up their distant pursuit of Liverpool with victory at Sheffield United on a dramatic evening of Premier League football.

Fourth-placed Chelsea twice took the lead against Arsenal, who were reduced to 10 men after former Blues defender David Luiz took out Tammy Abraham when he was through on goal.

Jorginho put Chelsea 1-0 ahead from the penalty spot in the 28th minute but Gabriel Martinelli equalised for Arsenal in the second half.

Cesar Azpilicueta put Chelsea 2-1 up with just six minutes remaining but Arsenal levelled only three minutes later through Hector Bellerin.

The 2-2 draw leaves Chelsea six points ahead of fifth-placed Manchester United having played a game extra while Arsenal are in 10th spot, seemingly out of the running for a place in the top four.

### AQUERO SPARES BLUSHES

Pep Guardiola's City, with defender Aymeric Laporte back in the side, looked as though they might rue Gabriel Jesus's squandered first-half penalty but their Argentine hitman Sergio Aguero came to the rescue.

Despite the 1-0 win, second-placed City remain 13 points behind runaway leaders Liverpool, having played two games more, and their bid to defend their title appears hopeless.

City's French central defender Laporte has been out of action since suffering a knee injury at the end of August and he was a surprise inclusion at Bramall Lane.

Sheffield United goalkeeper Dean Henderson denied Jesus from the penalty spot about 10 minutes from half-time after a foul on Riyad Mahrez.

But City made amends when substitute Sergio Aguero, on for Jesus, tapped in from Kevin De Bruyne's cross in the 73rd minute.

Southampton's 2-0 victory against Crystal Palace, thanks to goals from Nathan Redmond and Stuart Armstrong, continued a remarkable turnaround for the club, who hit rock bottom ear-

## FIGURATIVELY

10 Gabriel Martinelli is the first teenager to score 10+ goals in a single season for Arsenal (all competitions) since Nicolas Anelka in 1998-99.

2 Jorginho is the first Chelsea player to score home and away against Arsenal in a single PL season since Juan Mata did so in 2012-13.

1 David Luiz is the first player to be sent off against Chelsea in the Premier League, having previously played for the Blues in the competition, since Vinnie Jones in December 1995.

3 Kevin De Bruyne is the first player in PL history to provide 15+ assists in three different seasons.

10 Dominic Calvert-Lewin is the first Englishman to score 10+ goals in a Premier League season for Everton since Wayne Rooney in 2017-18.

1 Moise Kean has scored his first goal for Everton with what was his 26th shot in all competitions; he's the first Italian to score a PL goal for the Toffees since Alessandro Pistone in April 2002.

lier this season in a 9-0 defeat by Leicester.

Watford took the lead against Villa when Troy Deeney headed in Gerard Deulofeu's cross but the home side hit back in the second half through Douglas Luiz.

Tyrone Mings scored a dramatic late winner for Villa deep into stoppage time to end Watford's recent revival under Nigel Pearson.

Moise Kean scored his first goal for Everton since his arrival from Juventus in the 30th minute of their match against Newcastle and Dominic Calvert-Lewin doubled the lead in the second half.

Everton were cruising deep into stoppage time but threw away the three points, with Lejeune striking twice.

Bournemouth, who had lost their previous four matches, all against relegation rivals, beat Brighton 3-1 thanks to goals from Harry Wilson, an own goal from Pascal Gross and a second-half Callum Wilson effort.

## Laporte surprised to be back in action

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City defender Aymeric Laporte admits he has returned from his serious knee injury earlier than he expected.

The Frenchman was a surprise inclusion in Pep Guardiola's starting line-up against Sheffield United, having not been involved with the first team for almost five months.

He required surgery after suffering a knee injury during City's home win against Brighton on August 31.

Laporte's comeback in the 1-0 win for City at Bramall Lane lasted 78 minutes and he is now looking forward to the rest of the season.

"Normally it would have been later but I spoke with the manager and tried today (Tuesday) and he told me I would play so I

am very happy to be back as soon as possible and have minutes and help the team," said Laporte.

"It was very important for me to try to be with the team, to be involved. It was

a good test of fitness. The game was difficult because they are very strong, a good team."

"It was difficult for me (being out), my team-mates see me suffering," he added.

"But now I can help the team out and give my best."

City have had problems at the back in Laporte's absence and his return helped City record their first clean sheet in any competition since December 29.

After the match, Guardiola admitted his team had missed the 25-year-old and described him as the best left-sided central defender in the world.

Laporte said: "It's great to hear that from this manager as he is one of the best in the world, if not the best. I am very happy to hear that but I have to work to stay there and keep going."



Alvaro Odriozola poses with Bayern crest FCB

## Odriozola moves Bayern on loan

MUNICH: Bayern Munich have signed Real Madrid right-back Alvaro Odriozola on loan until the end of the season, the two clubs confirmed on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Spain international will bolster Bayern's defence, which has been left short on cover with centre-backs Niklas Sule and Lucas Hernandez sidelined by knee injuries.

"We decided to comply with the request of our head coach Hansi Flick for reinforcements in defence and together we decided on Alvaro Odriozola," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in a statement.

"We are very happy about his signing and would like to thank those in charge at Real Madrid for their very friendly and cooperative discussions."

The move helps both parties as Odriozola, who was signed from Real Sociedad for 35 million euros (\$39 million) in 2018, has struggled for game time in Madrid, where Dani Carvajal is preferred in the right-back role. AFP



## Lyon down Lille on penalties

LYON: Lyon beat Lille on penalties after a dramatic 2-2 draw at the Groupama Stadium on Tuesday to reach their sixth French League Cup final, setting up a possible clash with record eight-time winners Paris Saint-Germain.

Renato Sanches dragged what proved to be the last penalty of the shootout wide to send Lyon through.

This is the final season of the League Cup after the French league voted to suspend the competition from next term to ease fixture congestion.

Lyon will bid to lift the trophy for the second time when they take on the winner of second semi-final between Reims and PSG on April 4 at the Stade de France.

Portugal midfielder Sanches gave visitors Lille a 13th-minute lead with a low left-footed strike from outside the area to score his second goal for the club since joining from Bayern last August.

But the hosts were gifted a way

## India's campaign end in Thailand

BANGKOK: Top Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal suffered a second consecutive opening round defeat as she went down to Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt to bring curtains on the country's campaign in the Thailand Masters tournament here on Wednesday.

The fifth seeded Saina lost to unseeded Kjaersfeldt 13-21, 21-17, 15-21 in a hard fought 47-minute contest. World number 18 Saina had a 4-0 head-to-head record against the number 29 Dane before Wednesday's match.

With Saina's defeat, India's campaign came to an end in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

In the men's singles, the trio of Kidambi Srikanth, Sameer Verma and H S Prannoy, too, faltered in the first round.

Verma lost to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 16-21, 15-21 in a 39-minute men's singles match. The story went on similar lines for the fifth seeded



Srikanth, who went down to Sheshar Hiren Rhusavito of Indonesia 21-12, 14-21, 12-21, in a match that lasted 48 minutes.

This was Srikanth's third consecutive first-round exit this season.

It was curtains for Prannoy too. He lost 17-21, 22-20, 19-21 to Malaysia's Liew Daren. PTI

## 'Strong chance' Cavani will join Atletico



Edinson Cavani celebrates after scoring for PSG AP

PARIS: Edinson Cavani wants to join Atletico Madrid and is being treated "unfairly" by PSG, the Uruguayan striker's father said on Wednesday. Cavani, 32, has fallen out of favour at PSG, where he is competing with Kylian Mbappe, Neymar, Mauro Icardi and Angel di Maria for starting spots in attack.

A number of clubs are reportedly keen on signing Cavani, who has scored a club-record 198 goals for PSG and whose contract expires in the summer. Atletico appear to be the 32-year-old's preferred choice but the La Liga outfit and PSG are yet to agree a fee.

"I would like him to play there, (Atletico coach Diego) Simeone wants him now," Cavani's father Luis told Spanish programme El Chiringuito.

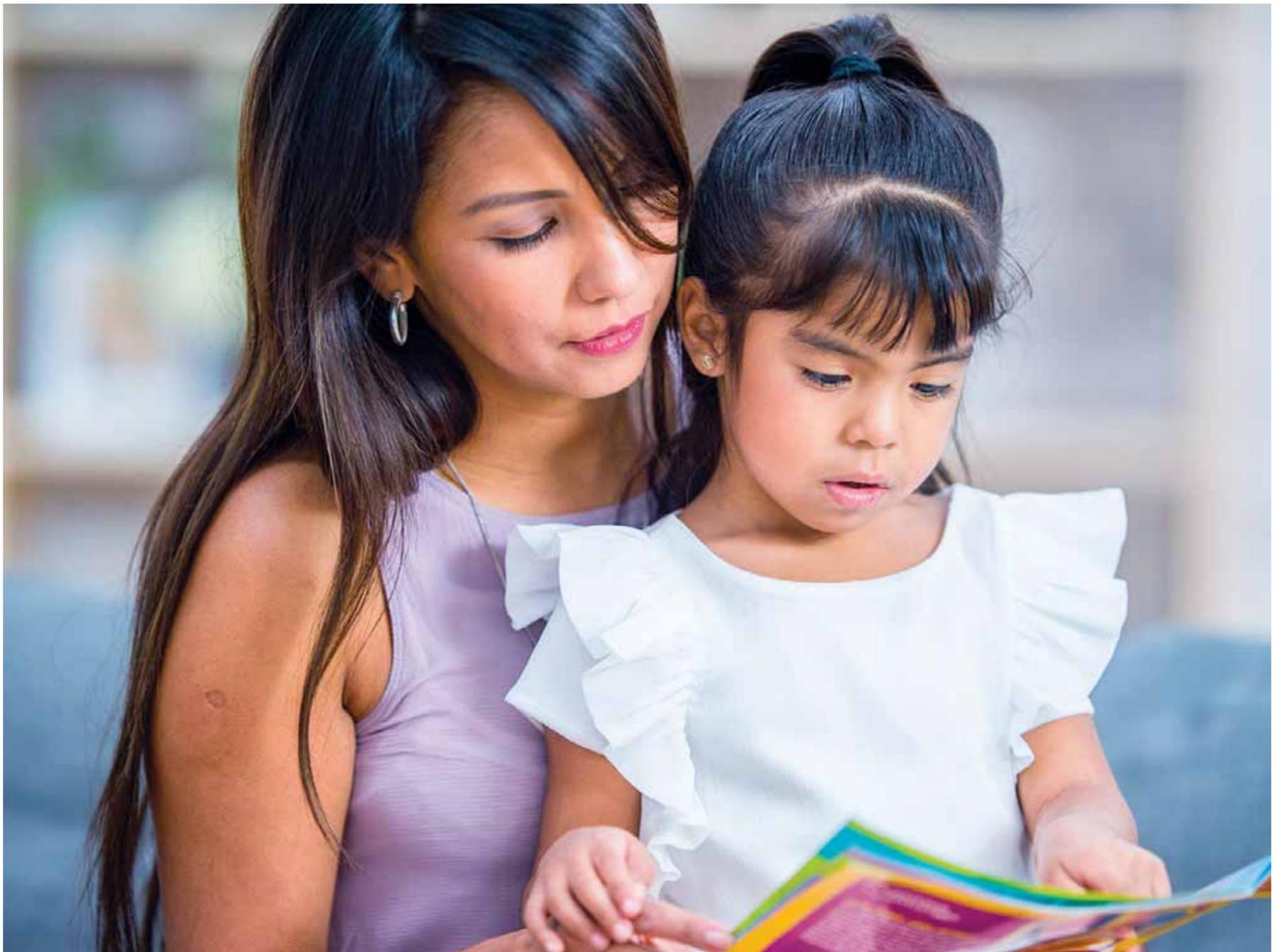
"I think there is a strong chance he will go to Atletico. There is also the option to join the club in June. There are lots of other clubs interested but when you give your word to a team, you respect it."

"If he is allowed to leave tomorrow and Atletico still want him, I think he will sign. He is a player who needs time to play. PSG are treating him unfairly." AFP

# vivacity

BRAD: NO COMPLAINTS IN LIFE

-P14



## BEING IN THE RIGHT MINDSET CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Remember that each one of your children is unique. What works for one may not work for another. You will want them to have some ownership over their study habits, so you may want to present a variety of ideas and let them choose a direction that makes sense in their mind. It depends on as long as you have systems in place and are consistent, writes TEAM VIVA

Certain key practices will make life easier for everyone in the family when it comes to study time or teaching study skills to kids. It rarely comes naturally. There are a lot of tools we can give to our children. These tips and tricks for teaching study skills to kids should be able to help you as you work with your child to set them up for success. However, some of them may require an adjustment for other members of the family. Remember that each one of your children is unique. What works for one may not work for another. You will want them to have some ownership over their study habits, so you may want to present a variety of ideas and let them choose a direction that makes sense in their mind. It depends on as long as you have systems in place and are consistent. First, it is important for your child to have a clean, organised space to work. This space may be in an office or bedroom. It may be at your dining room table. If it is in a central place, make sure they have easy access to materials they might need as well as consider some noise cancelling head

phones to eliminate distraction. Also, make it a great environment by turning off the television. Some kids will focus just fine with lots of distractions and others will be all over the place. Know your kids and give them the space that will most set them up for success. The space you create should have all the needs they might have. As you go along, you may realise there are things missing to complete tasks, and you will want to refill immediately. Kids can finish tasks more efficiently if you, as the parent, have a prepared and stocked place to make it all happen. Creating routine is so important for kids. It is especially critical if you have a child with autism. For them to know the schedule ahead of time and have the security of a routine greatly aids in their personal success. It is great for all kids. Between homework, tests, and extracurricular activities, it's all too easy for things to slip through the cracks. A planner can help your child keep everything organised. Students should write down assignments, appointments and to-do lists, then review items in the planner at

both the beginning and end of the day to stay on track. Students shouldn't have any surprises when it comes to how and what they will be graded on. By middle school and high school, most teachers will provide a course outline or syllabus, which can serve as a guide for the semester. If expectations aren't clear, don't wait until a bad report card comes in the mail. Your student should feel comfortable approaching teachers with questions about grading and assignments at any time. If this is not the case, it may be time for you as a parent to step in. Yes, studying at the local coffee shop may seem like a good idea, but not if there are constantly people interrupting or other disruptions. Even at home, studying in front of the TV won't be the best use of your son or daughter's time. Help your child by providing a quiet, well-lit, low-traffic space for study time. Take it one step further and institute a "communications blackout" policy with no cell phones or social media allowed until schoolwork is done. First things first: students need to know when a test will take place, the types

**IT IS NORMAL FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER TO FEEL STRESSED WHEN TAKING AN EXAM. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN STRATEGIES THAT WILL HELP HIM OR HER MANAGE THE STRESS AND DO HIS OR HER BEST ON THE EXAM**

of questions that will be included and the topics that will be covered. From there, your student should create a study plan and allow ample time to prepare - there's nothing worse than cramming the night before an exam. You can help by buying a wall cal-

endar and asking him or her to assign topics and tasks for each day leading up to a due date or exam. Setting goals for each session is also key to success. If your child needs some help developing a study plan Being in the right mindset can make all the difference. Encourage your child to think positively when studying or heading into an exam and by all means, avoid catastrophic thinking. Help your student turn negative statements like, "I'll never have enough time to get a good grade on this exam," into positive ones like, "I began preparing later than I should have but I put together a comprehensive study plan and will be able to get through the material prior to the exam." It's important for students to concentrate and avoid distractions when an instructor is presenting. Some tips to share with your child include: try concentrating on the main points being made, think about what the speaker is saying and pay attention to how things are said (gestures, tone of voice, etc.). They should avoid talking or thinking about problems when listening. If a teacher says, "This is important" or "I'll write this on the board," there's

a good chance students will see the concept on an exam. It is normal for your son or daughter to feel stressed when taking an exam. However, there are certain strategies that will help him or her manage the stress and do his or her best on the exam. First, make sure that your child arrives on time and tries to stay relaxed. Students should be sure to read all of the directions on the exam and pace themselves so as not to feel rushed. You can let your child know that it's OK to skip around on a test, if allowed, as he or she may be more comfortable with certain topics than others. It's all too easy for students to skim over an assigned book chapter and not know the main points of what they just read. Help your student to practice active reading by asking him or her to note the main idea of each passage and look up unfamiliar words or concepts. Make an outline of the chapter or create flow charts and diagrams that help map out the concept at hand. After each section, have students write a summary in their own words and come up with possible exam questions.

Trend Blazer

Developing my own stories: Shweta

Actor **SHWETA TRIPATHI** started the year by signing her next project, which she will be announcing soon. She is also working on developing her own concept and stories.

"As an actor, who is constantly surrounded by stories and good writing, story ideas keep popping out every now and then. I came up with two ideas, which I closely believe in and I thought it's time to invest some energy and heart into them and see these ideas bloom into full-fledged stories," said Shweta.



"I am aware that it will be a time-consuming process but I want to put in that effort into developing these stories because I believe in them. I will actively participate in conceiving the story ideas with the help of Ashish and I am hoping by mid-2020 I am in a position to speak more about them," she added.

**I can never pay back what Kangana did for me at that tender age. My parents used to faint everytime they saw my face. But she stood by my side, and after years of struggle when things got better, she buried her face in my lap and cried. I am glad she did because strongest people often forget to share their pain.**  
—Rangoli Chandel



Veteran actor **BHARATI ACHREKAR** feels that Indian television continues to lack good content, as a result of which the young audience is moving towards web shows.



She says, "Good content is a rare thing in television these days. Mostly stories revolve around a single character. I don't blame

anyone, even they have to survive. There are so many channels, so there is a tough competition. Also, people's taste has changed owing to western influence. You have to cater to the urban and the rural audience too, whose mindset and tastes are different."

No complaints in life: Brad

Hollywood actor **BRAD PITT** is enjoying his life and says he has no complaints.

While walking the Screen Actors Guild Awards red carpet on Sunday, the actor spoke about taking stock of his life now. "It's a beautiful day here in LA. We got it well, we got it really good," Pitt said.

He continued: "I got friends, I got lovely kids, I like my coffee, I like my dogs. I've got no complaints."

Pitt has six children with his former wife, actor Angelina Jolie.

Earlier this month, the actor won for "best supporting actor" at the National Board of Review Awards in which he said his "goals in life now are pretty simple" as he listed standard aspirations of being happy and staying healthy.



Amrita: Untitled

The Enforcement Directorate roped in Saffronart, an international auction house, to host two auctions featuring the seized assets of fugitive businessman Nirav Modi. While the first sale, a live auction, will be on February 27 in Mumbai, the second will be an online sale on March 3 and 4.

The auctions will feature 15 artworks by significant modern and contemporary Indian artists as well as a selection of luxury watches, handbags and cars.

Highlights of the auction include a 1,935 masterpiece by Amrita Sher-Gil, which has never been auctioned previously and a significant oil on canvas by MF Husain from his Mahabharata series. Both the artworks have been estimated to

A RICH HAUL

Saffronart to auction businessman Nirav Modi's seized artworks, luxury watches and handbags on behalf of the Enforcement Directorate

be priced at ₹12 crore or ₹18 crore.

The exhibition will also showcase a serene blue painting by VS Gaitonde from 1972, which is estimated to be priced at around ₹7 to 9 crore and a vivid red depiction of Krishna by Manjit Bawa (₹3 to 5 crore).

Apart from the modern artworks, important watches will also be on sale including a Jaeger LeCoultre Men's Reverso Gyrotourbillon 2 and a Gerrard

Perregaux Men's Opera One wristwatch. More than 80 branded handbags are there in the auction, out of which several are from the Birkin and Kelly lines by luxury retailer Hermes.

CEO and co-founder of the auction house, Dinesh Vazirani, said, "We are honoured to lend our services and expertise to the Enforcement Directorate. We are working with the ED to assess and evaluate each item and put together the catalogue for

both the sales, which include a distinguished line-up of artworks, too." He added that some of the brands offer the most popular luxury items internationally and have witnessed a great demand from celebrities and collectors.

This is the first time that the Enforcement Directorate has appointed a professional auction house to conduct an auction of seized assets in India. Earlier, in March 2019, the Income Tax Department had appointed the same auction house for the bidding that raised ₹54.84 crore.

Selected items from the forthcoming auctions will be exhibited at the Saffronart gallery in The Oberoi, New Delhi, during the India Art Fair later this month.

—With inputs from agencies



MF Husain: The Battle of Ganga and Jamuna Mahabharata

Making of Netaji's INA

Actors **SHARVARI WAGH** and **SUNNY KAUSHAL** say that even though their characters in *The Forgotten Army* might be fictional, the story and events that the audience will experience are real. By TEAM VIVA



I don't believe in enacting a character without knowing him or his background story," says actor Sunny Kaushal, who is set to make his debut with Amazon Prime Video's web series *The Forgotten Army*. So he studied deep. "There is always some blurred information that you have because of what you have read about history in school. But you would have never known the details of everything, including their betrayals, struggles and fights and even some part of their personal lives. We started reading and researching about everything through the 1999 documentary as well as internet and books. We collected a lot of material to educate ourselves on the topic," says he.

The series showcases the formation of Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army after British army's defeat in Singapore during World War II. It has been told through the perspective of soldiers. Playing the role of soldiers could be highly taxing and challenging for debutantes. So how difficult did they find it to master all the moves? "For a week, we learnt how to live the way Army does. We had regular training on how to handle the gun and create formations. We worked on the standing postures, learnt what angles to hold and keep the gun so that you actually look like one from the Army. Apart from that, psychologically too, there was a lot of preparation to understand what soldiers have gone through in those three years during war," says Sunny.

Director Kabir Khan brought the story out to the public for the first time through the eponymous 1999 documentary, which also became the first reference for the actors to prepare for their respec-



**'The personal lives and stories of the soldiers, their war rooms and battle set-up have been created based on archival footage and images to recreate the real history'**

tive roles. Ever since Khan passed out of film school he wanted to tell the stories of these soldiers. He says, "Twenty-seven thousand of them died fighting to liberate the country. Just imagine their patriotism and valour. They are a forgotten chapter in our history and this story is an effort to make people realise their existence."

Sharvari tells us, "The 1999 documentary really helped us get into the skin of our characters since they are based on real lives."

However, Sunny points out that even though the characters might be fictional, the story and events that the audience would experience are real. Surinder Sodhi, played by him, might not have existed in reality but has been inspired by real people. Sunny tells us, "My character is an amalgamation of Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, Shah Nawaz Khan and Prem Kumar Sahgal, the three faces who were charged in the Red Fort trial. So different elements from their stories have inspired Surinder's story."

Maya, played by actor Sharvari Wagh, is a civilian who later becomes a part of the INA. She is inspired by one of the leaders of the Rani Laxmibai Regiment, which comprised women "who fought shoulder to shoulder with men and stood till the end. They have been trained very well and how to fight with guns and all kinds of weapons. I am very glad that my first project has

been inspired by such a powerful story."

Since it's a period drama, the personal lives and stories of the soldiers, their war rooms and battle set-up have been created based on archival footage and images to recreate the real history. But why is it that there are so many films and series being made around chapters of Indian history today given the recent trend in Bollywood? "With the growth of good content, we are fortunate enough to have come in the industry at such a time when history is being valued so much," Sharvari says. Sunny goes on to add that another reason why history is making its way into mainstream cinema is because of the enhanced technology that we are equipped with today. "We are much better equipped today to create such content. What the director envisions, he can bring it alive the same way he has imagined. To recreate those times really needs a lot, including the right kind of animation, costumes and set-ups. You need a lot of means to do that. It's only now that they are able to express their creative vision. The biggest instance is of Kabir Khan himself, who has been working on this script for 20 years since his 1999 documentary."

Sharvari, who is set for her Bollywood debut with *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, talks about her take on sequels and whether they revive the essence of an old blockbuster or just take away its originality. She says, "The second part will revolve around the story which happens 10 years later. Might be their kids (laughs). It's like a time lapse. It's somewhat the same storyline and same characters but just the people and their approaches are different this time. I think that it's going to be a fun thing and something that people wouldn't have watched. So a sequel always has something to add of its own while maintaining the originality of both the versions."

(The series releases on Amazon Prime on January 24.)  
Photo: Pankaj Kumar

A humble stone fountain, overgrown shrubs and flowers, and white sheets drying on a line met Pharrell Williams and other curious guests at the Chanel show inside the Grand Palais.

The set recreated the landscape house founder Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel viewed as a child after her mother died and her father sent her away to an abbey orphanage.

If such a lowly — and sad — setting seemed like an unusual choice to showcase high-priced and normally joyous couture, it was an intentional move by designer Virginie Viard to demonstrate how Chanel mixed high and low in her fashion.

Here are some highlights from the second day of Paris Fashion Week haute couture shows for spring-summer 2020.

◆ CHANEL DELVES INTO FOUNDER'S ORPHANAGE CHILDHOOD

Chanel, Viard discovered, had been profoundly inspired in all her designs by the ancient Cistercian Abbey of Auzance, in the French region of Corrèze — with its flowers, uniforms and stained-glass artistry.

The theme made for a more haunting collection than normal — a mood emphasized by loud, spooky music and models that slowly crisscrossed the courtyard like they were in a trance.

A take on a convent school-girl uniform opened the show as a signature Chanel tweed skirt-suit. It was cut sharply, with a round ecclesiastical white collar and baggy white preppy ankle socks. Mosaic patterns in panels evoking stained glass appeared on

From memories of childhood

Chanel delves into founder's orphanage days at its couture show

an equally strict jacket in pastel blue and sand. Apart from the occasional flash of colour, most of the designs came in black and white.

"What interested me in this (abbey) was the paradox between the sophistication of haute couture and the simplicity of this place," Viard said. "The strict suits of the pupils rub shoulders with structured dresses of an ethereal finesse."

Viard has less humour and a stricter aesthetic take than the flamboyant Karl Lagerfeld, her predecessor who died last year. And this more austere theme gave the French designer a platform to design more naturally with her own voice.

◆ GIVENCHY'S TIMELESSNESS

Musicians were suspended mid-air



while seated on chairs attached to stone columns for Givenchy's historic Left Bank show venue.

They played dramatic classical music to accompany spring's equally dramatic couture — an accomplished series of varied designs that made it seem as if designer Clare Waight Keller can't put a foot wrong.

The clothes spoke for themselves, without the need for cultural references, through deft plays of proportion.

A long charcoal tuxedo coat had a magnificent shape,

with a truncated full skirt billowing out unexpectedly at knee level in a clever reinterpretation of a known silhouette.

Vividly coloured silk ruffles didn't just appear as details on gowns, but Keller used them to construct the structure and silhouette of trapeze-shaped garments that teemed like dense, oversize petals.

◆ ALEXIS MABILLE 'TEESES' HIS GUESTS

Burlesque superstar Dita Von Teese opened the show for Alexis Mabile in a black tuxedo with sensual décolleté that dripped down the leg with brooding black

sequins. The French couturier this season used Von Teese — and her styles — as the touchstone for a collection that explored corsetry, lingerie and seductive undressing.

A white satin bustier was covered gently by a see-through lace chemise. A white floor-length gown had a bold dropped shoulder in which the segments seemed to fall off the bust, as if the model were in the process of undressing.

Mabile also used his signature bow theme to produce a gargantuan abstract neck bow whose proportions drowned the model. It was highly inventive.



◆ ARMANI LOOKS TO COLOUR, ASIA

The iconic Place Vendôme square was the enviable location for Italian design legend Giorgio Armani's latest display.

For Armani, couture is about celebrities and razzmatazz, and Tuesday was no exception as actresses Reese Witherspoon and Juliette Binoche held court.

The Asian-themed designs, though beautifully constructed, were secondary to that, sadly, and tended toward the repetitive.

Statement colour — sometimes overly bold — also defined the spring aesthetic. But the exhaustive show held no surprises.

A structured white silk tuxedo in a crossover design opened the show. The model wore a stiff black wig, a styling feature that appeared throughout the show.

The signature tuxedo led to a terracotta obi belt on hot pink loose pants and a V-neck tuxedo in imperial blue. —AP



## KIIT HOLDS FOURTH FILM FESTIVAL

The 4th edition of Kalinga Global Film Festival (KGFF) was inaugurated at KIIT School of Film and Media Sciences. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Tusharkanti Behera, Minister of Sports and Youth Service, Electronics and Information Technology, Government of Odisha; Anubhav Mohanty, MP, Lok Sabha; Satyabrata Tripathy, Chairman of Odisha Film Development Corporation; Bijay Kumar Nayak, Director of Culture Department, Government of Odisha; Pankaj Saxena, professor of Screen Studies and Research, FTII, Pune; Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS and Himanshu Khatua, CEO of KIIT School of Film and Media Sciences.



While inaugurating, Behera said, "Odia cinemas have to improve more. It should maintain their uniqueness." Professor Saxena said that students of KIIT should reflect what they learn from Odisha in their films. The objective of this film festival is to encourage and ignite young minds, enrich intellectually inclined cineastes and promote aspiring film makers. "KGFF intends to organise a festival that would connect regular movie-goers, budding filmmakers and distinguished filmmakers so as to bring greater understanding of the art and craft of film making," said Khatua. KGFF presented a selection of feature films, short films and documentaries from all over Asia. There were three panel discussions on Film Society Movement, Film Appreciation and Critical Analysis and Film Education.

## MoU signed between FSSAI and NIOS

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have signed an MoU to create awareness in the field of food safety, hygiene and nutrition. NIOS provides education at school stage up to pre-degree level through open learning system. Besides acad-

mics, NIOS provides around 100 vocational courses in different areas such as Agriculture, Business and Commerce, Engineering and Technology, Health and Paramedical, Home Science and Hospitality Management, Teacher Training, Computer and IT related sectors. FSSAI, an autonomous body estab-

lished under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety. NIOS and FSSAI by coming together in a collaboration will not only create awareness about the need and

requirement of food safety and hygiene but would also provide knowledge, skill and abilities to the learner to undertake employment (self/wage) in this key sector. The content developed by FSSAI on food safety and hygiene will also be incorporated in NIOS learning materials for home science and relevant academic and vocational programmes.

President Dr Ram Nath Kovind awarded Parth Sarathi, a resident of Noida with Bal Shakti award along with ₹ 1 lakh, a medal and a certificate in Rashtrapati Bhawan on Wednesday. It will always be a memorable day for Parth because it is not often that you receive an award in Rashtrapati Bhawan from the President. He received this opportunity because of his consistent hardwork, optimistic behaviour and dedication towards the society. Earlier, Parth received an award for finding the lost kids through aadhar camps. During the summer vaca-

## NEVER TOO YOUNG



tions, he helped 12 students meet their parents. He is the founder of Raasta foundation whose theme is — Maths and Music. In this foundation, he teaches mathematics and music to the kids so that they are stress free and happy. During the Greater Noida carnival, he organised a mini concert where eight kids sang a beautiful song. Those students performed the first time on the stage and received immense praise and appreciation from the audience. Parth is only 16 years old and a student of class 11th. It is commendable to see this passion, hardwork and dedication at such a young age.

## Why not follow Vedas?



What an astonishing preach exists in Vedas — *Anti santannajahati, Anti Santannapashyati* — which means that even though the soul of a human being is closest to god yet he can't leave or see him. Indeed, soul can never be away from god at any time. This eternal fact is also stated in *Yajurved* mantra that god is near to *yogis* because they follow *Vedas* and practise *Ashtang Yog*, which let them feel god's presence. On the contrary, god is not close to those who are sinners and against *Vedas*. He knows every pious and sinful deed of the soul and accordingly awards each person in the form of happiness or sorrows respectively. If we deeply study *Bhagwad Geeta* under the guidance of acharya of *Vedas*, we find that *Bhagwad Geeta* at every step inspires readers to follow *Vedas*. *Rigved* mantra preaches that soul cannot destroy his sorrows and can never experience pleasure until he realises the presence of god, which can only be attained by following the *Vedic*

path. *Rigved* mantra also preaches that without following the *Vedic* path no one can attain happiness. Further, *Samved* mantra points that when an aspirant listens to *Vedas* from Brahma, he can actually feel the presence of god. But nowadays, it is sad that people misled by so-called saints. Hence, there occurs a problem. We must thank god that he mercifully has enlightened all human-beings with knowledge of four *Vedas* to feel his presence and to destroy all sorrows of life. It becomes our utmost duty, which is entrusted to us by god himself that we follow the *Vedic* path. Otherwise peace cannot be maintained among public. The knowledge of *Vedas* emanates directly from god and like god it neither gets destroyed nor becomes old. It is immortal and has been preached by god to us to attain salvation. Nowadays people don't pay attention to invaluable *Vedic* knowledge. As a result, they get stressed, dishonour women, thefts increase and many such

problems arise. It is mentioned in *Ramayana* that earlier daily *Vedic* preach and *agnihotra* was performed in every house. As a result, there was no man or woman who was affected with vices like anger, greed, meanness and many others. So during those days there was no question of insulting women or disgracing their honour which is observed nowadays. Why can't *Vedic* atmosphere be everywhere now? *Manusmriti shlok* and *Bhagwad Geeta shlok* state that all karmas or rather duties emanate from *Vedas* and they emanate from god. So why don't we follow the *Vedas* to destroy corruption and sins from the society? This fact is very well clarified in *Rigved* mantra that the human-life only achieves its motto when a it attains salvation along with pious worldly pleasure. (The author, Swami Ram Swarup, is the chief editor of *Ved Ishvareeya vani*, a bi-annual magazine.)

In 1969, history was written in the Punjabi film industry with the release of *Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai*. New records were created at the box office, which were never broken. People removed shoes before entering theatres. The film was an unprecedented hit across the globe. After breaking all box office records, the film went on to win the coveted "National Award"

too! Now after 50 years of its release, producers Maann Singh Deep and Kalyani Singh are going to produce a new film under the same title *Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai*. Before becoming films producers, Maann and Kalyani were famous journalists. Talking about his thought behind making this film, Maann said that at a time, when people are spreading hate in the

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

name of religion, caste, language and colour, he wanted to make a film which depicts compassion, love and true faith in god. "Whenever I can't seek solutions for my problems, I go to the Gurudwara to stay calm. I love the *shabads* recited there. Sikhism preaches love for

mankind, irrespective of religion, caste, language and colour. "When I read the writings of Guru Nanak Dev ji, I was lost in the magic of Gurbani. Every word was so pure and touching. (The only holy book that has great writings of six gurus and saints of all religions)

that I wanted to spread this message of faith and love all across," said he. He feels that the best way to spread this message was through a film because he has a deep understanding of it. "Initially, I discussed the idea with my wife Kalyani Singh

who is a writer-director and has avid knowledge of Sikhism. She loved this idea and came out with a beautiful story," said Maann. It took them a while to get to this title but they feel that Baba Nanak blessed them with it. They worked on the story till

the time they were convinced that it was perfect to plan a film. They went on to hire the best people who could execute this task. "We were not looking for the perfect team only from the commercial point of view but we also wanted the team which believed in the spiritual and

social teachings of Guru Nanak, fit perfectly to the characters of our story and join us not as professional actors or technicians but as a member of our mission," he said. The shooting lasted for 42 days in various parts of Punjab including Golden temple at Amritsar. "I hope this film will be remembered as one of the best devotional and social films," he added.

## Rajnath honours NCC bravehearts



During his visit to NCC Republic Day Camp 2020, Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh conferred *Raksha Mantri Padak* and Commendation Cards to NCC cadets for their exemplary performance and devotion to duty. Rajnath Singh was welcomed by the Director General of National Cadet Corps, Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra, AVSM. A contingent of smartly turned out NCC cadets drawn from the three wings — Army, Navy and Air Force — presented an impressive Guard of Honour to the Defence Minister. *Raksha Mantri Padak* was instituted in 1989 and since then it is awarded to the most deserving cadet every year for bravery or exceptional service of the highest order. This year, the *Raksha Mantri Padak* was awarded to Lieutenant Raison Sam Raju of Kerala and Lakshadweep Directorate and Under Officer Rahul Sharma of

Uttar Pradesh Directorate. *Raksha Mantri Commendation Cards* have been awarded to Sr Under Officer Shavetana Sambyal of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate, Capt (Dr) Rajeev Thomas of Kerala and Lakshadweep Directorate, Sr GCI Seema Rai of Uttar Pradesh Directorate and Cadet Soumya Ghosh of West Bengal and Sikkim Directorate. Rajnath Singh also inspected the well laid out 'Flag Area', prepared by the cadets from all the 17 NCC Directorates depicting various social awareness themes. He was given a briefing by the cadets on their respective models. He also visited the 'Hall of Fame', which has an archival collection of alumni photographs, models and other achievements of the NCC. In his address, he complimented the NCC for doing exceptional work towards *Swachhata Abhiyan*.



SK Sinha, Director (HR) of SPMCIL and BJ Gupta, General Manager (HR), recently received Nurturing Leadership Award 2020 for SPMCIL from SN Tripathy, Director, IIPA at DMRC Bhawan, New Delhi.



Meenakshi Davar, Director HR of POSOCO, has been awarded with Top Rankers Excellence Awards 2020 for HR Leadership for her significant contribution in the field of HR. The award was presented at the 21st National Management Summit.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

British Rana played the "best knock" of his first-class career as Delhi shocked defending champions Vidarbha by six wickets in an incredible final day run chase in the Ranji Trophy here on Wednesday.

With this memorable run chase on day four, Delhi handed Vidarbha their first outright defeat in a first class game after three years.

Chasing 347, Rana, who has made a name with his big-hitting exploits in the IPL, smashed an unbeaten 105 off only 68 balls as Delhi reached the target in 73 overs, leaving Vidarbha gutted.

Delhi now have 16 points and stay in hunt for a quarter-final berth while Vidarbha stay put on 17 points.

The chase was set up by openers Kunal Chandela (75 off 146) and Hiten Dalal (82 off 146) with a steady stand of 163 in under 49 overs.

The left-handed Rana then took charge and sent the Vidarbha bowlers including fancied Umesh Yadav (0/85 in 19 overs) on a leather hunt with eight fours and seven sixes.

"I had promised our coach (KP) Bhaskar sir that if its 75 overs and around 320 runs, we will win. This is the best first class knock that I have played. I haven't forgotten the 2017 final in Indore, which Vidarbha won without playing outstanding cricket.

"I knew I can hit their spinners out of the ground," Rana told reporters having ripped opposition off-spinner Akshay Wakhare (64 off 9 overs) with slog sweeps, cuts and drives.

Vidarbha coach Chandrakant Pandit took a gamble with a sporting declaration but it backfired as a side with its back to the wall produced the best performance of the season.

Openers Kunal and Hiten played confidently without taking pressure on an eased out track.

Once Rana came in, Vidarbha sensing danger, deployed a negative field '7-2' (seven on the off side) field.

Their pacers Rajneesh

# LIGHTNING QUICK

Rana's unbeaten 68-ball 105 helps Delhi beat Vidarbha by 6 wickets in 347 run chase



Sarfraz Khan celebrates after completing his maiden triple hundred during Ranji Trophy game against Uttar Pradesh at Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday PTI



Maharashtra players pose after win against Assam during Ranji Trophy game PTI

## HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASES IN RANJI

Score	Team	Opponent	Venue	Season
372-4	Saurashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	2018-19
371-4	Assam	Services	Delhi	2008-09
360-4	Rajasthan	Vidarbha	Jaipur	1989-90
357-5	Rajasthan	Services	Jaipur	2018-19
348-4	Delhi	Vidarbha	Delhi	2019-20
344-4	Punjab	Bengal	Ludhiana	1992-93

FAISAL FEATURES

they started bowling within the stumps, I knew I will blast them if it's in my arc," said KKR's dependable middle-order batsman.

"This is my natural game and I don't like advise if people come and tell me to change my mindset. I only welcome advise when I need them," he said.

### MAIDEN TRIPLE HUNDRED

**MUMBAI:** Staying true to his words, young Sarfraz Khan stuck his maiden triple hundred to single-handedly give Mumbai the crucial first-innings lead and grab three points on the last day of their Elite Group B match against Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh had posted a humongous 625/8 declared in

their first-essay courtesy wicket-keeper Upendra Yadav's unbeaten maiden double-ton.

But Sarfraz's (301 not out off 391 balls; 30x4; 8x6) Herculean task overshadowed Yadav's double-ton on a flat track, which had absolutely nothing for the bowlers even on the final day.

Right-handed Sarfraz was the cynosure of all eyes at the Wankhede Stadium, as he batted for as long as 63 minutes and hammered 30 fours and eight sixes.

What is more special about his knock is that the pint-sized batsman was suffering from fever two nights ago, but he came out

to bat and did the job for his team.

Sarfraz, who had played for Uttar Pradesh and returned to Mumbai, had all shots in the book.

But more importantly, contrary to his style, he showed restraint and respected the good balls.

Sarfraz, in the process, became the seventh Mumbai batsman to score a triple ton in first-class cricket and joined the illustrious list comprising Wasim Jaffer (301 and 314 not out), Rohit Sharma (309 not out), Ajit Wadekar (323), Sunil Gavaskar (340), Vijay Merchant (359 not out) and Sanjay Manjrekar (377).

The hosts resumed the final day on overnight score of 353/5 needing 273 more runs to overhaul Uttar Pradesh's first innings total, with 22-year-old Sarfraz unbeaten on 132 in company of his skipper Aditya Tare, who was unbeaten on 9.

Sarfraz first got able support from Tare (97 off 144 balls, 14x4) and then Shams Mulani (65 off 82 balls; 5x3; 1x6), as they took the game away from Uttar Pradesh.

While Sarfraz and Tare added 179 runs for the sixth wicket, he and Mulani added 150 runs for the seventh wicket and it was their partnership that ensured

Mumbai crossed Uttar Pradesh's first-innings total.

Sarfraz, who had completed his individual 250, took a single, as Mumbai surpassed Uttar Pradesh's mammoth total and celebrated like the team had won the match.

Then Mumbai allowed Sarfraz to complete a well-deserved 300.

He completed his triple ton with a six over wide long on, after which the match was called off.

## SINGLES

### TOP FIELD FOR B'URU ATP CHALLENGER

**BENGALURU:** The third edition of the Bengaluru Open from February 10 to 16 will see one of the best fields in the ATP Challenger Tour event with four players from the top-100 world rankings taking part in it. Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis, ranked 69th in the ATP rankings, followed by 74th ranked Stefano Travaglia will lead the top field. Japanese journeyman Yuichi Sugita (91) and Australian James Duckworth (94) are the other players in the top-100 who will be vying for honours in the biggest ATP Challenger Tour event in Asia which offers a total prize purse of \$ 162,000. Defending champion Prajesh Gunneswaran, currently the highest ranked Indian at 123, will lead the home challenge in company of 2017 winner Sumit Nagal (131).

### NIKHAT, SHIVA ENTER STRANDJA QUARTERS

**NEW DELHI:** Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg) and defending champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) on Wednesday sailed into the quarterfinals of the Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament with resounding victories in their second-round bouts in Sofia. Also making the quarters was national medallist Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) after a comprehensive 5-0 triumph over Ireland's Kieran Molloy. Zareen was declared the winner after local favourite Sevda Asenova forfeited during the opening round of the contest. Former world Bronze-medallist Thapa defeated Poland's Pavel Polakovic 5-0 in his last 16 stage clash.

### MEXICAN STRIKER HERNANDEZ JOINS GALAXY

**LOS ANGELES:** Javier Hernandez completed his long-awaited transfer to the Los Angeles Galaxy on Tuesday, saying the lure of playing regular football had prompted his move to Major League Soccer. The Mexican international striker, who will reportedly become the highest paid player in MLS, with *Sports Illustrated* saying he will earn \$6 million (5.41 million euros) a year, joins the Galaxy after a frustrating spell at Spanish side Sevilla. The Mexican star heads to the MLS after a successful career in European club football which included stints with Manchester United, Real Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen and West Ham, as well as Sevilla. Hernandez has scored more than 200 goals for club and country throughout his career.

### AUSTRALIA TO HOST INDOOR CRICKET WC

**MELBOURNE:** Australia is set to host the 11th edition of the Indoor Cricket World Cup from October 10 to 17. The tournament will be held at the state-of-the-art indoor cricket venues in Melbourne — Casey Stadium & CitiPower Centre. Last held in 2017, Australia are the reigning men's and women's champions and the host will be seeking to continue the run of never losing a World Cup in either division in the 25-year history of the tournament. Cricketers from up to 10 countries will compete in the tournament in four divisions: under-21 men and women and open men and women.

### GIBSON IS B'DESH NEW PACE BOWLING COACH

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh have appointed Otis Gibson as their new pace bowling coach, replacing South African Charl Langeveldt who resigned in December. The 50-year old former West Indies fast bowler signed a two-year agreement. Gibson, who has enjoyed two successful stints as bowling coach with England and has served as head coach of the West Indies and South Africa, will join the squad for the Pakistan tour which begins in Lahore on Friday.

### IRAN TEAMS AFC CL MATCHES MOVED TO UAE

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Two Iranian football clubs' AFC Champions League preliminary round matches have been moved to a neutral country because of security fears. The Asian Football Confederation said the ties — Shahr Khodro FC of Iran v Riffa of Bahrain and Iran's Esteghal FC v Kuwait SC will now be played in the United Arab Emirates on Jan 25. Both the matches were scheduled to be played in Iran on Tuesday but were postponed and "moved to neutral venues because of ongoing security concerns and the decision of several governments to issue travel warnings to the Islamic Republic of Iran," said an AFC statement. **AGENCIES**



Sanju Samson in a file picture PTI

Shaw, Samson celebrate senior team call up

PTI ■ LINCOLN

The in-form Prithvi Shaw flourished yet again as India A notched up a convincing five-wicket victory over New Zealand A in the first unofficial ODI here on Wednesday.

A day after being picked as the injured Shikhar Dhawan's replacement in India's ODI squad for the assignment against New Zealand's senior team, the 20-year-old Shaw smashed 48 off 35 balls to lay the foundation for the visiting team's chase.

Wicketkeeper Sanju Samson, who replaced Dhawan in India's T20 squad, blazed away to a 21-ball 39, while Suryakumar Yadav hammered 35 off a mere 19 deliveries.

Chasing 231 after opting to field, India completed the task with more than 20 overs to spare at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval.

With the ball, Mohammed Siraj was the most successful bowler for India A, picking up three wickets for 33 runs in 6.3 overs, while there were two wickets apiece for Khaled Ahmed and Axar Patel.

Their efforts helped India A bowl out New Zealand A for 230 with nine balls to spare in the 50-over match.

Quite a few home team players got off the blocks easily but could not go on to make substantial contributions. Rachin Ravindra top-scored with 49 off 58 balls and skipper Tom Bruce made 47 off 55.

India A got their chase off to a brisk start with Shaw and his opening partner Mayank Agarwal (29) picking the gaps at will.

The visitors had raced to 79 in 9.1 overs when Shaw fell to James Neesham. The 20-year-old Shaw, who came into the match after a 100-ball 150 in a practice game, hit five fours and three sixes.

Captain Shubman Gill (30) got out after getting his eye in and after that, Samson showed his prowess, smoking two maximums and three boundaries.

Mumbai player Suryakumar, who can also use the big handle to good effect, struck three fours and two sixes to take his team close to victory.

Vijay Shankar (20) and Krunal Pandya (13) then got the job done as India A took lead in the three-match series.

## Tri-series before WC will help in team composition: Smriti

**MUMBAI:** Playing in a tri-nation tournament before the Women's World T20 will help in strategising and team composition, senior India player Smriti Mandhana said on Wednesday.

The marquee event will start in Australia next month but before that, the country is hosting India and England in a tri-series. "Most of them have played in Australia, I think India A touring Australia last month is also going to be a big help (as) four-



Smriti Mandhana in a file picture

five players were part of that team as well," Mandhana told reporters.

She added, "The tri-series is going to be a really important tournament, thinking about the team composition or what is needed or what target we need to aim at on Australian wickets."

The left-handed batswoman said the tri-series matches could tell them a lot about what will be a safe target during the World Cup. "How can our bowlers plan better, all those things we are

going to understand once we land in Australia and play the tri-series.

"Specially the targets, tri-series will define the targets, like what the scoreline will be for the World Cup.

"England, Australia and India is always going (to be challenging). We are going to aim at good targets so I think that (tri-series) is an important tournament leading up to the World Cup," the 23-year-old said.

According to Mandhana, the team has been thinking about the World T20 for the past one year.

"Last one year, whatever we were doing during the matches, we were thinking about the World Cup, so finally we are leaving for the World Cup, it is quite exciting.

"I'm looking forward to playing this World Cup with this team as it is a new team with a mixture of experienced and new players," she said. **PTI**

## Jemi working on increasing bat speed to hit big shots



Angelo Mathews celebrates after double hundred AP

make out I don't have that much strength to hit the sixes... But I've been working on that for quite some time," said Jemimah in a *Road To The T20 World Cup* podcast.

Since making her international debut in 2018, she has consistently put in commendable performances to establish herself as a key member of the team.

India take on defending champions Australia in the opening game of the tournament in Sydney on February 21, and the youngster believes her side will have to be mentally strong against the hosts.

"I think when it comes to Australia, you got to be the best or you can't play. That's the kind of team they are. My favourite team to play against is also Australia. It's more of a mind game than just skills (when you play them on the field)," Jemimah said.

Jemimah, who will be playing her first World Cup, is looking forward to play in the final of the tournament, which will mark an important milestone in her life.

"I can't put it in words, how important it will be for me to be a part of the Indian team that plays in a World Cup final. It's quite exciting. I'm really looking forward to it," she said.

## Southee 'looking forward' to India series

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

New Zealand's veteran seamer Tim Southee is "looking forward" to the India challenge, leaving behind the disappointment of being dropped for the final Test of Australia series earlier this month.

"It's about making that adjustment. What's gone is gone and it was very disappointing, the guys would have learnt

from it, and now we've got to look forward to the Indian series," Southee was quoted as saying by *Stuff.Co.Nz*.

Then, coach Gary Stead had said it was felt Henry would offer more pace than Southee.

But the 31-year-old is expected to lead the New Zealand attack when the five-match Twenty20 series against India starts at Eden Park on Friday.



Angelo Mathews celebrates after double hundred AP

## Mathews 200\* hurt Zimbabwe

AFP ■ HARARE

Angelo Mathews struck his highest Test score with an unbeaten double century on Wednesday as Sri Lanka left Zimbabwe battling to save the series opener going into the final day at Harare.

Former skipper Mathews eclipsed his previous Test best of 160 and finished 200 not out after a marathon knock spanning 468 balls, as Sri Lanka declared their first innings on 515 for nine.

Zimbabwe, playing their first Test since November 2018, ended the fourth day on 30 without loss and trailing by 127 runs after Brian Mudzinganyama was drafted in as a concussion substitute for opener Kevin Kasuza.

Debutant Kasuza, who made 63 in the first innings, suffered a delayed concussion after he took a blow to the helmet while fielding at short leg on Tuesday.

Mudzinganyama became the fourth Zimbabwean to make his Test debut in this match. He was unbeaten on 14 with Prince Masvaure 15 not out at stumps.

The 32-year-old Mathews brought up his 10th Test century, his first since December 2018, in the morning session and steadily added to his total with considerable support from Dhananjaya de Silva and Niroshan Dickwella.

De Silva and Dickwella both scored 63 but two quick wickets for Sikandar Raza, who finished with three for 62, hastened the declaration as Mathews reached 200 with a sweep to the square leg boundary.

With one day remaining, the visitors appear the only team capable of victory although the pitch looks likely to have the final say.

## I see 'incredible' Kohli breaking more records: Smith

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

It's the year of the World T20 and it isn't just Virat Kohli and the Indian boys who are looking to take every opportunity to prepare for the show-piece event slated to be held later in the year. Run-machine Steve Smith is already excited at the prospect of playing another ICC event at home after the 2015 World Cup. In fact, he believes that his stint in the IPL with Rajasthan Royals will have a major role to play in the build-up to the mega event Down Under.

Speaking to IANS, Smith spoke about the much-debated proposal to have four-day Tests, India skipper Kohli's gesture to ask fans to support him during the 2019 World Cup, the Indian Premier League and how Tim Paine has done a brilliant job leading Australia in Test cricket.

For a man who has dominated batting charts in the last few years, Smith's numbers in the shortest format of the game definitely has room for improvement. But the former Australia skipper wants to keep playing and improving on the go rather than changing his style of training going into the World T20.

"No real specific training, but just playing a lot more T20 cricket and just getting the right tempo I guess for the game is the most important thing for me. I would love to be a part of the World Cup, it's obviously at home in Australia. I was involved in the ODI World Cup here in 2015 and had the most amazing six-weeks of my cricketing career and loved every minute of it. So yeah would love to be

involved in another World Cup at home for sure!" he smiled.

Asked if he was looking at his time with Rajasthan Royals to try some new stuff as it will be the perfect training ground for the World T20, Smith doesn't sound the sort who likes to tinker much with his training ritual. But he does have it on his mind to give his leg-spin skills a thought.

"Ah, don't want to try too much different. I don't really know, maybe a bit more bowling perhaps, but then that takes time away from my batting. So yeah, it's a difficult one but we'll wait and see," he reveals.

A chat with Smith can never move forward without discussing Kohli. It looks like these two will go ahead and share all the records between them when they hang their boots. The greatness of Smith though is in his humility. The moment the talks move towards the comparison, he decides to highlight how brilliant Kohli has been both as batsman and leader.

"Yeah, he is terrific. His batting numbers just speak for themselves. I think he's an incredible player in all three formats and I think we will see him break many records. He's already broken plenty of them and I see him breaking many more over the years. He has got the hunger for runs and doesn't stop getting them. Hopefully he can stop getting them against Australia, that'll be nice.

"As a captain he's already made India the number one side in the world in Test cricket. From what I have seen he sets really good standards for

them. He is a lot about fitness and is health conscious and things like that. He's got the Indian side into a really good place and leads them exceptionally well," the 30-year-old pointed.

Asked about Kohli's gesture to ask fans to show him support during the 2019 World Cup, Smith feels it was really nice of the India skipper. "In the World Cup it was really nice of Virat to do what he did. He did not have to do that and yeah it was a lovely gesture and really appreciated that," he smiled.

Kohli, in fact, won the 'Spirit of Cricket' award for his gesture in England.

There have been talks that Smith is a natural leader and that the national captaincy could well return to him in the near future. But for the batsman, Paine is the captain and someone who is doing a good job with the boys.

"Yeah, Tim's done a terrific job. He has led the troops really well. Obviously retaining the Ashes in England in twenty-odd years was an exceptional effort and yeah he has led the team exceptionally well," he said.

From the Ashes to the ICC's proposal to have four-day Test matches on a regular basis from 2023, Smith is a traditionalist in the matter and wants the format to stay as it is.

"I am comfortable with five days. I like the challenge of a five-day Test match. Obviously, there has been a lot of talk of the four-day Tests, but my personal opinion is I like five days. I don't make the decisions obviously of how it all works out but my opinion is five-days Tests is what it is all about," he signed off.